



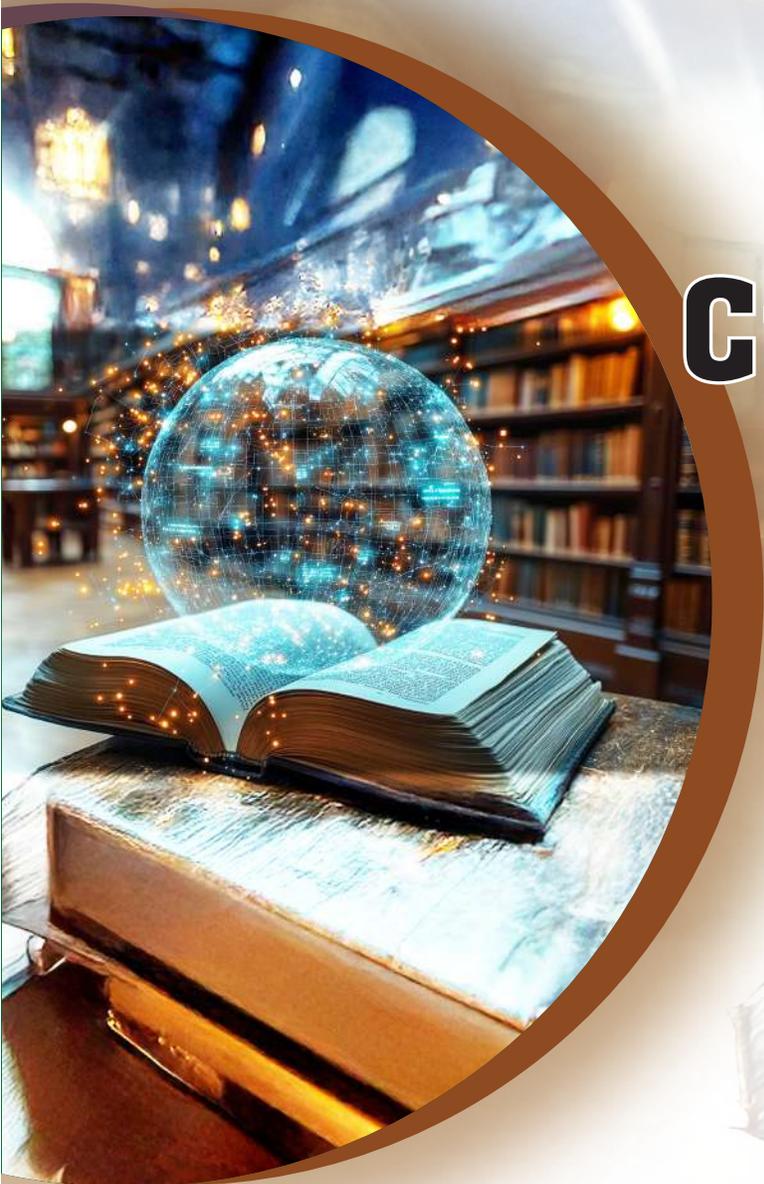
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JULY

2025

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Practice Questions

History

1. In the history of independent India, the Kamaraj Plan (1963) was introduced with which of the following objectives?

- To promote industrial growth through Five-Year Plans
- To implement land reforms across the southern states
- To promote rural development through cooperative farming
- To revitalize the INC by encouraging leaders to resign and work at the grassroots level

2. Consider the following pairs associated with the Revolt of 1857:

Centre of Revolt	Leader	Associated British Official
1. Delhi	Bahadur Shah Zafar	John Nicholson
2. Lucknow	Kunwar Singh	Henry Lawrence
3. Kanpur	Nana Saheb	Sir Colin Campbell

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

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

3. He was born in Ratnagiri, Maharashtra, and was called the "Father of Indian Unrest" by the British. He was one of the strongest advocates of Swarajya. He also contributed significantly to education by co-founding the Deccan Education Society and started newspapers like Mahratta.

Which freedom fighter is described above?

- Bipin Chandra Pal
- Lala Lajpat Rai
- Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- Gopal Krishna Gokhale

4. In the context of early medieval India, what were Manigramam and Ayyavole?

- Ancient temple architectural styles of South India
- Titles used by rulers of the Chola and Pandya dynasties
- Merchant guilds engaged in inland and overseas trade
- Local administrative divisions under the Pallava Empire

5. Consider the following description:

A revolutionary who joined Gandhi's Non-Cooperation Movement at the age of 15, later turned to armed resistance after the movement was called off. He was involved in the Kakori train action, reorganised the Hindustan Republican Army into a socialist-oriented revolutionary group, and led its military operations.

Which of the following revolutionaries is being referred to in the above passage?

- Ashfaqulla Khan
- Bhagat Singh
- Chandra Shekhar Azad
- Shivaram Hari Rajguru

6. Consider the following personalities:

- Mohan Singh
- Rashbehari Bose
- Captain Lakshmi Sahgal
- H.C. Chatterjee

Who among the above were associated with the Provisional Government of Free India (Azad Hind Government) formed by Subhas Chandra Bose?

- 1, 2 and 3 only
- 2, 3 and 4 only
- 1, 3 and 4 only
- 1, 2, 3 and 4

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Art and Culture

7. Consider the following statements:

1. He was born around the 15th century A.D. and was a contemporary of the Gajapati king Kapilendra Dev.
2. He was the first scholar to write in the Odia language.
3. He is best known for his three epics in Odia, the Mahabharata, Vilanka Ramayana, and Chandi Purana.

Which of the following personalities best matches the above description?

- A. Ravidas
- B. Adikabi Sarala Das
- C. Kabi Samrat Upendra Bhanja
- D. Madhusudana Das

8. Which of the following statements about Sohrai Khovar painting is correct?

- A. It is a royal art form practiced by men in Rajasthan.
- B. It is a harvest art linked to agriculture, practiced by tribal women in Jharkhand.
- C. It is practiced in Gujarat and uses synthetic colors and modern brushes.
- D. It originated in Kerala and is associated with temple festivals.

Geography

9. A community of people called Maldharis is well known for their:

- A. Practice of dryland farming in the Deccan Plateau
- B. Traditional fishing techniques along the Coromandel coast
- C. Silvopastoral lifestyle and livestock rearing in Gujarat's grasslands
- D. Cultivation of spices in the Western Ghats

10. Consider the following statements:

1. It is India's second-longest river after the Ganga.
2. It is the largest river system in Peninsular India.

3. It originates from Trimbakeshwar near Nasik in Maharashtra and flows eastward before draining into the Bay of Bengal.
4. Purna, Pranhita, Pravara, and Manjira are its famous tributaries.

Which of the following rivers best matches the above description?

- A. Godavari
- B. Krishna
- C. Narmada
- D. Mahanadi

11. Due to the synchronization between the Moon's rotation on its axis and its revolution around the Earth, we always see only one side of the Moon. This means the time it takes for the Moon to complete one rotation is exactly the same as the time it takes to complete one orbit around the Earth. Which of the following terms best describes this phenomenon?

- A. Lunar Eclipse
- B. Orbital Resonance
- C. Tidal Locking
- D. Perigee Effect

12. The islands of Bitra, Kadmat, and Kalpeni are part of which of the following regions?

- A. Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- B. Lakshadweep Islands
- C. Pondicherry
- D. Gulf of Mannar

13. Consider the following statements about the Hatti tribe:

1. They are a tribal community residing along the Himachal Pradesh-Uttarakhand border.
2. The practice of polyandry, locally called "Jodidara", is traditionally followed by them.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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14. Consider the following features:

1. They are made of rocks, hydrocarbons, and ice.
2. They have an eccentric orbit.
3. They produce a thin and temporary atmospheric tail when close to the Sun.

Which of the following celestial bodies is best described by the above features?

- A. Asteroids
- B. Comets
- C. Meteoroids
- D. Dwarf planets

15. Consider the following statements regarding cotton crop:

1. Cotton requires around 210 frost-free days and 50 to 100 cm of rainfall for optimal growth.
2. Cotton is highly tolerant to salinity and waterlogging and prefers heavy clayey soils with poor drainage.
3. Large diurnal temperature variations during the fruiting period promote better boll and fiber development.

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

16. Consider the following statements regarding the Brahmaputra River:

1. The Brahmaputra originates from the Chemayungdung Glacier in the Kailash Range near Mansarovar Lake.
2. It enters Bangladesh as Meghna after meeting the Teesta River.
3. Majuli and Umananda islands, located on the Brahmaputra, are respectively the world's largest and smallest river islands.

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

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

17. Which one of the following best describes the term 'Moraines'?

- A. Sand dunes formed by wind in arid regions
- B. Sediment deposits left behind by retreating glaciers
- C. Volcanic rocks formed during explosive eruptions
- D. Coral fragments accumulated along coastlines

18. Sawalkote Hydro Project in Jammu and Kashmir is situated on which of the following rivers?

- A. Jhelum
- B. Ravi
- C. Chenab
- D. Beas

19. The Kamchatka Peninsula, recently in news, lies between which of the following water bodies?

- A. Black Sea and Caspian Sea
- B. Sea of Japan and Yellow Sea
- C. Sea of Okhotsk and Pacific Ocean
- D. Arctic Ocean and Kara Sea

Polity and Governance

20. Regarding the Assistance in Deploying Energy Efficient Technologies in Industries & Establishments (ADEETIE) scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It has been launched by the Union Ministry of Power in collaboration with the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).
2. It aims to accelerate the adoption of advanced energy-efficient technologies across India's Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector to reduce overall energy consumption.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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21. With reference to the Cabinet Committees, consider the following statements:

1. They are extra-constitutional bodies set up under the Transaction of Business Rules, 1961.
2. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet comprises the Prime Minister and the Minister of Home Affairs.
3. The Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs is currently headed by India's Defence Minister.

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

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

22. With reference to the Rajya Sabha, consider the following statements:

1. It is the upper house of the Indian Parliament established under Article 80 of the Constitution and was first constituted in 1952.
2. The term of each member of Rajya Sabha is prescribed as 6 years under the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
3. Rajya Sabha members are elected indirectly by the elected members of the State Legislative Assemblies using the Single Transferable Vote system.

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

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

23. Consider the following statements:

1. The Supreme Court has held that in matrimonial disputes, secretly recorded conversations between spouses can be admissible as evidence, despite privacy concerns.
2. The Indian Evidence Act, 1872, provides absolute immunity to spousal communications from being used in court.

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

24. Which of the following initiatives are launched under the Skill India Mission?

1. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)
2. Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) Scheme
3. Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (PM-NAPS)
4. Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

25. Consider the following statements:

1. The Supreme Court has held that the right to peaceful living under Article 21 can override the right to religious expression if the latter causes public disturbance.
2. The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 includes noise as an air pollutant if present in harmful concentrations.

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

26. Regarding the Pradhan Mantri Virsat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS) Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. The scheme is launched by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
2. It aims to provide skill and entrepreneurship training to minority and artisan communities in India.
3. The scheme is integrated with the Skill India Mission and Skill India Portal.
4. It facilitates credit linkage through the National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC).

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

27. Consider the following statements regarding the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016:

1. It replaced the Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992.
2. Acid Attack Victims are not included under the list of specified disabilities in the Act

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. With reference to the NAMASTE Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme launched for the rehabilitation of manual scavengers.
2. It was jointly launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE).
3. The scheme provides for health insurance coverage under Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) for both Sewer and Septic Tank Workers (SSWs) and Waste Pickers.

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

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

29. With reference to the Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS), consider the following statements:

1. CPGRAMS is a 24x7 online platform launched by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

2. It enables citizens to lodge grievances related to public service delivery and also allows for appeals if the resolution is unsatisfactory.
3. It includes Right to Information queries, and service-related grievances of government employees.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

30. Consider the following statements regarding the Vice President of India:

1. He/she is elected by an electoral college consisting of members of both Houses of Parliament, including elected as well as nominated members.
2. He/she can be removed from office by an effective majority of both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

31. Regarding the National Flag, consider the following statements:

1. It can only be made from hand-spun khadi (cotton) as it symbolizes self-reliance.
2. Article 51A(a) of the Indian Constitution mandates that it is the fundamental duty of every citizen to respect the National Flag.
3. It is governed by the Flag Code of India, 2002, which sets rules for display, handling, and respect for the flag.

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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32. Consider the following statements:

1. One Stop Centres Scheme (OSCS) is launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development to provide integrated support to women affected by violence.
2. The OSCS, known as Sakhi Centres, form a key component of the Sambal vertical under Mission Shakti.
3. OSCS is 100% centrally sponsored under the Nirbhaya Fund.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

33. Regarding Cooperatives, consider the following statements:

1. The 97th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2011, granted cooperatives constitutional status.
2. Article 19(1)(c) ensures the right to form cooperatives.
3. State-level cooperatives are governed by the Union List, while multi-state cooperatives are regulated by the Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002.

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

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

34. Consider the following statements regarding the National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC):

1. It is a statutory body constituted under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
2. It is chaired by the Cabinet Secretary and coordinates disaster response efforts of both central and state governments, along with NDMA and other agencies.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

35. With reference to the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), consider the following statements:

1. NALSA is a statutory body established to provide free legal services to the weaker sections of society.
2. Legal Services Institutions have been established at all levels, ranging from Taluk Courts to the Supreme Court.
3. Veer Parivar Sahayata Yojana is an initiative of NALSA to provide legal aid to the families of the armed forces.

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

36. Consider the following statements regarding Session of Parliament:

1. A session refers to the period between the first sitting and adjournment of a House.
2. Prorogation is the formal termination of a parliamentary session by the President.

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

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

37. Consider the following statements regarding impeachment of judges in India:

1. Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts can be removed under Articles 124(4) and 218 for proved misbehaviour or incapacity, as per the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968.
2. A removal motion requires support from 100 Lok Sabha or 50 Rajya Sabha members and must be passed in the same session by a special majority.

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3. No judge of the Supreme Court or High Court has been successfully removed through the impeachment process since independence.

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

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

38. Consider the following statements regarding Software Technology Parks of India (STPI):

1. STPI, established in 1991, is an autonomous society under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
2. It has launched Centres of Entrepreneurship (CoEs) to promote tech startups in emerging areas like AI FinTech, Industry 4.0, and Drone Technology.

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

39. With reference to the Sagarmala Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It was launched in 2015 as the flagship initiative of the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
2. The National Sagarmala Apex Committee (NSAC) serves as the apex body responsible for providing policy direction and oversight for the Sagarmala Programme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Agriculture & Allied Sector

40. Consider the following statements regarding PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY):

1. The scheme is inspired by NITI Aayog's Aspirational Districts Programme.
2. It targets 100 high-performing agricultural districts for further improvement.

3. A minimum of one district will be selected from each state to ensure balanced regional development.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

41. Consider the following statements regarding the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY):

1. PKVY is a sub-scheme under the National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture launched in 2015 to promote organic farming and improve soil health.
2. It relies on third-party certification systems to ensure the credibility of organic products.
3. The funding ratio is 60:40 between Centre and States, with special provisions of 90:10 for NE and Himalayan States, and 100% Central funding for UTs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Environment & Ecology

42. Nestled in the floodplains of a major river system, this protected area is known for its unique ecosystem comprising tall elephant grass, dense reeds, marshes, and shallow pools. The rivers Difalu and Moradifalu flow from the national park, enriching its wetlands and supporting a diverse range of wildlife. Most notably, it is home to the iconic 'Big Five'—Rhinceros, Tiger, Elephant, Asiatic Wild Buffalo, and Eastern Swamp Deer, making it a critical hub for wildlife conservation in India. Based on the above description, which of the following protected areas best fits these characteristics?

- A. Manas National Park
B. Kaziranga National Park
C. Dudhwa National Park
D. Jaldapara National Park

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43. With reference to a protected area in India, consider the following characteristics:

1. It is situated between the Aravalli and Vindhya hill ranges.
2. It is home to a historic fort that is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
3. The reserve is bound by the Banas River to the north and the Chambal River to the south.
4. It has the third-highest tiger population density in India as per the 2023 census.

Which one of the following Tiger Reserves is being described above?

- A. Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve
- B. Ranthambore Tiger Reserve
- C. Pench Tiger Reserve
- D. Satpura Tiger Reserve

44. Consider the following statements regarding Green Ammonia:

1. It is produced by combining green hydrogen with nitrogen from the air.
2. It has a highly volatile nature but completely carbon-neutral.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

45. Consider the following products:

1. Bamboo
2. Canes
3. Resins

How many of the above is/are considered as Minor Forest Produce?

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

46. The negotiations for the Global Plastics Treaty were initiated under the resolution of which of the following international bodies?

- A. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- B. United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)
- C. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- D. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

47. With reference to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, consider the following statements:

1. According to the Ramsar definition, wetlands can include shallow marine areas up to six meters deep at low tide.
2. Human-made wetlands such as reservoirs, aquaculture ponds, and salt pans cannot be designated as Ramsar Sites.
3. The convention allows inclusion of nearby riparian and coastal zones and even deeper marine areas if they lie within the functional wetland system.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

48. Regarding the Cheetah Reintroduction Project, consider the following statements:

1. It officially began in India in 2022 to revive the cheetah population, which was declared extinct in the country in 1952.
2. It involves the translocation of cheetahs from South Africa and Namibia to Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh.
3. The project is implemented by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India (WII).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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49. Consider the following features:

1. It is surrounded by Nenmara, Vazhachal, Malayattur and Marayur reserved forests.
2. The Kariyan Shola, Grass hills and Manjampatti of this area have been identified as World Heritage Sites by UNESCO.
3. It is home to indigenous tribal communities such as the Kadars, Muduvars and Malasars.

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

- A. Simlipal National Park
- B. Bandhavgarh National Park
- C. Anamalai Tiger Reserve
- D. Neyyar Wildlife Sanctuary

50. Consider the following statements regarding Green Hydrogen:

1. Green hydrogen is produced using electrolyzers powered by renewable energy sources.
2. The National Green Hydrogen Mission aims to produce 5 million tonnes of green hydrogen annually by the year 2050.
3. Green hydrogen currently accounts for over 50% of global hydrogen production due to its low production costs.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

51. Consider the following statements regarding Mangroves:

1. India has the highest mangrove biodiversity globally.
2. The Sundarbans is the largest mangrove ecosystem in the world.
3. Fishbone Technique is a mangrove restoration method for areas with poor tidal flow.

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

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two

- C. All Three
- D. None

52. With reference to the ideal environmental conditions required for the growth of coral reefs, consider the following statements:

1. Sea surface temperatures between 20°C and 28°C are favourable for coral growth.
2. They require sediment-free shallow waters.
3. They flourish in areas with low salinity levels, typically below 20 parts per thousand (ppt).

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

53. Located in the Kannan Devan Hills of the southern Western Ghats, this protected area represents the largest and least disturbed stretch of the unique Montane Shola–Grassland ecosystem. It is known for harboring the endangered Nilgiri Tahr. The park is also famous for the Neelakurinji, a rare flower that blooms once every 12 years.

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

- A. Silent Valley National Park
- B. Mukurthi National Park
- C. Eravikulam National Park
- D. Periyar Tiger Reserve

54. Consider the following statements regarding the recent exemption of thermal power plants from installing Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD) systems:

Statement I: As per the revised policy of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, only thermal power plants located in densely populated or critically polluted areas are required to install FGD systems.

Statement II: The exemption was based on expert findings that Indian coal has low sulphur content and ambient sulphur dioxide (SO₂) levels are within permissible national limits.

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

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

55. The term 'Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs)', often mentioned in global discussions, primarily refers to:

- Commitments by European nations to resettle refugees from conflict zones in the Middle East
- Country-specific action plans to address climate change under international agreements
- Financial contributions made by nations to set up the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- National strategies framed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

56. With reference to Grey Seal, consider the following statements:

- Grey seals live in coastal waters of the North Atlantic, from the US and Canada to the Baltic Sea and parts of Europe.
- The seals absorb high levels of pollutants, making them indicators of marine ecosystem health.
- They gather in large groups for mating and molting, but often live alone or in small groups otherwise.

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

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

57. Regarding the Namami Gange Programme (NGP), consider the following statements:

- The National Ganga Council, chaired by the Prime Minister, serves as the apex body overseeing the implementation of the programme.

- The NGP focuses only on improving the sewage treatment infrastructure along the Ganga River.
- The Ganga Gram initiative under NGP targets the development of villages along the river to improve sanitation and sustainability.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Economy

58. Consider the following statements related to Stablecoin:

- Tether stablecoin is backed by the Chinese yuan.
- India does not currently recognise stablecoins and treats them as Virtual Digital Assets (VDAs).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

59. Consider the following statements regarding the Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index):

- The FI-Index is released twice a year by the Reserve Bank of India.
- The index is based on a fixed base year of 2017.
- The FI-Index has shown a steady increase from March 2017 to March 2021.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

60. With reference to the capital-raising instruments used by the Government of India, consider the following statements:

- Government Securities are referred to as risk-free gilt-edged instruments.
- Treasury Bills are issued at a discount and redeemed at face value upon maturity.

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3. The Central Government issues both Treasury Bills and dated securities, while State Governments issue only dated securities.

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

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

61. Consider the following Consumer Price Indices?

1. CPI for Industrial Workers
2. CPI for Agricultural Laborers
3. CPI for Rural Labourer
4. CPI for Urban Non-Manual Employees

How many of the above is/are compiled by the Labour Bureau under the Ministry of Labour and Employment?

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

62. Which of the following factors have contributed to the slowdown in corporate investment in India in recent years?

1. Limited consumer demand and underutilized industrial capacity have reduced the incentive for private sector expansion.
2. The decline in the corporate investment-to-GDP ratio between 2004 and 2023 reflects diminished confidence in long-term growth prospects.
3. Prolonged delays in the disbursement of loans for large-scale infrastructure projects have hindered timely private investment.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Science & Tech

63. With reference to Deepfakes, consider the following statements:

1. Deepfakes are synthetic media generated using Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs).
2. Natural Language Processing (NLP) is used for cloning voices.
3. India has no specific law on deepfakes, but the Information Technology Act, 2000 addresses digital impersonation and cheating.

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

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

64. Consider the following features:

1. It is the process of determining the exact order of nucleotide bases in an individual's Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA).
2. Supports personalised medicine by predicting individual drug responses
3. Used in crop improvement to identify genes linked to disease resistance.

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

- A. Gene Editing
B. Gene Therapy
C. Gene Sequencing
D. Genetic Engineering

65. Consider the following pairs:

Type of Ethanol	Source
1. 1G Ethanol	Sugarcane, Molasses, Grains
2. 2G Ethanol	Algal biomass from fresh water and wastewater
3. 3G Ethanol	Agricultural and forestry waste

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

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66. Consider the following statements regarding Mycorrhizal fungi:

1. Mycorrhizal fungi form symbiotic associations with plant roots, enhancing nutrient and water uptake.
2. Over 90% of mycorrhizal biodiversity hotspots lie outside protected areas.
3. Mycorrhizal fungi can be used as biofertilizers to enhance crop yields.

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

67. Consider the following statements regarding the NISAR mission:

1. NISAR is the first satellite mission in the world to use dual-frequency radar (L-band and S-band) from a single platform.
2. It aims to provide high-resolution data to monitor land changes, forest biomass, agricultural cycles, cryosphere dynamics, and natural disasters such as earthquakes and landslides.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

68. The vaccine AdFolciVax, which was recently in the news, is associated with the prevention of which disease?

- A. Tuberculosis
- B. Malaria
- C. Dengue
- D. Hepatitis C

69. Consider the following statements regarding Optical Atomic Clocks:

1. Optical atomic clocks are precise time-keeping devices that use optical-frequency atomic transitions to measure time, offering far greater accuracy than caesium clocks.

2. They work by measuring the frequency of light absorbed or emitted during atomic electronic transitions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Defence & Security

70. Consider the following pairs:

Cybercrime	Execution Techniques
1. Digital Arrests	Impersonating authorities to extort money
2. Ransomware	Sending fake emails to trick users into revealing sensitive information
3. Phishing	Encrypting a victim's files and demanding payment for decryption

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

International Relations & Current Affairs

71. The Sevilla Commitment, recently seen in the news, is related to:

- A. A global agreement on the regulation of artificial intelligence in warfare.
- B. A UN-led framework to finance sustainable development and reform global financial systems.
- C. A climate agreement signed under the UNFCCC to reduce global carbon emissions.
- D. A World Bank initiative to privatize public infrastructure in developing countries.

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72. India's first Digital Nomad Village and the country's first Organic Fisheries Cluster were recently announced in which of the following regions?

- A. Goa
- B. Kerala
- C. Sikkim
- D. Meghalaya

73. With reference to the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), consider the following statements:

1. Codex standards are legally binding under the WTO framework on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.
2. India co-chaired the Executive Committee to advance new international standards for fresh dates.
3. The Codex Alimentarius covers processed, semi-processed, and raw foods.

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

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

74. Consider the following countries:

1. Spain
2. Bulgaria
3. Montenegro

How many of the countries mentioned above is/are members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization?

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

75. With reference to the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), consider the following statements:

1. It is developed by the Reserve Bank of India.
2. It is built on Immediate Payment Service (IMPS).
3. As of 2025, UPI has become the world's leading real-time payment system.

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

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

76. Consider the following statements regarding the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO):

1. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations headquartered in Geneva.
2. India is a founding member of UNESCO.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

77. The NAMASTE Scheme and the Bandicoot Robot, recently in the news for addressing a common issue, are associated with which of the following?

- A. Eradication of tuberculosis
- B. Elimination of manual scavenging
- C. Prevention of child trafficking
- D. Promotion of digital literacy in rural areas

78. Consider the following conventions:

1. UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
2. UN Convention to Combat Desertification
3. Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

For how many of the conventions given above does the Global Environment Facility serve as a financial mechanism?

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

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79. Which of the following is expected to benefit from DHRUVA Policy implementation?

1. E-commerce delivery services
2. Urban governance
3. Telecom services
4. Agricultural subsidy distribution

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

80. Consider the following statements:

1. The Henley Passport Index ranks passports based on visa-free access using data from the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).
2. India ranks 3rd in the Henley Passport Index 2025

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

81. Which of the following initiatives has India undertaken to achieve its climate targets?

1. National Adaptation Plan (NAP)
2. Sovereign Green Bonds
3. Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes (MISHTI)
4. Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

82. Consider the following statements regarding India-Maldives relations:

1. India has a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the Maldives.

2. India was the largest source market for tourism to the Maldives in 2023.

3. The Greater Male Connectivity Project in the Maldives is funded through Indian grant and line of credit.

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

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

83. Consider the following statements regarding Zero-dose children:

1. Zero-dose children are those who haven't received even the first DTP (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis) vaccine dose and lack access to routine immunization.
2. The percentage of zero-dose children in India increased from 0.06% in 2023 to 0.11% in 2024.

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

84. Consider the following statements regarding BIMSTEC:

1. India is one of the founding member states of BIMSTEC.
2. BIMSTEC Secretariat is in Bangkok.
3. India leads the Security pillar in BIMSTEC.

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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85. Consider the following statements regarding parametric insurance:

1. Parametric insurance is a type of insurance where payouts are triggered automatically when predefined event parameters cross a set threshold.
2. Nagaland is the first Indian state to adopt a multi-year parametric insurance cover using disaster mitigation funds.

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

86. Consider the following statements:

1. India has set an ambitious target of achieving a 100 GW nuclear power capacity by 2047, with the current capacity standing at 8.18 GW.
2. Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) are nuclear reactors that have one-third of the power output of conventional nuclear power reactors, a capacity of 300 MW (e) per unit.
3. India allows FDI of up to 49% in nuclear projects to retain Indian control and promote joint ventures.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 3 only

87. Consider the following statements regarding Unified Payments Interface (UPI)?

1. Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is a real-time mobile payment system developed by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
2. Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) is a UPI-based payment app developed by NPCI.
3. As of July 2025, UPI is operational in seven countries, including the UAE, Singapore, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, France, and Mauritius.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

88. The Trade Watch Quarterly report is released by which of the following organisations?

- A. NITI Aayog
- B. World Trade Organization (WTO)
- C. World Economic Forum (WEF)
- D. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Answers

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

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Explanations

History

1.

Ans: D

Exp:

💡 **K Kamaraj** served as Chief Minister of the erstwhile **Madras Province (1954)** and later as **President** of the **Indian National Congress (1963)**.

✦ The **Kamaraj Plan (1963)** was proposed by K. Kamaraj to **revitalize** the **Indian National Congress** by encouraging senior leaders to **resign** and **work at the grassroots** and focus on **party reorganization**.

✦ **Morarji Desai, Lal Bahadur Shastri and Jagjivan Ram** were amongst the union ministers while the Chief Ministers included **K Kamaraj (Madras), Biju Patnaik (Orissa) and CB Gupta (UP)** who **resigned** under the Kamaraj Plan (1963).

💡 Hence, option D is correct.

2.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 The Revolt of 1857 was a widespread and determined resistance against British colonial rule, breaking out across several key centres in northern and central India.

💡 In **Delhi**, the revolt was spearheaded by **Bahadur Shah Zafar**, the last Mughal emperor, who was proclaimed the symbolic leader of the uprising. His presence lent a unifying legitimacy to the rebels.

✦ However, the city was eventually retaken by British forces under the leadership of **John Nicholson**, a fierce officer who played a crucial role in recapturing the capital. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**

💡 In **Lucknow, Begum Hazrat Mahal** (and not **Kunwar Singh**, he was associated with Bihar) took charge after the annexation of Awadh, rallying forces and aligning with local leaders to oppose British control.

✦ She fiercely defended the city against British troops, but ultimately, **Henry Lawrence**, the British Resident, and later British reinforcements,

managed to suppress the revolt, though Lawrence himself was fatally wounded in the early phase. **Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**

💡 The revolt in **Kanpur** was led by **Nana Saheb**, who sought to revive Maratha prestige and retaliate against the British refusal to recognize his adoptive rights.

✦ However, the rebellion was eventually crushed by **Sir Colin Campbell**, who led a swift and brutal counter-offensive to retake the city. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**

💡 Hence, option B is correct.

3.

Exp: C

Ans:

Bal Gangadhar Tilak:

💡 **About:** Born on **23rd July 1856** in **Ratnagiri, Maharashtra**, Bal Gangadhar Tilak is revered as the **Father of Indian Unrest**.

✦ He was among the **earliest and strongest advocates of complete independence (Swarajya)**.

✦ Tilak, along with Lala Lajpat Rai and Bipin Chandra Pal, formed the iconic **Lal-Bal-Pal** trio known for their extremist nationalist ideology.

💡 **Surat Split (1907):** The Surat Split of 1907 in the Indian National Congress (INC) marked a division between the Extremist and Moderate factions.

✦ The Extremists, mainly from the Bombay Presidency, backed Tilak or Lajpat Rai for the presidential post, but the split occurred after Rasbehari Ghose was elected as president.

💡 **Contribution in Education:** In 1884, **Tilak**, along with **Gopal Ganesh Agarkar** and others, **co-founded the Deccan Education Society**, which later led to the **establishment of Fergusson College in Pune in 1885**.

💡 **Newspapers:** **Kesari** (Marathi) and **Mahratta** (English)

💡 **Books:** **Gita Rahasya, The Orion, and Arctic Home of the Vedas.**

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बाळ गंगाधर टिळक

(23 July 1856 - 1 August 1920)

One of the earliest, most vocal proponents of complete independence (Swarajya)

Brief Profile

- Also known as **Lokmanya Tilak**
- Mahatma Gandhi** called him "The Maker of Modern India"
- Educationist: A prolific writer and journalist
- Co-founded: **Deccan Education Society** (1884) and **Fergusson College** (1885)



Social and Political Contributions

- Ideology:** A devout Hindu; used Hindu scriptures to rouse people
- Role in INC:** Joined in 1890; Significant role in **Surat Split (1907)** - wanted by extremists to preside over Surat Session
- Slogan:** "Swaraj is my birthright, and I shall have it!"
- Lal-Bal-Pal Trio:** Led the extremist group with **Lala Lajpat Rai** and **Bipin Chandra Pal**

Contribution to Freedom Movement

- Propagated swadeshi movement
- Led the **Indian Home Rule Movement** with **Annie Besant**
- Founded All India Home Rule League in April 1916

Lucknow Pact (1916) - signed between **INC** headed by **Tilak** and **All-India Muslim League** headed by **Jinnah** for **Hindu-Muslim unity** in nationalist struggle

Literary Works

- Newspapers:** "Kesari" (Marathi) and "The Maratha" (English)
- Books:** **Gita Rahasya** (his *Magnum Opus*) and **Arctic Home of the Vedas**



⚡ Hence, option C is correct.

4.

Ans: C

Exp:

⚡ **Rajendra Chola I (1014 to 1044 AD)**, son of Rajaraja Chola I, was one of the greatest rulers of the Chola Empire.

✦ He assumed titles like **Gangaikonda Cholan** (after defeating the Palas in Bengal) and **Kadaram Kondan** (after naval victories in the Srivijaya Empire), **Pandita Cholan**, and **Mudikondan**.

✍ Founded a new capital, **Gangaikondacholapuram**, to commemorate his northern conquests.

✦ Under his rule, **Tamil merchant guilds** like **Manigramam** and **Ayyavole** thrived, fostering **trade and cultural exchange** with China and Southeast Asia.

⚡ Hence, option C is correct.

5.

Ans: C

Exp:

Birth Anniversary of Chandra Shekhar Azad

The Prime Minister paid tribute to **Chandra Shekhar Azad** on his birth anniversary (23rd July 2025), honouring his role in the freedom struggle and his inspiration to the youth.

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💡 **Early Life:** Born in 1906 as **Chandra Shekhar Tiwari** in Bhabhra village (now known as Chandrashekhar Azad Nagar), Madhya Pradesh, he showed revolutionary spirit from a young age. At 15, he joined **Gandhi's Non-Cooperation Movement**.

💡 **Shift from Satyagraha to Revolution:** Disappointed after Gandhi called off the Non-Cooperation Movement in 1922.

✦ Azad turned to revolutionary activities, joined **Hindustan Republican Army (HRA)** and was involved in **Kakori train robbery (1925)** to fund armed resistance.

✦ In 1928, **Bhagat Singh, Chandra Shekhar Azad, Sukhdev, Shiv Verma, and Vijay Kumar Sinha** reorganised the HRA with socialism as one of the main objectives, renaming it the **Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA)**.

💡 **Major actions:** Bhagat Singh was HSRA's political ideologue, while **Azad led its military wing** (planning actions, training recruits, and organising weapons).

✦ He played a key role in planning the 1928 killing of **British officer John Saunders in Lahore**. Bhagat Singh and Rajguru carried out the shooting.

💡 **Legacy:** Chandra Shekhar Azad died at Alfred Park, Allahabad, on 27th February 1931, at just 24. The park was later renamed Chandra Shekhar Azad Park in his honour.

💡 Hence, option C is correct.

6.

Ans: D

Exp:

Provisional Government of Free India (Azad Hind Government)

💡 The **Azad Hind Government** was established in October 1943 in **Singapore** by **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose** during **World War II**, with the objective of securing **India's complete independence from British colonial rule**.

💡 It functioned as a **government-in-exile** and was recognized by Axis powers like **Germany, Japan, and Italy**.

💡 Associated Personalities:

✦ **Captain Mohan Singh:** First INA commander (1942); laid the foundation with Japanese support.

✦ **Rashbehari Bose:** Organized the Indian Independence League; convened Tokyo & Bangkok conferences; invited Subhas Bose to lead INA.

✦ **Lakshmi Swaminathan (Sahgal):** Led the Rani Jhansi Regiment; headed the Women's Department in Azad Hind Government.

✦ **H.C. Chatterjee:** Held the Finance portfolio; managed funds and support from the Indian diaspora.

💡 Hence, option D is correct.

Art and Culture

7.

Ans: B

Exp:

Adikabi Sarala Das:

💡 Adikabi Sarala Dasa, **originator of Odia literature**, was born around the **15th century A.D.** He was the **first scholar to write in the Odia language**.

✦ His **early name was Siddheswara Parida**, and he was a contemporary of the Gajapati king Kapilendra Dev.

✦ He wrote his epic poems at a **religious establishment known as Munigosain**.

✦ He is best known for his three epics in Odia, the *Mahabharata*, *Vilanka Ramayana*, and *Chandi Purana*. He also wrote the *Laxmi Narayana Vachanika*.

💡 Hence, option B is correct.

8.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 **Sohrai Khovar Painting** is a traditional indigenous art form practiced by **women from various tribal communities** in the **Hazaribagh region of Jharkhand**, including the **Kurmi, Santhal, Munda, Oraon, Agaria, and Ghatwal** groups.

✦ Also, known as **harvest art**, it is deeply linked to **agriculture and cattle domestication**. The term 'Soh' or 'Soro' means *to drive away*, and 'Rai' refers to *a stick*.

💡 Hence, option B is correct.

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Geography

9.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 📌 The Maldharis are a **semi-nomadic tribal herdsmen community** primarily inhabiting the **Banni Grasslands and Gir Forests** of Gujarat.
- 📌 They are known for their **silvipastoral lifestyle**—combining **animal husbandry with forest-based livelihoods**—and rear livestock such as **goats, sheep, cows, buffaloes, and camels**.
- 📌 Hence, **option C** is correct.

10.

Ans: A

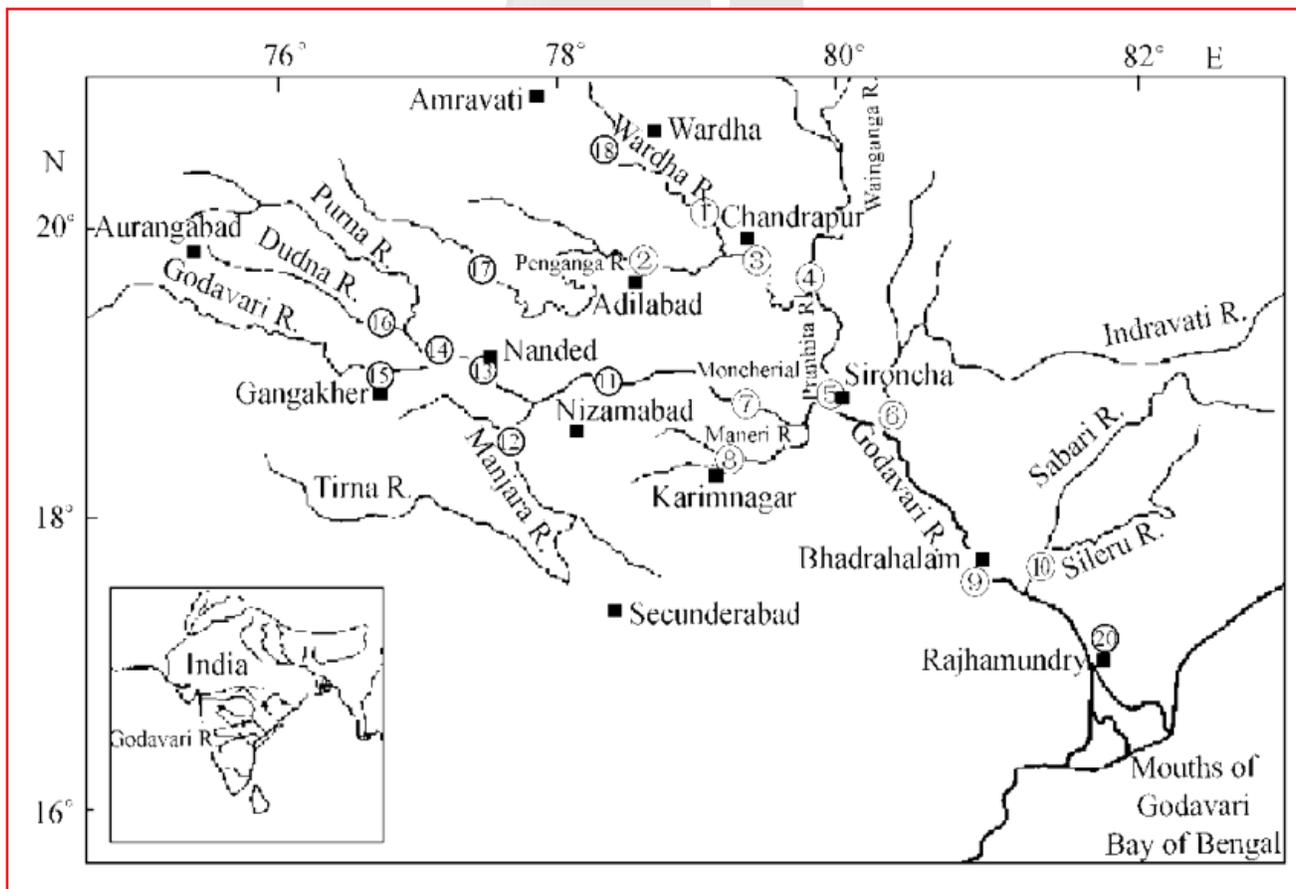
Exp:

Godavari River:

- 📌 **About:** Known as **Dakshin Ganga** (Ganges of the South), the Godavari is India's **second-longest (1465**

km) river (after Ganga) and the largest river system in Peninsular India.

- 📌 **Source & Drainage Basin:** It originates from **Trimbakeswar near Nasik** in Maharashtra and **flows eastward** before draining into the **Bay of Bengal**.
 - ✦ Its basin spans **Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha**, with minor parts in **Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka**, and the **Union Territory of Puducherry**.
- 📌 **Major Tributaries:** Purna, Pranhita, Indravati, and Sabari, Wainganga, Wardha, Penganga (Left-Bank) and Pravara, Manjira, and Manair (Right Bank).
- 📌 **Major Projects:** Polavaram Irrigation Project, Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project, Sriram Sagar Project (SRSP), Sadarmatt Anicut & Inchampalli Project.



- 📌 Hence, **option A** is correct.

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11.

Ans: C

Exp:

Tidal Locking

- 💡 **Tidal locking** is a gravitational phenomenon in which an astronomical body's orbital period matches its rotational period, causing one hemisphere to constantly face its parent body.
- 💡 In the case of the **Moon**, it **rotates on its axis in the same time it takes to orbit the Earth, which is why we always see only one side of it.**
 - ✦ This synchrony developed over time due to Earth's gravitational pull distorting the Moon's shape, **creating tidal bulges that shifted with a delay.**
- 💡 Apart from tidal locking, other related astronomical phenomena include the **lunar eclipse**, which occurs **when the Earth comes between the Sun and the Moon**, casting a shadow on the lunar surface.
 - ✦ The **orbital resonance** is seen **when two orbiting bodies influence each other gravitationally** due to their orbital periods being simple ratios.

- ✦ The **perigee effect** refers to the **Moon's closest point to Earth in its orbit**, often making it appear larger and causing higher tides, popularly known as a "Supermoon".

12.

Ans: B

Exp:

Lakshadweep

- 💡 Lakshadweep is India's smallest Union Territory, an archipelago consisting of 36 islands with an area of 32 sq km.
 - ✦ It is a uni-district Union Territory and comprises 12 atolls, three reefs, five submerged banks, and ten inhabited islands.
- 💡 The inhabited islands are Kavaratti, Agatti, Amini, **Kadmat**, Kiltan, Chetlat, **Bitra**, Andrott, **Kalpeni** and Minicoy.
 - ✦ **Bitra** is the smallest of all. The uninhabited island Bangaram has been enumerated during 2011 census operation and has a population of 61 persons.
- 💡 The main occupation of the people is fishing, coconut cultivation and coir twisting. Tourism is an emerging industry.



- 💡 Hence, option B is correct.

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13.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 The **Hatti** are a **close-knit tribal community** residing along the **Himachal Pradesh–Uttarakhand border**. The Hattis have two main clans—**Trans-Giri** (in **Himachal Pradesh**) and **Jaunsar Bawar** (in **Uttarakhand**). Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- 💡 The practice of polyandry, locally called “**Jodidara**” or “**Jajda**”, is traditionally followed by them where **brothers marry the same woman**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- ✘ **Polyandry** is illegal under Indian law, but the **Himachal Pradesh revenue law** has upheld the **Hatti tribe’s tradition of Jodidara**, allowing them to continue the practice under **customary tribal law**.

14.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 Comets are celestial bodies made up of a **mixture of rocks, ice, and hydrocarbons**. They have **highly eccentric orbits**, often taking them far from the Sun and then bringing them very close.
- ✘ When a comet gets close to the Sun, the heat causes the ice to vaporize, **creating a thin, temporary atmospheric tail made of gas and dust**. This tail always points away from the Sun due to the solar wind.
- ✘ These characteristics differentiate comets from **asteroids** (rocky bodies mostly found in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter), **meteoroids** (smaller particles or fragments of asteroids or comets that may burn up in Earth’s atmosphere), and **dwarf planets** (small celestial bodies like Pluto, which orbit the Sun but are not dominant in their orbit).

💡 Hence, **option B is correct**.

15.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 Cotton requires **210 frost-free days**, **50–100 cm rainfall**, and grows well in **temperatures up to 43°C**. **Temperatures below 21°C** are harmful, especially

during germination and boll formation. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

- 💡 Cotton is **semi-tolerant to salinity** and **sensitive to waterlogging**. It thrives in **light, well-drained soils** that retain moisture, not heavy clayey soils. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- 💡 **Large diurnal temperature variations** (warm days and cool nights) during the fruiting phase improve **ball setting and fiber quality**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

16.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 The **Brahmaputra River** originates from the **Chemayungdung Glacier** in the **Kailash Range** near **Mansarovar Lake** in Tibet, where it is called the **Yarlung Tsangpo**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- 💡 It enters **Bangladesh** as **Jamuna** after meeting the **Teesta River**. It then joins the **Ganga (Padma)** near **Goalundo Ghat** and finally merges with the **Meghna River** before flowing into the **Bay of Bengal**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- 💡 **Majuli**, the **largest river island**, and **Umananda**, the **smallest river island**, are both located on the **Brahmaputra River in Assam**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

17.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 **Moraines** are **sediment deposits** formed by **retreating glaciers**, made up of **soil, rocks, and debris** that glaciers carry and leave behind as they move and melt.
- 💡 As glaciers advance and retreat, they **erode the underlying land** and leave behind these materials when the ice melts.
- 💡 **Moraines** serve as key **indicators of past glaciations and climate history**.
- 💡 Hence, **option B is correct**.

18.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 The **Sawalkote Hydroelectric Project** is located on the **Chenab River** in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. It is a **run-of-the-river project** proposed on

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the river **Chenab** in district **Ramban & Udhampur** of **UT Jammu & Kashmir**. It will generate annual energy of 7994.73 MU.

📌 The **National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC)** has initiated the **tendering process** for its construction.

📌 The **Chenab River**, also known as the **Chandrabhaga**, is the largest tributary of the **Indus River**, formed by the confluence of the **Chandra and Bhaga rivers** at **Tandi**, Himachal Pradesh.

📌 **Major Hydroelectric Projects on the Chenab River include:**

- ✦ Ratle Hydroelectric Project
- ✦ Pakal Dul Hydropower Project
- ✦ Salal Dam (Reasi)

✦ Dul Hasti Project (Kishtwar)

✦ Pakal Dul Dam

📌 Hence, option C is correct.

19.

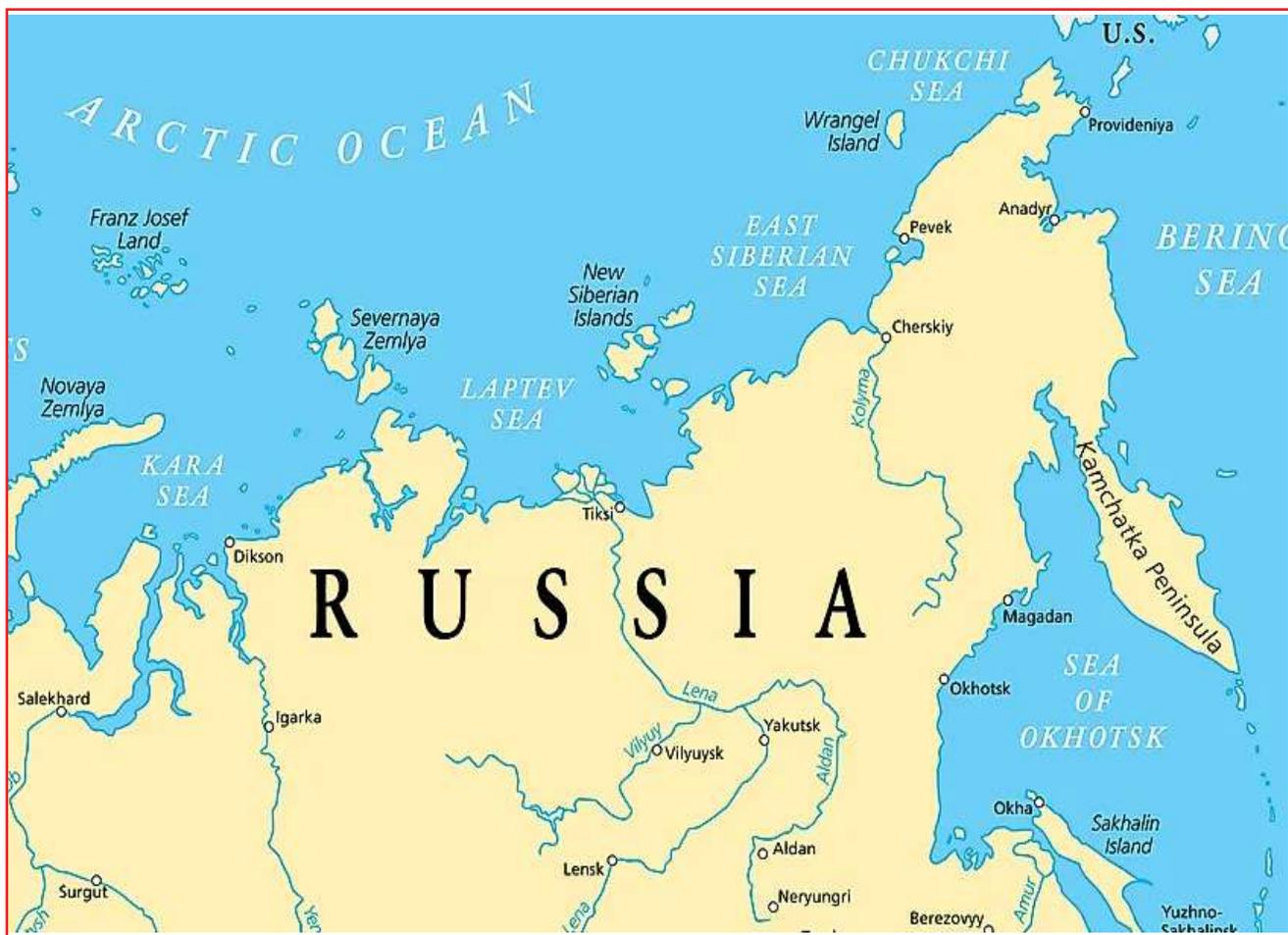
Ans: C

Exp:

📌 **Kamchatka Peninsula** lies on the **Pacific Ring of Fire**, positioned between the **Sea of Okhotsk** to the west and the **Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea** to the east.

✦ It sits at the junction of the **Pacific and North American tectonic plates**, making it a **highly active seismic zone**.

✦ The region features two main mountain ranges **Sredinny and Vostochny** and is drained by the **Kamchatka River**, its primary waterway.



📌 Hence, option C is correct.

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Polity and Governance

20.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 The Union Ministry of Power in collaboration with the **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)** has launched the **Assistance in Deploying Energy Efficient Technologies in Industries & Establishments (ADEETIE)** scheme. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 It aims to accelerate the adoption of advanced **energy-efficient technologies across India's Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** sector. It can help MSMEs reduce energy consumption by **30–50%, improve efficiency, and contribute to green energy corridors.** Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

21.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 **Cabinet Committees** are **extra-constitutional bodies** set up under the **Transaction of Business Rules, 1961**, derived from Article 77(3) of the Constitution. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 The Cabinet Committees in India include the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), Cabinet Committee on Accommodation, **Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs**, Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs, Cabinet Committee on Investment and Growth, **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** and Cabinet Committee on Skill, Employment, and Livelihood.
- 💡 **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** is a high-level committee of the Government of India responsible for appointments to top-level civil services, departmental heads, and senior positions in Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).
 - ✖ It comprises 2 members- **the Prime Minister (Chairperson) and the Minister of Home Affairs (Member).** Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 The Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs normally takes decisions on matters placed before it for consideration, through circulation of papers.
 - ✖ Currently, it is headed by **India's Defence Minister.** Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**

22.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 The **Rajya Sabha (Council of States)** is the **upper house** of the Indian **Parliament** constituted under **Article 80** of the Constitution. It was first constituted in **1952**, is a **permanent body** and is **not subject to dissolution.** Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
 - ✖ However, **one-third of its members retire every 2 years**, and they are **eligible for re-election or renomination** without any limit.
- 💡 The **Constitution does not specify the term** of its members, the **Representation of the People Act, 1951** prescribes a **6-year term** for each member. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 **Rajya Sabha members** representing states are **elected indirectly only by the elected members of the State Legislative Assemblies (MLAs)** through proportional representation using the **Single Transferable Vote (STV)** system. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**

23.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 The **Supreme Court**, in a landmark judgment, has ruled that **secretly recorded conversations between spouses are admissible as evidence in matrimonial disputes**, including divorce proceedings if they aid in ensuring a fair trial. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 Section 122 of the Indian Evidence Act provides **qualified**, not absolute, protection to spousal communication; it **can be waived** in specific cases like divorce or criminal proceedings. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**

24.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 The **Skill India Mission** is designed to **skill, reskill, and upskill** India's youth by offering industry-relevant training through a **vast network of centers and programs**, addressing the increasing demand for **employability, entrepreneurship, and quality job opportunities.**
- 💡 **Key Initiatives Launched Under Skill India Mission** are:
 - ✖ **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY):** PMKVY aims to provide **free, short-term, quality-assured skill training** to enhance the **employability of youth.**

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- ✦ **Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) Scheme:** JSS is a community-based vocational training programme for non-literates, neo-literates, and school dropouts.
- ✦ **Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (PM-NAPS):** PM-NAPS aims to boost apprenticeship training by providing 25% stipend support Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) for individuals aged 14–35 years.

💡 Introduced in the **Union Budget 2018-19**, **Samagra Shiksha** is a comprehensive program covering education from pre-nursery to **Class 12** to ensure equitable learning outcomes.

💡 Hence, option A is correct.

25.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 The **Supreme Court** and several High Courts, including the Madras High Court ruling (2025), have upheld that **Article 21 of the Constitution**, which guarantees the **right to life and personal liberty**, also includes the **right to peaceful living**.

- ✦ This right can **override Article 25 (freedom of religion)** when religious practices, such as loud prayers or use of loudspeakers, cause **public disturbance** or **noise pollution**. The Court has clearly stated that **religious freedom does not include the right to create noise that disturbs others**, especially in residential areas. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

💡 The **Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981**, under its definition of “**air pollutant**”, includes **noise** when it is present in concentrations that may be **injurious to human beings, other living creatures, plants, property, or the environment**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

26.

Ans: B

Exp:

About PM Virasat Ka Samvardhan (VIKAS) Scheme :

💡 The **Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA)** launched a skill training and women entrepreneurship development project under the **Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS)** scheme. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.

💡 Under this project, 150 youth candidates will be trained in **Internet of Things (IoT)** and 300 women candidates will receive entrepreneurship training, with stipends and industry linkages for **employment opportunities**.

💡 It is a **skilling initiative from MoMA** focusing on the skilling, entrepreneurship and leadership training requirements of **the minority and artisan communities** across the country. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

💡 The scheme is **intended to be implemented in convergence with the Skill India Mission** and through integration with the **Skill India Portal (SIP)**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

- ✦ The PM VIKAS scheme integrates the Ministry’s earlier skilling and education **initiatives into a unified platform** to support the socio-economic development of **India’s six notified minority communities** - Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists, Jains, and Zoroastrians (Parsis).

✦ The scheme also **provisions to facilitate credit linkages by connecting beneficiaries with loan programs** offered by the National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC). Hence, **statement 4 is correct**.

27.

Ans: D

Exp:

💡 The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 was enacted to implement the **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**, which India ratified in **2007**. It replaced the earlier **Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunity, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.

💡 Under **RPwD Act, 2016**, the types of disabilities have been **increased** from the existing **7 to 21** in which for the first time **Acid Attack Victims, Blood diseases like Haemophilia & Sickle Cell Anemia** among others have been included. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

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28.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 **NAMASTE** is a **Central Sector Scheme**, launched in **2023** for a period of **three years (2023–24 to 2025–26)**. It is a **human-centric, rights-based initiative** aimed at **eliminating hazardous manual scavenging of sewers and septic tanks and rehabilitation of manual scavengers**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- 💡 It was jointly launched by the **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE)** and the **Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** and is being implemented by the National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC). Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- 💡 The scheme provides for **health insurance coverage** under **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)** for both **Sewer and Septic Tank Workers (SSWs)** and **Waste Pickers (added in 2024)**, ensuring their access to essential healthcare services. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

29.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 **Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS)** is a **24x7 online platform** launched by the **Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG)** under the **Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pension**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- 💡 It enables citizens to **lodge grievances related to public service delivery**. It also allows **appeals** if the resolution is **unsatisfactory**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- 💡 It **excludes Right to Information queries**, court or sub-judice matters, religious issues, and **service-related grievances of government employees**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

30.

Ans: A

Exp:

Vice President of India

- 💡 The Article 63 of the Indian Constitution states that there shall be a **Vice President of India**, who is the

second-highest constitutional authority after the President. The post is modeled on the American Vice President.

- ✦ He/she is elected by **MPs from both Houses of Parliament (elected and nominated members)** but state legislators do not participate (Article 66). Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- 💡 He/she acts as **ex officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha** (Council of States) (Article 64) but does not vote except in case of a tie.
 - ✦ The Vice-President acts as President (Article 65) during a vacancy caused by death, resignation, removal, or otherwise, until a new President is elected within six months.
 - ✦ If the President is absent or ill, the Vice-President acts in their place with full powers and benefits until the President returns.
- 💡 He/she can be **removed by a resolution in the Rajya Sabha (effective majority (more than 50% of the effective strength (i.e., total membership minus any vacancies)) and approved by Lok Sabha (simple majority))**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
 - ✦ A 14-day notice must be given before moving such a resolution, clearly stating the intention.

31.

Ans: B

Exp:

National Flag:

- 💡 It is traditionally made from **hand-spun khadi (cotton)**, symbolising self-reliance.
 - ✦ However, in 2021, the Flag Code of India, 2002, was **amended** to allow the **national flag to be made from other approved materials**, including machine-made and polyester flags. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- 💡 **Article 51A(a) of the Indian Constitution** mandates that it is the fundamental duty of every citizen to **respect the National Flag and National Anthem**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- 💡 It is governed by the **Flag Code of India, 2002**, which sets rules for display, handling, and respect for the flag. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
 - ✦ The **Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971**, punishes offences related to disrespecting the national flag or anthem.

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32.

Ans: D

Exp:

💡 **One Stop Centres Scheme:** Launched by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD)**, OSCs aim to provide **integrated support and assistance to women affected by violence in private and public spaces**, including family, community, and workplace settings. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

✦ Also known as **Sakhi Centres**, they form a key component of the **Sambal vertical** under **Mission Shakti**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

✦ **Mission Shakti has two verticals: 'Sambal'** for the safety and security of women, and **'Samarthyaa'** for their empowerment.

💡 It's a **100% centrally sponsored scheme under the Nirbhaya fund** and implemented by **State/UT governments**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

💡 **Objectives:** They ensure **immediate and long-term access to medical, legal, psychological, and counselling services** for women facing **physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, or economic abuse**.

33.

Ans: B

Exp:

Cooperatives:

💡 The 97th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2011, granted cooperatives constitutional status. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 Article 19(1)(c) ensures the right to form cooperatives. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

💡 State-level cooperatives fall **under the State List and are governed by the Cooperative Societies Act of the respective State Legislature**, while multi-state cooperatives are governed by the Union List and the Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

💡 Article 43B promotes them as a Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP).

💡 Part IXB (Articles 243ZH - 243ZT) provides governance provisions for Cooperatives.

34.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 The **National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC)** is a **statutory body**, formally constituted under **Section 8A(2) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 The NCMC is **chaired by the Cabinet Secretary** and includes key officials like the Union Home Secretary, Defence Secretary, and members from NDMA.

✦ It plays a vital role in **coordinating and monitoring disaster response efforts** across **central and state governments**, NDMA, and other agencies, ensuring a unified and effective disaster management strategy. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

35.

Ans: D

Exp:

💡 **National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)** is a **statutory body** established in **1995** under the **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987** to provide free legal services to the weaker sections of society. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 Legal Services Institutions have been established at **all levels**, ranging from **Taluk Courts to the Supreme Court**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

💡 NALSA has launched the **Veer Parivar Sahayata Yojana 2025** that aims to provide **free legal aid, advice, and support to army and paramilitary personnel and their families**, acknowledging their unique service-related constraints. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

36.

Ans: B

Exp:

Session of Parliament

💡 A **session** refers to the period between the **first sitting** and **prorogation** of a House. A **recess** is the interval between **prorogation** and **reassembly** of Parliament.

✦ Typically, there are 3 sessions in a year: Budget Session (Feb–May), Monsoon Session (July–August) and Winter Session (Nov–Dec). **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

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Key Parliamentary Procedures:

- ✦ **Prorogation:** It is the formal termination of a parliamentary session by the President. After prorogation, the House can meet again only when it is summoned afresh by the President. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ✦ **Adjournment:** It refers to the temporary suspension of a parliamentary sitting by the Presiding Officer. It may be for a short duration or for the day.
 - ✍ Adjournment sine die means suspension without a fixed date for the next sitting.
 - ✍ It does not end the session, and pending business resumes when the House meets again.
- ✦ **Summoning:** Under Article 85 of the Constitution, the President summons each House of Parliament, ensuring that the interval between two sessions does not exceed six months.
- ✦ **Dissolution:** Dissolution marks the end of the Lok Sabha's term, unlike the Rajya Sabha, which is a permanent body.
- ✦ **Quorum:** It is the minimum number of members required to be present to conduct a sitting of either House of Parliament.

37.

Ans: C

Exp:

- ✦ **Article 124(4)** of the Constitution provides for the removal of Supreme Court judges, and **Article 218** extends the same procedure to High Court judges.
 - ✦ The **Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968** lays down the detailed process for investigation and motion of impeachment. Judges can only be removed on grounds of **proved misbehaviour or incapacity**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ✦ An impeachment motion must be supported by at least **100 members of the Lok Sabha or 50 members of the Rajya Sabha**. Once admitted, a **three-member inquiry committee** is constituted to examine the charges. For removal, the motion must be passed in **both Houses during the same session** by a **special majority**—that is, an **absolute majority** (more than 50% of total membership) and a **two-thirds majority of members present and voting**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- ✦ Since independence, **no judge** of the Supreme Court or High Court has been successfully removed through the impeachment process. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

38.

Ans: C

Exp:

- ✦ The Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) was established in **1991** as an **autonomous society under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**. It was set up with the objective of promoting software exports and boosting the IT and ITeS industry in India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ✦ To strengthen the **tech startup ecosystem**, STPI has launched **24 Centres of Entrepreneurship (CoEs)** across the country. These CoEs focus on **emerging technology domains** such as **Artificial Intelligence, FinTech, Industry 4.0, Drone Technology, IoT, Blockchain, AR/VR, Animation & VFX**, and others, thereby supporting innovation, incubation, and product development. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

39.

Ans: B

Exp:

- ✦ **Sagarmala** is a **flagship Central Sector Scheme** under the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways**, aimed at promoting port-led development by leveraging India's 7,500 km long coastline and 14,500 km of potentially navigable waterways. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- ✦ The **National Sagarmala Apex Committee (NSAC)** is the **apex body** for the Sagarmala Programme. It is chaired by the Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, and it provides policy direction and oversight. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Agriculture & Allied Sector

40.

Ans: B

Exp:

PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana:

- ✦ **About:** PMDDKY is a **comprehensive farm programme** designed to enhance productivity, promote sustainable practices, and improve livelihoods.
 - ✦ It merges **36 schemes** from **11 Union Ministries** to create a unified agricultural support system.

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- ✦ The scheme is inspired by NITI Aayog's Aspirational Districts Programme. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- ✦ PMDDKY targets 100 underperforming districts to boost farm productivity through better irrigation, storage, and credit access while promoting sustainable practices. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

💡 **District Selection Criteria:**

- ✦ **Low Productivity:** Districts with low agricultural output per hectare.
- ✦ **Low Cropping Intensity:** Regions with limited crop variety or insufficient crop cycles per year.
- ✦ **Low Credit Disbursement:** Areas with limited access to financial resources for farmers.
- ✦ **Representation Across States:** The selection will consider the share of **Net Cropped Area** and operational holdings in each state/union territory.

✍ A **minimum of one district** will be selected from each state to ensure balanced regional development. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

💡 **Expected Outcomes:** 1.7 crore farmers across India are expected to benefit directly.

- ✦ The scheme integrates allied sectors like **livestock, dairy, and fisheries to add value and create local livelihoods**. It focuses on post-harvest storage, improved irrigation, easier credit access, and promotes natural and organic farming, enhancing rural economic resilience.

41.

Ans: A

Exp:

Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY):

- 💡 PKVY was launched in 2015 as a **sub-scheme under the National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)**. It promotes **organic farming** and aims to improve **soil health** by encouraging the use of eco-friendly and low-cost technologies. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- 💡 PKVY does **not** rely on **third-party certification**. Instead, it promotes the **Participatory Guarantee System (PGS-India)**, which is a locally relevant and trust-based certification system that involves farmers and consumers, operating outside the third-party certification framework. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

- 💡 The **funding pattern** under the scheme is **60:40** between the **Centre and States**, **90:10** for **Northeastern and Himalayan states**, and **100% Central assistance** for **Union Territories**. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

Environment & Ecology

42.

Ans: B

Exp:

Kaziranga National Park

- 💡 **Kaziranga National Park**, located in Assam, India, is renowned for its unique wetland ecosystem that includes tall **elephant grass, dense reeds, marshes, and shallow pools**. The park is nourished by the Brahmaputra River and is home to a diverse range of wildlife.

- ✦ It plays a critical role in wildlife conservation, particularly for its population of the endangered one-horned rhinoceros.

- 💡 The rivers **Diffalu and Moradifalu** flow from the national park. It is also known for housing the iconic 'Big Five'—**Rhinoceros, Tiger, Elephant, Asiatic Wild Buffalo, and Eastern Swamp Deer**.

- 💡 Its combination of floodplain, grasslands, and wetlands makes it an essential conservation hub.

- 💡 Hence, option B is correct.

43.

Ans: B

Exp:

Ranthambore Tiger Reserve:

- 💡 **Ranthambore Tiger Reserve** is located in the Sawai Madhopur district of Rajasthan, nestled between the **Aravalli and Vindhya hill** ranges.

- ✦ The reserve encompasses Ranthambore National Park, Sawai Madhopur Sanctuary, **Keladevi Sanctuary**, and part of the National Chambal Gharial Sanctuary.

- ✦ It is named after the **historic Ranthambore Fort**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site within the reserve.

- ✦ The reserve is bound by the **Banas River** to the north and the **Chambal River** to the south.

- ✦ There are **several lakes within the reserve**, including Padam Talab, Raj Bagh Talab, and Malik Talab.

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- ✦ The vegetation in Ranthambore Tiger Reserve is predominantly dry deciduous forest and tropical spike type.
- ✦ The fauna includes the Royal Bengal tiger, leopards, caracals, sambar, chital, chinkara, wild boars, and various bird species such as the sarus crane, serpent eagle, and painted spurfowl.
- ✦ According to the 2023 tiger census, the reserve is home to 71 tigers and cubs, making it the **third most densely populated tiger reserve in India**, after Corbett and Kaziranga.

💡 Hence, option B is correct.

44.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 **Green ammonia** is a sustainable alternative fuel produced by **combining green hydrogen with nitrogen extracted from the air**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- 💡 This process creates a **fuel that is entirely carbon-neutral**, which positions it as a promising long-term solution, particularly in industries like shipping, where reducing emissions is becoming increasingly crucial.
 - ✦ However, despite its potential, there are several challenges associated with its use. One of the primary issues is that green ammonia is **highly volatile**, making it more difficult to handle compared to conventional fuels. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- 💡 It requires specialized storage tanks designed to safely contain the substance under controlled conditions.

45.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 **Minor Forest Produce (MFP)** refers to all non-timber forest products that are collected from forests and used for various purposes by local communities, particularly those living in rural or forested areas.
 - ✦ These products are typically gathered from the forest without the need for large-scale deforestation and are essential to the livelihoods of millions of people, especially tribal populations.
 - ✦ MFPs are a key part of the economy for forest-dwelling communities, providing food, medicine, and materials for household and commercial purposes.

- 💡 Some common **Minor Forest Produce (MFP)** are **bamboo**, that provides a livelihood to about 10 million people, being used for construction, crafts, and other purposes.

- ✦ **Resins, including lac**, are crucial for many tribal communities, providing income and employment through the collection of products like lac and gum.

- ✦ Similarly, **canes, which come from certain forest species like rattan**, are used in various crafts and products.

- 💡 Together, these products play an essential role in the economic stability and sustenance of millions of rural and tribal populations across India.

💡 Hence, option C is correct.

46.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 The **Global Plastics Treaty** is an international effort to address the **global plastic pollution crisis**, including marine litter and microplastics.

- 💡 In **March 2022**, during the **fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly** held in **Nairobi, Kenya**, a **historic resolution** was adopted to create an **international legally binding treaty on plastic pollution (Global Plastics Treaty)**.

- 💡 The proposed treaty will follow a **comprehensive, full life-cycle approach**, covering all stages of plastic — from **design and production to disposal and waste management**.

💡 Hence, option B is correct.

47.

Ans: A

Exp:

Ramsar Convention:

- 💡 The Ramsar definition of wetlands explicitly includes **shallow marine waters up to six meters deep at low tide**, which broadens its scope to include coastal lagoons and estuaries. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

- 💡 **Human-made wetlands** can be designated as Ramsar Sites. Examples include the **Nagi and Nakti Bird Sanctuaries in Bihar**, which are **human-made irrigation reservoirs** now recognized as Ramsar Sites. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

- 💡 The Ramsar Convention allows for **inclusion of nearby riparian and coastal zones** and even deeper marine areas if they lie within the **functional wetland system**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

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48.

Ans: D

Exp:

Cheetah Reintroduction Project:

- 💡 The Cheetah Reintroduction Project in India formally commenced on 17th September 2022, to restore the population of cheetahs, which were declared extinct in the country in 1952. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 The project involves the translocation of cheetahs from South Africa and Namibia to **Kuno National Park** in Madhya Pradesh. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 The project is implemented by the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** in collaboration with the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department, Wildlife Institute of India (WII), and cheetah experts from Namibia and South Africa. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

49.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 **Anamalai Tiger Reserve** was declared as a Tiger reserve in the year 2007 and is located in the **Anamalai Hills of the Western Ghats in Tamil Nadu.**
 - ✦ It is also known as the Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park, named to honour the former Prime Minister of India Indira Gandhi.
- 💡 It is surrounded by Parambikulam Tiger Reserve (PTR) on the East, Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary and Eravikulam National Park on the South Western side.
 - ✦ The reserve is also surrounded by **Nenmara, Vazhachal, Malayattur and Marayur** reserved forests of Kerala.
- 💡 **The Kariyan shola, Grass hills and Manjampatti of Anamalai Tiger Reserve** has been identified as a world heritage site by UNESCO.
 - ✦ It is home to several indigenous tribal communities such as the **Kadars, Muduvars, Malasars**, Malai malasars, Eravalars and Pulayars.
- 💡 The reserve includes evergreen, deciduous, and shola forests, along with Montane Grasslands, Savannahs, and Marshy Grasslands.
- 💡 **Hence, option C is correct.**

50.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 Green hydrogen is produced through electrolysis of water using electricity generated from **renewable energy sources** such as solar or wind. This process emits no greenhouse gases, making the hydrogen "green." **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 The **National Green Hydrogen Mission** aims to produce **5 million tonnes of green hydrogen annually by 2030**, not 2050. The mission also envisions an associated renewable energy capacity addition of about 125 GW. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 Green hydrogen currently accounts for **less than 1% of global hydrogen production**, primarily due to its **high production costs**. As per a 2020 analysis by the Council for Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), the cost of producing green hydrogen ranges between **USD 3.5 to 5.5 per kg**, compared to **USD 0.9–1.5** for black hydrogen, **USD 1.7–2.3** for grey hydrogen, and **USD 1.3–3.6** for blue hydrogen.. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

51.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 **Mangroves** are specialized coastal ecosystems consisting of **salt-tolerant (halophytic) trees and shrubs** that flourish in the **intertidal zones of tropical and subtropical regions.**
 - ✦ They are uniquely adapted to survive in **saline, low-oxygen (anaerobic) environments** with **slow-moving waters** and **accumulated fine sediments.**
- 💡 Indonesia is home to the largest and most diverse mangrove ecosystems in the world. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- 💡 As per **Indian State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023**, **India's mangrove cover** is about **4,992 sq. km**, accounting for **0.15% of the country's geographical area.** **West Bengal** has the largest mangrove cover in India, followed by **Gujarat** in second place.
- 💡 The **Sundarbans is the largest mangrove ecosystem in the world**, it lies on the delta of the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna rivers on the Bay of Bengal. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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- ⚡ The Fishbone Technique of mangrove restoration involves creating a central “backbone” channel with angled feeder channels to improve **tidal flow in areas with poor water circulation**. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

52.

Ans: B

Exp:

- ⚡ **Coral reefs** are underwater ecosystems built by colonies of tiny marine animals called coral polyps. These polyps secrete calcium carbonate, which forms a hard, protective skeleton that accumulates over time to create the reef structure.
- ⚡ **Sea surface temperatures between 20°C and 27°C** are considered ideal for the growth and survival of coral reefs. Waters cooler or significantly warmer than this range can cause coral stress or bleaching. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- ⚡ **Corals thrive in clear, sediment-free shallow waters** because sunlight penetration is essential for photosynthesis performed by symbiotic algae (zooxanthellae) within coral tissues. Turbid or muddy waters block light and hinder coral development. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- ⚡ **Corals do not flourish in low salinity waters. Instead, they require stable marine salinity levels of around 34–37 parts per thousand (ppt)**.
 - ✦ Low salinity can be detrimental to coral health. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

53.

Ans: C

Exp:

Eravikulam National Park

- ⚡ **Eravikulam National Park is located in the Kannan Devan Hills** of the southern Western Ghats, within Devikulam Taluk of Idukki district, Kerala.
- ⚡ It features a unique **Montane Shola–grassland** ecosystem, comprising grasslands, shrublands, and evergreen Shola forests.
- ⚡ It is best known for housing the largest viable population of the endangered **Nilgiri Tahr**, and for the **Neelakurinji (Strobilanthes kunthiana)**, which blooms spectacularly once every 12 years—the next bloom is expected in 2030.

- ✦ The region is also ecologically important as a catchment for rivers flowing east and west, and supports several endemic flora and fauna.

- ⚡ Hence, option C is correct.

54.

Ans: A

Exp:

- ⚡ Recently, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has exempted **78% of thermal power plants** from installing **Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD)** systems, earlier mandated in 2015 to curb **SO₂ emissions**.
- ⚡ Now, only **11% (Category A)** units in densely populated or NCR regions must install FGD, while another **11% (Category B)** near critically polluted areas may be considered based on review. Hence, statement I is correct.
- ⚡ A panel led by the Principal Scientific Adviser cited **low sulphur content in Indian coal, ambient SO₂ levels (10–20 µg/m³) already below the 80 µg/m³ limit, and no significant air quality difference** between areas with or without FGD. 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.

55.

Ans: B

Exp:

- ⚡ **Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs)** are voluntary climate action plans submitted by countries ahead of the **Paris Agreement (COP21, 2015)** under the **UNFCCC**, outlining post-2020 goals for emission reduction and climate adaptation based on national priorities and capabilities.
- ✦ Once a country ratifies the Paris Agreement, INDCs become **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**, forming the backbone of global efforts to limit temperature rise below **2°C**, ideally **1.5°C**, and achieve **net-zero emissions** in the second half of the century.
- ⚡ Hence, option B is correct.

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56.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 Grey seals (*Halichoerus grypus*) live in coastal waters of the North Atlantic, from the US and Canada to the Baltic Sea and parts of Europe. They haul out on rocky coasts, islands, sandbars, and ice. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
 - ✦ The Baltic Sea subpopulation of Grey seal is listed as **Least Concern on the IUCN Red List**.
- 💡 The seals, being **apex predators**, absorb high levels of pollutants, making them **indicators of marine ecosystem health**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- 💡 They **gather in large groups** for mating and molting, but often live alone or in small groups otherwise. Their diet includes fish, squid, and sometimes seabirds. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

57.

Ans: B

Exp:

Namami Gange Programme (NGP):

- 💡 It is a **flagship programme** by the **Ministry of Jal Shakti** aimed at **rejuvenating the Ganga River and its tributaries**. The **National Ganga Council** is chaired by the Prime Minister and serves as the **apex authority** guiding and overseeing Ganga rejuvenation efforts. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- 💡 The initiatives include **strengthening sewerage treatment** to reduce pollution, **cleaning the river surface of solid waste**, and **monitoring industrial effluents**. **Afforestation and biodiversity efforts** aim to **restore ecological balance**, while river-front development encourages community engagement and tourism. Public awareness campaigns and the Ganga Gram programme focus on educating citizens and developing sustainable, well-sanitized model villages along the Ganga. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- 💡 **Ganga Gram** aims to develop **villages along the main course of the Ganga** into **model villages** with **enhanced sanitation and sustainable practices**. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

Economy

58.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 The Stablecoins are cryptocurrencies that aim to maintain a stable value by being pegged to traditional assets like the USD or gold.
 - ✦ The definition excludes digital national currencies, deposits (including tokenized deposits), and securities.
 - ✦ Stablecoins are designed for everyday use, offering price stability unlike volatile cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin.
- 💡 Popular stablecoins like **Tether** and **USD Coin** are **backed by the US dollar (and not Chinese yuan)**. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- 💡 **India does not currently recognise stablecoins**, treating all cryptocurrencies as **Virtual Digital Assets (VDAs)** under Section 2(47A) of the Income Tax Act, 1961. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
 - ✦ In 2023, VDAs were brought under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, to curb misuse and enhance oversight.

59.

Ans: C

Exp:

RBI's Financial Inclusion Index 2025:

- 💡 **FI-Index** is a comprehensive measure of financial inclusion across **banking, investment, insurance, pension, and postal** sectors, developed with inputs from the government and regulators.
 - ✦ It is published **annually in July** and scores range from **0 (exclusion) to 100 (full inclusion)**. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
 - ✦ The index has **no base year**, reflecting **cumulative progress** over time. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
 - ✦ It consists of **three parameters: Access (35%), Usage (45%), and Quality (20%)**.
 - ✦ The **quality parameter** is a unique feature that includes **financial literacy, consumer protection, and service equity**.
- 💡 The index has steadily grown from **43.4 in March 2017** to **53.9 in March 2021**, now reaching **67 in March 2025**. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

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60.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 **Government Securities (G-Secs)** are tradable debt instruments issued by the Central and State Governments to raise funds from the public, primarily to finance fiscal deficits.
 - ✖ These instruments acknowledge the government's debt obligations and are considered risk-free or "gilt-edged" due to the negligible risk of default. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
 - ✖ G-Secs can be short-term, such as Treasury Bills (T-Bills), or long-term, such as dated securities or bonds.
- 💡 **T-Bills** are zero-coupon securities issued at a discount and redeemed at face value at maturity, with tenors of 91, 182, or 364 days. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
 - ✖ Cash Management Bills (CMBs), introduced in 2010, are similar to T-Bills but have maturities of less than 91 days and are used to manage temporary cash flow mismatches.
- 💡 Dated securities, issued for tenors ranging from 5 to 40 years, carry fixed or floating interest rates payable half-yearly.
- 💡 While the **Central Government issues both T-Bills and dated securities, State Governments issue only dated securities, known as State Development Loans (SDLs)**, through auction mechanisms similar to those used for central G-Secs. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
 - ✖ These operations are carried out through commercial banks and form a part of the RBI's broader monetary policy toolkit, alongside instruments like the repo rate, CRR, and SLR.

61.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure that tracks changes in the overall price level of a representative basket of goods and services consumed by households over time, with 2012 as the base year.
 - ✖ It reflects the cost of living and is used for adjusting dearness allowance, targeting inflation, and assessing purchasing power.

- 💡 While the **Labour Bureau, under the Ministry of Labour and Employment**, compiles three specific indices: the **CPI for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW)**, which monitors the consumption pattern of industrial workers; the **CPI for Agricultural Labourers (CPI-AL)**, which assists in determining minimum wages for agricultural workers; and the **CPI for Rural Labourers (CPI-RL)**, which tracks price changes for rural labour households.
 - ✖ The **National Statistical Office (NSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** compiles the all-India CPI and CPI for Urban Non-Manual Employees (CPI-UNME).
 - ✖ Thus, **out of the four indices mentioned, three are compiled by the Labour Bureau.**

💡 Hence, option C is correct.

62.

Ans: D

Exp:

Key Reasons for Sluggishness in Corporate Investment in India:

- 💡 **Weak Consumer Demand & Underutilized Capacity:** Despite higher corporate profits post-tax reforms (corporate tax cut from 30% to 22% in 2019), low consumer demand and underutilization of industrial capacity (as noted in Economic Survey 2024-25) have discouraged private sector expansion and borrowing. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- 💡 **Falling Investment-to-GDP Ratio:** The corporate investment-to-GDP ratio declined from 16% (2004–2008) to 12% in FY 2022–23, reflecting reduced confidence in India's long-term growth prospects and insufficient momentum to achieve the 8%+ structural growth target. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- 💡 **Delayed Loan Disbursals:** Long timelines (2–3 years) in disbursement of infrastructure loans, coupled with sluggish credit growth to the infrastructure sector (2.1% in Nov 2023 vs 11.1% in Nov 2022), have impeded timely private investment. In contrast, personal loan growth surged to 30.1%, indicating skewed credit flow. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
 - ✖ Further, despite increased public capital expenditure (Rs 11.21 lakh crore in FY 2025–26), high import content and low job creation in machine-heavy infrastructure have limited its multiplier effect. Additionally, global protectionism and trade headwinds have weakened export-linked investments.

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Science & Tech

63.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 Deepfakes are synthetic media (videos, images, or audio) that are made using **Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs)** to falsely depict **someone saying or doing something** they never actually did. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 Two neural networks—a **generator** and a **discriminator**—collaborate to **produce and improve synthetic content.**
 - ✦ A **generator makes fake content**, and a **discriminator tries to detect it.** The generator improves until it can fool the discriminator.
- 💡 **Natural Language Processing (NLP)** is used for cloning voices. **Lip-syncing** techniques align deepfake audio with video. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 India **doesn't have a dedicated law for deepfakes**, but several existing laws offer partial protection.
 - ✦ **Section 66D of the Information Technology Act, 2000 (IT Act)** targets impersonation and cheating via digital means. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**
 - ✦ Further, Sections 67, 67A, and 67B of the Act can be used to prosecute individuals for **publishing or transmitting deepfakes** that are obscene or **contain any sexually explicit acts.**

64.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 **Genome Sequencing** is the process of **determining the exact order of nucleotide bases (A, C, G, T)** in an individual's DNA.
 - ✦ It reveals a person's genetic makeup, providing insights into traits, health risks, and potential disorders.
- 💡 **Applications Genome Sequencing:**
 - ✦ Helps identify **disease-causing mutations**, understand the **genetic basis of diseases**, and discover **new drug targets.**
 - ✦ Enables **personalised medicine** by predicting individual responses to drugs, allowing for **optimized drug selection.**

- ✦ Used in crop improvement to identify genes linked to **disease resistance, high yield**, and **better nutrition**, aiding the development of **improved crop varieties.**

💡 Hence, **option C is correct.**

65.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 **Ethanol (C₂H₅OH)** is a renewable fuel made from **biomass**, it is produced either by fermentation of sugars using yeast or through petrochemical methods like ethylene hydration.
- 💡 1st Generation (1G) ethanol is produced from sugar, starch, and lipid sources like **molasses, juice, sugar syrup, grains**, etc. Hence, **pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- 💡 2nd Generation (2G) ethanol is made from **agricultural and forestry waste**, which includes cellulose, hemicellulose, and lignin. Hence, **pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
- 💡 3rd Generation (3G) ethanol is produced using algae, which can grow in wastewater, sewage, or saltwater. It can also be produced from industrial waste and municipal solid waste. Hence, **pair 3 is not correctly matched.**

66.

Ans: D

Exp:

- 💡 Mycorrhizal fungi form symbiotic relationships with the roots of over 80% of plant species. These fungi create a "fungal root" network that significantly improves the plant's ability to absorb water and nutrients like phosphorus from the soil. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 According to the Underground Atlas by the Society for the Protection of Underground Networks (SPUN), **over 90% of mycorrhizal fungi biodiversity hotspots are located outside protected areas**, highlighting a major conservation gap. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 Mycorrhizal fungi are being utilized as biofertilizers to enhance crops. **Mycorrhizal Biofertilizers** are natural, eco-friendly fungi that form a **symbiotic association with plant roots**, enhancing **phosphorus, nitrogen, and micronutrient uptake.**

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- ✦ Acting like **underground networks**, they boost **water retention, root development**, and plant **stress tolerance**. Unlike conventional **chemical fertilizers**, they promote **long-term soil fertility** and **soil structure improvement**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

67.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 NISAR is the world's first **Earth observation satellite** to carry dual-frequency synthetic aperture radars—L-band by NASA and S-band by ISRO—on a single platform. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- 💡 The mission's objectives include providing **12-day interval high-resolution data** to monitor **earthquakes, landslides, volcanic activity, forest biomass, agricultural patterns, wetland changes, and cryosphere dynamics** in polar regions. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

68.

Ans: B

Exp:

AdFalcivax for Malaria

- 💡 The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** is developing a **novel chimeric malaria vaccine AdFalcivax**.
- 💡 It is a **multistage malaria vaccine** targeting two key stages of *Plasmodium falciparum* (**pre-erythrocytic stage** (liver) and **sexual stage** (that allows transmission via mosquitoes) using **Lactococcus lactis** (a safe, food-grade bacterium).
 - ✦ It aims to protect individuals and reduce transmission and supports the Make in India initiative and malaria elimination goals.
 - ✦ A "chimeric" vaccine is one that combines genetic material from different sources to create a hybrid or recombinant structure.

- 💡 Malaria is caused by the *Plasmodium* parasite, transmitted by infected female *Anopheles* mosquitoes.

💡 Hence, option B is correct.

69.

Ans: C

Exp:

Optical Atomic Clocks:

- 💡 Optical atomic clocks are ultra-precise timekeeping devices that measure time using **optical-frequency atomic transitions** (in the visible or near-infrared spectrum).

- ✦ Because light oscillates much faster than microwaves, optical clocks can achieve far superior accuracy up to **1 part in 10¹⁸** compared to traditional **caesium-based clocks**, which operate in the microwave range. This means they could lose or gain **only 1 second over 15 billion years**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

- 💡 The working principle of optical clocks is based on measuring the **frequency of light emitted or absorbed during atomic electronic transitions**. These transitions occur at stable and highly reproducible frequencies, making them ideal for maintaining a precise time standard. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

- ✦ The **fine-tuned laser systems** used in optical clocks make it possible to probe these transitions with unprecedented precision.

Defence & Security

70.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 **Digital Arrests** refer to **cybercriminals impersonating law enforcement or tax officials to intimidate and extort money** from individuals under the guise of legal action. Hence, **pair 1 is correctly matched**.

- ✦ **Ransomware** does not involve sending fake emails; it is a malicious software that encrypts the victim's data and demands a ransom for decryption, often rendering entire systems inoperable. Hence, **pair 2 is incorrectly matched**.

- ✦ **Phishing** is a social engineering attack that involves **sending fraudulent emails** or messages that appear to be from legitimate sources, tricking users into **disclosing sensitive information** such as passwords, OTPs, or banking credentials. Hence, **pair 3 is incorrectly matched**.

- 💡 Hence, option A is correct.

International Relations & Current Affairs

71.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 The **Sevilla Commitment** is a comprehensive framework **developed & adopted** during the **Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4)** held in **Sevilla, Spain**.

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It aims to close the **USD 4 trillion annual SDG financing gap** in developing countries, address the **global debt crisis**, and reform the **international financial architecture** amidst rising debt and economic instability.

FfD is a **UN-led platform** organised **once in a decade** by the **UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)** and the **UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**.

Hence, option B is correct.

72.

Ans: C

Exp:

Both **India's first Digital Nomad Village and the country's first Organic Fisheries Cluster** have been established in **Sikkim**.

Yakten village in Pakyong district has been declared the first Digital Nomad Village under the 'Nomad Sikkim' initiative, aiming to promote sustainable tourism, remote work, and local entrepreneurship through high-speed internet, eco-friendly practices, and zero-waste management.

Meanwhile, **Soreng district in Sikkim hosts the first Organic Fisheries Cluster** launched under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), focused on antibiotic- and chemical-free fish production for global eco-conscious markets.

Hence, option C is correct.

73.

Ans: B

Exp:

Codex standards are **non-binding (voluntary in nature)**. They serve as **reference benchmarks** under the WTO's **Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures** to resolve trade disputes. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.

India co-chaired the Executive Committee to advance new international standards for fresh dates, based on a proposal from the 23rd session of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV23). India will also co-chair upcoming Codex initiatives aimed at developing global standards for fresh turmeric and broccoli. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

The **Codex Alimentarius** covers **processed, semi-processed, and raw foods**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

74.

Ans: C

Exp:

All three countries mentioned— **Spain, Bulgaria, and Montenegro**— are members of the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**. Currently, **NATO has 32 member countries, including several from both Europe and North America**.

NATO was originally founded in 1949 with 12 members: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Subsequent expansions included Greece and Turkey in 1952, followed by West Germany in 1955 (later unified Germany from 1990).

✦ **Spain (1)** joined in 1982, while the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland became members in 1999.

✦ A major enlargement occurred in 2004 with the inclusion of **Bulgaria (2)** Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia.

✦ This was followed by Albania and Croatia in 2009, **Montenegro (3)** in 2017, North Macedonia in 2020, Finland in 2023, and most recently, Sweden in 2024.

Hence, option C is correct.

75.

Ans: A

Exp:

Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is a real-time mobile payment system developed by **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.

✦ It enables both **push (send) and pull (receive) transactions** using a **Virtual Payment Address (VPA)**, with two-factor authentication, eliminating the need to enter bank details each time.

UPI is built on **Immediate Payment Service (IMPS)**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**

✦ IMPS facilitates funds transfer to an account of the beneficiary with a participating bank, based on beneficiary's Mobile Number & Mobile Money Identification Number (MMID) or Account number & Indian Financial System Code (IFSC).

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As of 2025, UPI serves 491 million users and 65 million merchants, connecting over 675 banks on one platform. India's UPI is now the **world's top real-time payment system**, processing over 640 million daily transactions more than **Visa's 639 million**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

76.

Ans: B

Exp:

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is a specialized agency of the **United Nations (UN)** that promotes **peace through international cooperation in education, science, and culture**.

Headquartered in **Paris**, it has **194 Member States** and **12 Associate Members**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.

UNESCO was **founded on 16th November 1945**, and its **first General Conference** was held in **Paris** between **November and December 1946**.

India is a **founding member** of UNESCO. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

77.

Ans: B

Exp:

Both the **NAMASTE scheme** and the **Bandicoot robot** are aimed at **eliminating manual scavenging** and ensuring the safety and dignity of sanitation workers.

Launched in 2023-24, National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) scheme focuses on **mechanizing sewer and septic tank cleaning**, providing health insurance, skill training, PPE kits, and capital subsidies for sanitation equipment. It **also includes waste pickers under its ambit from 2024**.

The **Bandicoot robot**, developed by Genrobotics, is a **manhole-cleaning robot that replaces humans in hazardous cleaning tasks**, ensuring zero fatalities and promoting safe sanitation practices through technology.

Hence, **option B is correct**.

78.

Ans: C

Exp:

The **Global Environment Facility (GEF)** functions as a financial mechanism for six major international environmental agreements:

- ✦ Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- ✦ **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**
- ✦ **Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants**
- ✦ **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification**
- ✦ Minamata Convention on Mercury
- ✦ Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement

Specifically, under the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol, the GEF facilitates funding from developed to developing nations, and also supports the Paris Agreement.

For the Stockholm Convention, the GEF serves as the financial mechanism as per Article 14, with guidance formalized through a memorandum of understanding.

In September 2003, the **Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification)** formally designated the Global Environment Facility (GEF) as its financial mechanism.

This decision allowed the GEF to provide financial support to developing countries for activities aimed at combating desertification and deforestation.

Hence, **option C is correct**.

79.

Ans: A

Exp:

DHRUVA (Digital Hub for Reference and Unique Virtual Address) Policy is a pioneering **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** initiative designed to revolutionize the **structure and management of addresses across** India by assigning a unique digital address to every home.

Based on **Address-as-a-Service (AaaS)**, it enables **secure, consent-based sharing of geo-coded address information** through a seamless digital platform.

It can reduce **delivery costs** in **e-commerce, postal, and logistics**, and enhances **resource planning** in **telecom, broadband, and urban governance**.

Hence, **option A is correct**.

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80.

Ans: D

Exp:

- 💡 The Henley Passport Index ranks 199 passports based on visa-free access to 227 destinations, using **International Air Transport Association (IATA)** data and updated quarterly. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- ✦ IATA is the trade body for 300 airlines, covering 83% of global air traffic. Its headquarters is in **Montreal, Canada.**
- 💡 India ranks 77th in the **Henley Passport Index 2025 (Q2)**, up from 85th in January 2025 (Q1). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

81.

Ans: D

Exp:

- 💡 **India's Initiatives to Achieve Climate Targets:**
- ✦ **National Adaptation Plan (NAP):** Developed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) to align with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Focuses on climate resilience across sectors, including agriculture, water management, and urban planning.
- ✦ **Sovereign Green Bonds:** India issued its first Sovereign Green Bonds in 2023 to mobilize resources for financing environmentally sustainable projects.
 - ✍ The funds from these bonds are earmarked for renewable energy, energy efficiency, and climate resilience initiatives, supporting India's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
- ✦ **Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes (MISHTI):** Launched in 2023, MISHTI focuses on restoring and protecting India's mangrove ecosystems along its coastline, which are critical for carbon sequestration, biodiversity, and coastal resilience.
- ✦ **Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment):** Mission LiFE is a global movement led by India to promote sustainable, environment-friendly behavioral changes among individuals and communities.
- 💡 **Hence, option D is correct.**

82.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 As of July 2025, India and the Maldives are in discussions to negotiate a free trade agreement (FTA) and an investment treaty. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- 💡 **Indian tourists** have emerged as the **largest source market** for the Maldives accounting for **11.2% of arrivals in 2023.** **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 The Greater Malé Connectivity Project is the largest infrastructure project in the Maldives, funded by **India** through a USD 100 million grant and a USD 400 million line of credit. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

83.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 **Zero-dose children** are defined as those **who have not received even the first dose of the DTP vaccine** (for diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis), indicating they are **completely missed by routine immunization services.** **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 As per the recent **WHO-UNICEF** estimates, the **share of zero-dose children in India dropped from 0.11% in 2023 to 0.06% in 2024.** **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

84.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) was established on 6th June 1997 through the **Bangkok Declaration**. It began as BIST-EC (Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand Economic Cooperation) **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ✦ The grouping became BIMST-EC after Myanmar joined in 1997. It was renamed BIMSTEC in 2004 following the inclusion of Nepal and Bhutan.
- ✦ BIMSTEC promotes economic and technical cooperation among Bay of Bengal countries.
- 💡 At the 3rd BIMSTEC Summit in 2014, the **BIMSTEC Secretariat was established in Dhaka, Bangladesh.** **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 **India leads the Security pillar in BIMSTEC**, covering counter-terrorism, transnational crime, disaster management, and energy. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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85.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 **Parametric insurance** differs from traditional insurance as it **offers payouts based on triggered thresholds** (like rainfall or wind speed), **without the need for post-disaster loss assessment**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- 💡 Nagaland became the first state in India to purchase a multi-year parametric cover using disaster mitigation funds, covering landslides and extreme rainfall. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

86.

Ans: D

Exp:

India's Nuclear Energy:

- 💡 The **Union Budget 2025–26** set an **ambitious target of 100 GW nuclear power capacity by 2047** positioning **nuclear energy** as a key pillar in achieving **Viksit Bharat (2047)** and **net-zero emissions by 2070**.
 - ✦ India's present nuclear power capacity is **8.18 GW**, with an ambitious goal of reaching **100 GW by 2047**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- 💡 **Small modular reactors (SMRs)** are advanced nuclear reactors with a power output of up to **300 MW (e) per unit**, about **one-third the capacity of conventional nuclear power reactors**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- 💡 Currently, nuclear energy remains on the negative list for FDI and is closed to private participation. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

87.

Ans: D

Exp:

Unified Payments Interface (UPI):

- 💡 **About:** UPI is a real-time mobile payment system developed by **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - ✦ It allows users to link multiple bank accounts into one app for seamless peer-to-peer and merchant transactions.
 - ✦ UPI enables both push (send) and pull (receive) transactions using a Virtual Payment Address (VPA), with two-factor authentication, eliminating the need to enter bank details each time.

- ✦ UPI is built on IMPS (Immediate Payment Service) and integrates Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS).

💡 **BHIM App: Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM)** is a UPI-based payment app developed by NPCI. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

💡 **Global Reach and Diplomacy:** UPI is now live in **7 countries** (as of July 2025), including the UAE, Singapore, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, France, and Mauritius. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

- ✦ Its launch in France marks its entry into Europe. India is also pushing for UPI to be adopted across BRICS nations, which would boost remittances and simplify payments for Indians abroad.

88.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 **NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India)** released the **3rd edition** of its **Trade Watch Quarterly report** for Q3 of FY 2024–25 (October to December 2024).

💡 It offers a comprehensive analysis of India's trade trends.

✦ **India's Merchandise and Services Trade Performance:**

📎 **Merchandise Exports:** India's merchandise exports grew by **3%** in Q3 FY25, reaching **USD 108.7 billion**.

📎 **Merchandise Imports:** Imports rose by **6.5%**, totaling **USD 187.5 billion**.

📎 **Services Surplus:** India's services surplus amounted to **USD 52.3 billion**, driven by a **17%** increase in services exports, reflecting the growing strength of India's services sector on the global stage.

📎 **Export Composition:** High-tech products like **aircraft, spacecraft, and parts** saw a remarkable **200% growth** year-on-year, further diversifying India's export composition.

📎 **Digital Services:** India ranked **5th** globally with **USD 269 billion** in Digitally Delivered Services (DDS) exports in 2024.

💡 Hence, **option A is correct**.



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