



CURRENT AFFAIRS

MCQ CONSOLIDATION

JUNE

2025

PART-II



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Practice Question

Art & Culture

1. Regarding the Sahitya Akademi Awards, consider the following statements:

1. They were established in 1954 and are presented annually.
2. They are given for outstanding books of literary merit in 22 languages listed in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution only.
3. The Sahitya Akademi Awards are the highest literary honour given by the Government of India.

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

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

Geography

2. Consider the following statements regarding Enhanced Rock Weathering (ERW):

1. It is a carbon removal strategy that captures atmospheric carbon dioxide and stores it in rocks.
2. It involves using ground rocks like olivine and basalt, which react with CO₂ more efficiently in dust form and may also improve soil fertility and reduce ocean acidification.
3. ERW and related methods like mineral trapping, which stores CO₂ in basalt where it mineralizes into stone, face high costs, energy use, and environmental uncertainties.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

3. Consider the following statements regarding Cardamom:

1. It is indigenous to the Eastern Ghats region of India.
2. It requires acidic, loamy, and humus-rich soils.

3. As of 2025, India is the second-largest producer of cardamom in the world, after Guatemala.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

4. Consider the following statements:

1. Melting glaciers contribute to global sea level rise, whereas melting sea ice does not significantly raise sea levels.
2. Loss of Arctic sea ice accelerates regional warming due to reduced albedo and increased absorption of solar radiation by ocean surfaces.
3. Melting glaciers and sea ice can alter ocean currents, potentially disrupting global weather systems and marine ecosystems.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

5. The term “Golden Crescent” is often seen in the context of:

- A. A trilateral trade agreement between Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Israel.
- B. A high-altitude pilgrimage route linking Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.
- C. An energy cooperation bloc in Central Asia.
- D. A region known for significant opium production involving Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

6. Consider the following statements:

1. Enhancement of the rate of geological carbon sequestration.
2. Increased soil acidity.
3. Improved crop yield and fertility.

How many of the statements given above represent the benefits of Enhanced Rock Weathering?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two

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- C. All three
- D. None

7. Consider the following cyclones:

1. Cyclone Yagi
2. Cyclone Remal
3. Cyclone Dana
4. Cyclone Asna

How many of the above cyclones affected the Indian subcontinent in 2024?

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

8. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: Thirstwave refers to a period of three or more consecutive days with extreme atmospheric evaporative demand.

Statement II: Thirstwave is measured through Short-crop evapotranspiration that measures water loss from a standardized grass surface.

Statement III: Rising evapotranspiration indicates higher temperatures, lower humidity, and increased wind speed and solar radiation.

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

- A. Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I.
- B. Both Statement II and Statement III are correct but only one of them explains Statement I.
- C. Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I.
- D. Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct.

9. Which of the following countries shares a land boundary with the Republic of Croatia?

1. Austria
2. Serbia
3. Romania
4. Slovenia
5. Bosnia

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

10. Consider the following statements regarding the Subarnarekha River:

1. It originates from the Eastern Ghats in Odisha and drains into the Bay of Bengal.
2. The Hundru Falls is formed along its course as it descends from the Ranchi Plateau.
3. It flows through Jharkhand, Odisha, and West Bengal.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

11. Consider the following statements regarding the Western Ghats:

1. The Western Ghats are more continuous and have greater elevation compared to the Eastern Ghats.
2. Most peninsular rivers originate in the Western Ghats.
3. The Eastern and Western Ghats converge at the Nilgiri Hills in Tamil Nadu.

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

12. Consider the following statements with reference to the Mount Denali:

1. It is the highest peak in North America.
2. It was formed by the collision of the Wrangellia Composite Terrane with the North American Plate.
3. It holds cultural significance for the Koryak tribe.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

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13. Which of the following countries shares boundaries with Nigeria?

1. Niger
2. Chad
3. Cameroon
4. Benin

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

14. With reference to Strait of Hormuz, consider the following statements:

1. It is a narrow waterway connecting the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman.
2. Iran lies to its north, while the United Arab Emirates and Musandam (part of Oman) lie to its south.

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

15. Consider the following statements regarding Shipki La Pass:

1. It is located in Himachal Pradesh and marks a boundary post on the Line of Actual Control between India and China.
2. The Sutlej River enters India through the Shipki La Pass, which has historically functioned as a key trade route between India and Tibet.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

16. Consider the following statements regarding Cyprus:

1. Cyprus is the largest island in the Mediterranean Sea and lies at the intersection of Europe and North America.

2. The United Nations maintains a peacekeeping force to monitor the buffer zone between the Republic of Cyprus (South) and the Turkish Cyprus region (North).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Polity & Governance

17. With reference to the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010 (CLNDA), consider the following statements:

1. The Act imposes strict and no-fault liability on nuclear operators for any nuclear damage.
2. The Act allows the operator to seek recourse against suppliers for defective equipment, unlike the Convention on Supplementary Compensation (CSC), where only the operator is liable.
3. The operator's liability under the Act is capped at Rs 3,000 crore, while the central government's liability is unlimited.

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

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

18. Consider the following statements regarding the PM-WANI (Prime Minister's WiFi Access Network Interface) scheme:

1. It was launched by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology in 2020 to promote private broadband infrastructure in urban areas.
2. The scheme encourages local shops and establishments to provide Wi-Fi with a minimum license and registration fee.
3. The PM-WANI ecosystem includes Public Data Offices (PDOs), Public Data Office Aggregators (PDOAs), App Providers, and a Central Registry.

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

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

19. With reference to Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan (DAJA), consider the following statements:

1. It is a nationwide tribal empowerment campaign under Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh (2024–25), focusing on remote and Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) habitations.
2. It aims to achieve saturation of all central government welfare schemes and supports key initiatives like PM-JANMAN.
3. The five pillars of DAJA include Janbhagidari, Saturation, Cultural Inclusion, Convergence, and Last-Mile Delivery.

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

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

20. With reference to the Zonal Councils, consider the following statements:

1. They are statutory advisory bodies established under the States Reorganisation Act, 1956 to promote cooperative Centre–State and inter-State relations.
2. The Union Home Minister is the ex-officio Chairman of all Zonal Councils, while the Vice-Chairman is the Chief Minister of a member state, selected by annual rotation.
3. The North Eastern States are excluded from Zonal Councils and their issues are handled by the North Eastern Council, set up under the North Eastern Council Act, 1972.

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

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

21. Consider the following statements regarding the National Statistical Office (NSO):

1. The NSO was formed in 2019 by merging the Central Statistics Office (CSO) and the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO).
2. The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) and Consumer Expenditure Survey are conducted by the NSO.
3. NSO functions under the NITI Aayog as an independent data body.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

22. Consider the following statements:

1. The Rare Donor Registry of India (RDRI) maintains a national database of donors with rare blood types and facilitates screening for uncommon blood group markers.
2. e-Rakt Kosh is a centralized digital blood bank management system developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) under National Health Mission.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

23. Consider the following statements:

1. National Statistics Day is observed in India to commemorate the contribution of Amartya Sen.
2. The 'Mahalanobis Distance' is a statistical measure used to determine how far a point is from the average in multi-dimensional data.
3. The Central Statistics Office operates under the Programme Implementation Wing of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

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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24. Consider the following statements:

1. Registration of births & deaths in India can be done at any place irrespective of the place of occurrence.
2. A child born outside India to Indian citizen parents cannot register their birth under the Registration of Births and Deaths (RBD) Act, 1969.
3. The Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2023 does not include provisions for the registration of surrogate children.

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

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

25. Consider the following statements regarding Higher Education in India:

1. Kerala has the highest Gross Enrolment Ratios (GER) in higher education among Indian states.
2. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 aims to achieve a GER of 50% in higher education by 2035.

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. With reference to the “Lakhpati Didi” initiative, consider the following statements:

1. It is implemented under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).
2. A Lakhpati Didi is defined as a Self Help Group (SHG) member earning at least Rs 1 lakh annually through sustainable livelihood activities.
3. The income of a Lakhpati Didi must be sustained over at least four agricultural seasons or business cycles.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

27. Consider the following Standing Committees of the Parliament:

1. Estimates Committee
2. Public Accounts Committee (PAC)
3. Committee on Public Undertakings (COPU)

How many of the committees given above are elected by both Houses of Parliament?

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

28. Consider the following statements regarding the National Mineral Exploration Trust:

1. It was established under the Mines Act, 1952.
2. The governing body, which is its apex body, is chaired by the Prime Minister.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

29. The Government has recently launched the NAVYA portal. What are its objectives?

- A. To offer free online education to all students in rural areas.
- B. To provide vocational training to adolescent girls in non-traditional job roles.
- C. To offer financial support to startups in the technology sector.
- D. To create a digital platform for women’s health and wellness programs.

30. Consider the following statements:

1. Alcohol regulation falls under the State List in the Seventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution.
2. Article 47 directs the State to prohibit harmful intoxicants and promote public health and nutrition.

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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31. Consider the following statements with reference to the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006:

1. It allows the collection, use, and disposal of forest produce by the forest-dwelling communities.
2. It allows diversion of forest land for public welfare projects with State Government approval.
3. The Gram Sabha forms Forest Rights Committees (FRCs) to process and verify the claims of forest-dwelling communities at the village level.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

32. With reference to the Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2.0, consider the following statements:

1. It assesses school education across all States and UTs, aligning with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the SDGs.
2. PGI 2.0 scores are classified into 10 performance levels, with 'Daksh' being the lowest grade and 'Akanshi' the highest.
3. The data for assessment is sourced from the National Achievement Survey (NAS) 2021, Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+), and the PM-POSHAN.

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

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

33. Consider the following statements related to Subordinate Judiciary in India:

1. Articles 233 to 237 of the Constitution deal with the organization and independence of subordinate courts.
2. District Judges are appointed, posted, and promoted by the Chief Minister in consultation with the High Court.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

Social Issues

34. Consider the following statements regarding organ transplantation in India:

1. Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994 (amended in 2011) regulates organ and tissue transplantation in India.
2. The National Organ Transplant Program (NOTP) aims to promote organ donation and transplantation and has established State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organizations (SOTTOs) to strengthen regional networks.
3. India ranks 3rd in the world, following the USA and China, in terms of the total number of organ transplants done annually.

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

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

Agriculture & Allies Sector

35. Which of the following are commonly used to make nanofertilizers?

1. Zinc oxide (ZnO)
2. Chitosan
3. Carbon nanotubes (CNTs)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

36. With reference to the agricultural boards in India, consider the following information:

	Organisation	Constituted Under	Headquarters
1.	Tea Board	Tea Act, 1953	Guwahati
2.	Rubber Board	Rubber Act, 1947	Bangalore
3.	Tobacco Board	Tobacco Board Act, 1975	Guntur (Andhra Pradesh)

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In how many of the above rows is the information correctly matched?

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

Environment & Ecology

37. Male Mahadeshwara Hills Wildlife Sanctuary is contiguous with which of the following protected areas?

- Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple (BRT) Tiger Reserve
- Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve
- Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary
- Mollem National Park

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

38. With reference to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), consider the following statements:

- It was established in 1988 and is headquartered in Geneva.
- It is governed by the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA).
- It publishes major reports like the Emissions Gap Report and Global Environment Outlook.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

39. With reference to the Sustainable Development Goals, consider the following statements:

- The concept of sustainable development was first defined in the Greenpeace Commission Report.
- Rio+20 Summit laid the foundation for the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) assesses progress every 4 years.

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

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

40. Consider the following features:

- It has the status of a national park, but is developed and managed as a modern zoological park.
- It serves as a rescue centre for lions, tigers and sloth bears.
- It is a conservation breeding centre for the hard ground barasingha and gyps vultures.

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

- Van Vihar National Park
- Gir National Park
- Sundarbans National Park
- Kaziranga National Park

41. Consider the following statements regarding *Spartaeus Karigiri*:

- It is a type of jumping spider, named after Karigiri (Elephant Hill) in Karnataka.
- The females of this species exhibit parental care by guarding silk-encased egg sacs until the spiderlings molt into adults.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

42. Consider the following statements:

- It is a semi-aquatic carnivorous mammal.
- It is a keystone species in river ecosystems.
- It is classified in Schedule II of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- It is mostly active at night, builds dens (holts) near water, and lives mostly solitary, though mothers are sometimes seen with their cubs.

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Which of the following species best matches the above description?

- A. Eurasian Otter
- B. Crocodile
- C. Beaver
- D. Fishing Cat

43. Consider the following statements:

1. Global Forest Watch developed by the United Nations, is an open-source platform that monitors and tracks changes in forests worldwide.
2. India experienced the world's highest forest loss between 2015 and 2020.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

44. Consider the following pairs:

	Crocodile Species	IUCN Status
1.	Mugger Crocodile	Vulnerable
2.	Saltwater Crocodile	Least Concern
3.	Gharial	Critically Endangered

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

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

45. Regarding the 3rd UN Ocean Conference 2025, consider the following statements:

1. Its objective was to establish the "Nice Ocean Agreements" as an international pact aligned with the UN's 2015 SDGs.
2. Malaysia and the World Bank introduced the 'Coral Bond,' an innovative financial tool designed to fund coral reef conservation and restoration efforts in Malaysia.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only

- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

46. Regarding the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), consider the following statements:

1. It is India's key policy framework aimed at tackling climate change challenges while promoting sustainable development.
2. It was launched in 2008 to promote low-carbon, climate-resilient growth in India.
3. It consists of 8 national missions aimed at addressing key sectors such as energy, water, agriculture, ecosystems, and urban habitats.

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

47. Consider the following statements regarding elephants in India:

1. Indian elephants constitute nearly 60% of the global Asian elephant population.
2. As per the 2017 census, Kerala recorded the highest number of elephants among Indian states.

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

Economy

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

1. A GI tag identifies products that originate from a specific geographical location and possess qualities or a reputation due to that origin.
2. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry oversees the GI tag process.
3. Kolhapuri Chappals, which received the GI tag in 2019, are produced only in Maharashtra.

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Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

49. With reference to Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) in India, consider the following statements:

1. NBFCs are regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) under the RBI Act, 1934.
2. Unlike commercial banks, NBFCs are not permitted to accept demand deposits.
3. Infrastructure Finance Companies (IFCs) and Asset Finance Companies (AFCs) are classified as types of NBFCs.

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

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

50. With reference to India's fisheries sector, consider the following statements:

1. India is the world's largest producer of capture fisheries.
2. Inland fisheries account for more than 75% of India's total fish production.
3. The Chilika mud crab is India's first inland fishery nominated for Marine Stewardship Council sustainability certification.

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

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

51. Consider the following statements related to the Monetary Policy Committee:

1. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is empowered to constitute a six-member Monetary Policy Committee.
2. It is mandated to meet at least four times in a year.
3. The prime objective of the policy is price stability, with inflation targeting as the primary focus.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

52. Consider the following statements regarding pulse production in India:

1. As of 2025, India is the largest producer, consumer, and importer of pulses in the world.
2. Pulses contribute nearly 20% to India's total foodgrain production.
3. Rabi pulses account for more than half of the country's total pulse output.

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

53. Consider the following statements:

1. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has revised the GDP base year from 2011–12 to 2022–23.
2. The Biswanath Goldar Committee (2024) was formed to recommend a new base year for GDP calculation.

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

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

54. Consider the following statements regarding Derivatives:

1. Derivatives are financial contracts whose value comes from an underlying asset, like currencies.
2. Options obligate the holder to buy or sell an asset at the market price within a specified period.

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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Defence & Security

55. Consider the following pairs:

	Exercise Name	Descriptions
A.	Exercise Shakti	Joint military exercise between India and France
B.	Exercise Varuna	Naval exercise between India and USA
C.	Exercise Desert Knight	Joint exercise between India, France, and UAE

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Science & Tech

56. With reference to Rice Yellow Mottle Virus (RYMV), consider the following statements:

1. It originated in Tanzania and later spread across Sub-Saharan Africa.
2. The virus is seed-borne and primarily transmitted through infected seeds.
3. The vectors include beetles belonging to the Chrysomelidae family, grasshoppers, cows, rats, and donkeys.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

57. Consider the following pairs:

	Disease Affecting Animals	Description
1.	Rinderpest	Also known as cattle plague, globally eradicated by vaccination.
2.	Peste des Petits Ruminants	A contagious viral disease affecting goats, sheep, and some wild relatives of small ruminants.

3.	New World Screwworm	Infests the flesh of warm-blooded animals, primarily livestock, causing severe wounds and infections.
4.	Bluetongue	A vector-borne viral disease which particularly affects sheep and cattle.

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

58. With reference to the DNA identification techniques, consider the following statements:

1. DNA profiling is used to identify individuals by examining specific regions of their DNA.
2. Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) is used when nuclear DNA is absent or degraded, as it focuses on maternally inherited genetic material.
3. Short Tandem Repeat (STR) analysis, the most common forensic DNA method, examines short repeating sequences in nuclear DNA that vary between individuals.

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

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

59. With reference to aviation safety, which of the following best describes a "Black Box"?

- A. A real-time GPS tracking system used to monitor aircraft position continuously.
- B. A crash-resistant device that records flight data and cockpit audio to aid in post-accident investigation.
- C. A device used to automatically control aircraft navigation systems during emergencies.
- D. A shielded compartment that protects passengers during a crash.

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60. Consider the following statements regarding the ICAR-National Institute of High Security Animal Disease (NIHSAD)

1. It serves as a reference laboratory for zoonotic diseases under the One Health framework.
2. It operates under the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying.
3. It has been designated as a high-containment Biosafety Level-3 (BSL-3) lab.

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

61. Consider the following statements regarding DNA (Deoxyribonucleic Acid):

1. Most of the DNA in human cells is located in the nucleus, but a small portion is also found in the mitochondria.
2. The sequence of DNA bases—adenine, guanine, cytosine, and thymine—determines the genetic information.
3. DNA has the ability to replicate itself, which is essential for cell division.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

62. Consider the following statements regarding Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR):

1. SAR enables continuous imaging of Earth's surface, including oceans, regardless of cloud cover or time of day.
2. SAR uses visible light and infrared waves to generate high-resolution optical imagery.
3. The term "synthetic" in SAR refers to simulating a large antenna by combining successive radar observations as the satellite moves.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

C. 1 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

63. Quantum communication offers enhanced security mainly because:

- A. Quantum states cannot be cloned or measured without altering them
- B. It uses blockchain technology to validate transmissions
- C. It replaces classical networks entirely with quantum satellites
- D. Photons in optical fibers do not suffer from signal degradation

64. Consider the following statements regarding hydraulic systems:

1. Hydraulic systems work on Pascal's law, which states that pressure applied to an enclosed fluid is transmitted undiminished in all directions.
2. In a hydraulic system, a small input force can be used to lift a heavy load by increasing the area of the output piston.
3. Hydraulic systems use compressible fluids to transmit force efficiently.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

65. The term *Candida tropicalis* is often seen in the news in the context of:

- A. Marine algae used in biofuel production
- B. A bacterium causing foodborne illness
- C. A fungus responsible for severe human infections with high mortality
- D. A tropical plant with antifungal properties

66. Consider the following statements regarding Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA):

1. It is a genetic disorder caused by mutations in the SMN1 gene leading to progressive weakening of muscles.
2. It primarily affects involuntary muscles such as the heart and digestive system.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

67. Recently, scientists at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) observed a rare helium-rich star named A980. What is the significance of this observation?

1. It showed the first-ever detection of singly-ionized germanium (Ge II) in an Extreme Helium (EHe) star.
2. It challenged existing models of stellar evolution and nucleosynthesis.
3. It confirmed the role of black hole collisions in the formation of helium-rich stars.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

68. Consider the following statements regarding the CRISPR-dCas9 technology:

1. It can be used to regulate gene expression without altering the underlying DNA sequence.
2. dCas9 uses a guide RNA to locate and bind to specific DNA sequences.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

69. Favipiravir, recently in the news, is associated with which of the following?

- A. Inhibition of DNA replication in bacteria
- B. Treatment of RNA viral infections like influenza
- C. Treatment of bacterial infections like tuberculosis
- D. Inhibition of protein synthesis in human cells

70. Consider the following statements regarding the International Space Station:

1. It is the largest habitable artificial satellite in Low Earth Orbit.

2. It orbits the Earth in an east-to-west direction.
3. It completes an orbit around the Earth every 90 minutes.

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

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

71. With reference to the Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), consider the following statements:

1. AMR occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites become resistant to antimicrobial medicines, making infections difficult to treat.
2. The World Health Organization (WHO) has identified AMR as one of the top ten threats to global health.
3. E. coli is one of the common resistant pathogens in India, and it has shown a decreasing susceptibility to carbapenem antibiotics.

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

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

72. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: Scientists at CERN have successfully demonstrated the transmutation of lead into gold using the Large Hadron Collider (LHC).

Statement II: This nuclear transmutation was achieved through ultra-peripheral “near-miss” interactions between accelerated lead nuclei.

Statement III: Nuclear transmutation is the process of changing one element into another by altering the number of protons or neutrons in an atom’s nucleus.

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

- A. Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I.
- B. Both Statement II and Statement III are correct but only one of them explains Statement I.

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- C. Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I.
- D. Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct.

73. Consider the following diseases:

1. Trachoma
2. Yaws
3. River blindness

How many of the above diseases are considered as Neglected Tropical Diseases?

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

74. Consider the following pairs:

	Theories/ Experiments	Key Ideas
1.	Lamarck's Theory	Genetic variations drive evolution through "survival of the fittest."
2.	Darwin's Natural Selection	Traits acquired during an organism's lifetime can be inherited.
3.	Gregor Mendel	Genes are the stable units of heredity.

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

75. The method of secure communication that uses quantum mechanics to generate and share cryptographic keys between two parties, ensuring that any attempt at eavesdropping is detectable due to the collapse of quantum states upon measurement, is best described by which of the following quantum phenomena?

- A. Quantum Entanglement
- B. Quantum Key Distribution
- C. Quantum Superposition
- D. Quantum Interference

International Relations & Current Affairs

76. Consider the following features:

1. It shares maritime boundaries with the Indian and Atlantic Oceans.
2. It hosts key landforms like Highveld and Bushveld.
3. Rivers like the Limpopo and Orange flow through it.

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

- A. Namibia
- B. South Africa
- C. Botswana
- D. Zimbabwe

77. Consider the following statements:

1. The Kananaskis Wildfire Charter promotes science-based and nature-based solutions to address the growing threat of wildfires.
2. The Resilient and Inclusive Supply Chain Enhancement (RISE) Partnership is a supply chain initiative led by the European Union.
3. Transnational Repression (TNR) refers to actions by states to intimidate or harm individuals beyond their national borders.

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

78. Operation Sindhu is sometimes seen in the news in the context of which of the following?

- A. Iran-Israel conflict
- B. Israel-Hamas war
- C. Russia-Ukraine war
- D. India's Military Response to Pahalgam Terror Attack

79. Consider the following statements regarding the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO):

1. The ICAO, established under the Chicago Convention of 1944, sets global standards for civil aviation, including airspace sovereignty and aviation safety.

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2. India is a signatory of Chicago Convention, 1944 which recognizes that every State has complete and exclusive sovereignty over the airspace above its territory.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

80. Consider the following statements regarding the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Certification:

- MSC certification is a globally recognised eco-label for wild-capture fisheries that promotes sustainable fishing and effective fisheries management.
- The Chilika mud crab is India's first inland fishery to be nominated for MSC's sustainability certification.

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. Consider the following statements regarding Yoga:

- UNESCO inscribed Yoga as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in the year 2016.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has included Yoga in its Global Action Plan (2018–2030) as a recognised intervention for combating non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answers

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

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Explanations

Art & Culture

1.

Ans: B

Exp:

Sahitya Akademi Awards:

- 💡 The **Sahitya Akademi Awards** were established in **1954** and are presented annually. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- ✦ Although set up by the Government of India, the **Akademi operates** as an **autonomous organization** and was registered as a society in 1956 under the **Societies Registration Act, 1860**.
- 💡 They are **annual literary honours** conferred by the **Sahitya Akademi** for **outstanding books of literary merit** in any of the **22 languages** listed in the **8th Schedule of the Constitution**, as well as in **English and Rajasthani**. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- 💡 It is the **second-highest literary honour** by the Government of India, after the **Jnanpith award**. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

Geography

2.

Ans: D

Exp:

Enhanced Rock Weathering (ERW):

- 💡 It is a **carbon dioxide removal (CDR)** technique that accelerates the natural weathering of rocks to capture **CO₂** from the atmosphere. The carbon reacts with minerals like **calcium and magnesium** in rocks and eventually forms **stable carbonates** like **limestone** (calcium carbonate). Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- 💡 Rocks like **olivine** and **basalt**, when finely ground, offer greater surface area and **faster reactions** with **CO₂**.
 - ✦ **Olivine dust**, when spread on **beaches or oceans**, reacts with atmospheric **CO₂** and may help mitigate **ocean acidification**.
 - ✦ **Basalt**, when applied to **farmland**, has shown **dual benefits**, capturing carbon and **improving crop yields** by enhancing soil nutrient retention. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

💡 **Enhanced Rock Weathering (ERW)** and **mineral trapping** face challenges like **high costs**, **fossil fuel-based energy use**, and **uncertain large-scale outcomes** due to complex geochemical reactions. Risks include **secondary CO₂ emissions** (e.g., from olivine) and **ecosystem impacts**.

✦ **Mineral Trapping** is a carbon removal method where **CO₂ dissolved in water** is **injected into basalt**, forming stable minerals like **calcite**. At **Carbfix, Iceland**, **95% of CO₂** mineralized within **two years**, offering a fast but site-specific solution. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

3.

Ans: C

Exp:

Cardamom:

- 💡 **About:** **Cardamom (*Elettaria cardamomum*)**, popularly called the **"Queen of Spices"**, is a highly aromatic spice from the **Zingiberaceae (ginger) family**.
 - ✦ It is **indigenous to the evergreen rainforests of the Western Ghats**. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- 💡 **Climatic Conditions:** Requires **1500-4000 mm of rainfall**, temperatures between **10°C to 35°C**.
 - ✦ Grows well in **acidic, loamy, humus-rich soils** with a pH of **5.0–6.5**. It thrives at **altitudes of 600–1500 meters**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- 💡 **Production:** As of 2025, the top cardamom-producing countries are **Guatemala (1st)**, **India (2nd)**, and **Sri Lanka (3rd)**. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
 - ✦ **Kerala contributes 58% of India's cardamom production** along with Karnataka and Tamil Nadu as other major cultivating states.

4.

Ans: D

Exp:

💡 **Glaciers**, which form on land, contribute additional water to oceans when they melt, leading to **sea level rise**. In contrast, **sea ice** (already floating) displaces its own volume in water, so its melting **does not significantly raise sea levels**—similar to an ice cube melting in a glass of water. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

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- ❗ **Arctic sea ice reflects sunlight** (high albedo). When it melts, **darker ocean surfaces are exposed**, absorbing more solar radiation. This enhances **regional warming**, accelerating ice loss, a feedback loop. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ❗ The **influx of cold glacial meltwater** into oceans affects salinity and temperature, disrupting major ocean currents such as the **Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC)**. These changes influence **global weather patterns** (e.g., monsoons,

hurricanes) and affect **marine ecosystems**, including fisheries. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

5.
Ans: D
Exp:

- ❗ The **Golden Crescent** refers to a major **illicit opium-producing region** comprising **Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan**.
- ❗ It is one of the world's most prominent sources of narcotics, along with the **Golden Triangle** (Myanmar, Laos, Thailand).



- ❗ **Hence, option D is correct.**

6.
Ans: B
Exp:

- ❗ **Enhanced Rock Weathering (ERW)** accelerates the natural weathering process, where rocks such as basalt break down and sequester carbon dioxide as bicarbonate, which eventually forms limestone.
 - ✦ This process is significantly sped up by finely grinding the rocks to increase their surface area.
- ❗ Through this increased surface area, **ERW enhances the rate of geological carbon sequestration**, making it much faster than the natural process. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ❗ In addition to carbon capture, **ERW also boosts soil alkalinity(not acidity)**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- ❗ It also helps in improving both crop yield and fertility. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

- ✦ Moreover, it helps reduce downstream CO₂ emissions by neutralizing soil acids before they can reach rivers and oceans.

7.
Ans: C
Exp:

- ❗ **Cyclone Yagi** has caused severe damage across **Southeast Asia**, affecting the **Philippines, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and particularly Vietnam**. It is the strongest tropical cyclone in Asia and the second most powerful globally after Hurricane Beryl (Atlantic Ocean).
- ❗ **Cyclone Remal**, which made landfall in **low-lying Bangladesh and neighbouring India**. The name 'Remal' in the list of tropical cyclones is given by

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Oman, It destroyed thousands of homes, smashed seawalls and flooded cities across the two countries.

- 💡 **Cyclone Dana** made landfall along the **Odisha** coast in October 2024. Dana's name was suggested by Qatar, which means generosity.
- 💡 **Cyclone Asna** has formed over the **Kutch coast in Gujarat and adjoining areas of Pakistan**. Cyclone Asna, named by Pakistan, means "the one to be acknowledged or praised."
- 💡 Hence, option C is correct.

8.

Ans: A

Exp:

Thirst Waves

- 💡 **About:** Thirstwave, a term coined by researchers **Meetpal Kukal** and **Mike Hobbins**, refers to a period of **three or more consecutive days** with extreme **atmospheric evaporative demand**—reflecting how "thirsty" the air is for moisture. Hence, statement I is correct.
- 💡 **Causes:** Thirst waves are influenced by **temperature, humidity, solar radiation, and wind speed**, unlike **heatwaves**, which are mainly driven by **temperature and wind**.
- 💡 **Measurement:** It is measured through **Short-crop evapotranspiration** that measures water loss from a well-watered **12-cm grass surface**. Hence, statement II is correct.
 - ✦ Rising **evapotranspiration** indicates **higher temperatures, lower humidity**, and increased **wind speed and solar radiation**. Hence, statement III is correct.
- 💡 Hence, option A is correct because both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I.

9.

Ans: C

Exp:

Croatia (Republic of Croatia):

- 💡 It lies at the **junction of Central and Southeast Europe**, along the **Adriatic Sea**.
- 💡 It shares land borders with **Slovenia, Hungary, Serbia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Montenegro**, and a maritime boundary with **Italy**.
- 💡 Hence, option C is correct.



10.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 The Subarnarekha River originates near **Nagri village** in Ranchi district, Jharkhand, and covers about **395 km** before emptying into the **Bay of Bengal**, forming an **estuary between the Ganga and Mahanadi deltas**. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
 - ✦ The Eastern Ghats spread across **Odisha, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu**.
- 💡 The Hundru Falls is formed along its course as the river descends from the Ranchi Plateau from a height of 320 feet. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- 💡 It spreads across **Jharkhand, Odisha, and West Bengal**, bounded by the **Chota Nagpur Plateau (north & west)**, **Baitarani basin (south)**, **Bay of Bengal (south-east)**, and **Kasai Valley (east)**. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

11.

Ans: D

Exp:

- 💡 The **Western Ghats** are **higher in elevation and more continuous** compared to the **Eastern Ghats**. Their **average height is around 1,500 metres**, with elevation increasing from north to south.
 - ✦ The **highest peak** of the Peninsular Plateau, **Anamudi (2,695 m)**, lies in the **Anaimalai Hills**, followed by **Dodabetta (2,637 m)** in the **Nilgiri Hills**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- 💡 In contrast, the **Eastern Ghats** are **discontinuous, lower in elevation**, and have been **deeply eroded** by rivers like the **Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna, and**

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Kaveri. Prominent hill ranges of the Eastern Ghats include the **Javadi Hills, Palconda Range, Nallamala Hills, and Mahendragiri Hills.**

- Most **peninsular rivers** originate in the Western Ghats. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- The **Eastern and Western Ghats converge** at the **Nilgiri Hills** in Tamil Nadu. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**

12.

Ans: B

Exp:

Mount Denali (Mount McKinley):

- Location and Height:** Denali, standing at **6,190 meters**, is the **highest peak in North America**, located in the **Alaska Range, US.** Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- Significance:** It is the **3rd-highest** of the **Seven Summits**, representing the tallest peaks on each continent.
- Geological Features:** Denali is a massive **granite block** formed by the collision of the **Wrangellia Composite Terrane** (oceanic plate) with the **North American Plate**, with uplift due to tectonic activity starting around **60 million years ago.** Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- Physical Characteristics:** The mountain has **two major summits**, with the southern peak being higher.
 - The upper half is covered by **permanent snowfields**, feeding several glaciers including **Kahiltna, Muldrow, Peters, Ruth, and Traleika.**
- Naming History:** Originally known as **Mount McKinley**, it was renamed **Denali** in 2015 to honor the **Koyukon people.** Hence, **statement 3 is not correct.**
 - In **2025**, the US President restored the name **Mount McKinley.**

13.

Ans: D

Exp:

Nigeria:

- Nigeria (also known as **Giant of Africa**) is a country in **West Africa** shares borders with **Niger, Chad, Cameroon, Benin, and the Gulf of Guinea.**
- It has the **largest population in Africa** and the **6th largest in the world**, in addition to being the **4th largest economy in Africa.**

- It gained **independence from Britain in 1960**, with **Abuja** as its capital.
- The country features the **Cameroonian Highlands** and is **rich in natural resources**, especially **petroleum and natural gas.**
- Hence, **option D is correct.**

14.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The **Strait of Hormuz** is a strategic chokepoint that **connects the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman**, and further to the Arabian Sea. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
 - It is one of the world's most important oil transit chokepoints, with a significant portion of global petroleum passing through it.
- Iran borders the northern side of the Strait of Hormuz. On the southern side, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the Musandam Peninsula, which is an exclave of Oman, are located. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

15.

Ans: C

Exp:

- Shipki La Pass (3,930m)** is located in **Himachal Pradesh** and marks a boundary post on the **Line of Actual Control between India and China.** Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
 - It has been **opened to domestic tourists to boost borderland economies**, enhance strategic connectivity, and promote cultural tourism.
- Shipki La** is a **motorable mountain pass** which marks a **boundary post on the Line of Actual Control (LAC)** and is among **India's highest motorable passes.**
- The **Sutlej River (Langqen Zangbo** in Tibet) enters India through this pass, which historically served as a **key Indo-Tibetan trade route.** Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- The pass was earlier known as **Pema La** or **Shared Gate** and was renamed **Shipki La** by the **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** after 1962.
- It has been a vital trade route since the **5th century**, which ceased after the **1962 Sino-India War, post-Doklam standoff and Covid-19.**
- Shipki La facilitated **India-Tibet trade**, with **imports like wool, livestock, yak products, religious items, and minerals**, and exports of grains, spices, tobacco, timber, and metal tools.

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16.

Ans: B

Exp:

About Cyprus:

- 💡 Cyprus is a Eurasian island country located in the northeast Mediterranean Sea at the crossroads of Europe, Asia, and Africa.
- ✖️ Cyprus is the 3rd largest island after Sicily and Sardinia in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- 💡 Cyprus gained independence from Britain in 1960, but the 1974 Turkish invasion led to its partition into the Turkish-controlled north (recognized only by Turkey) and the Republic of Cyprus in the south.
- ✖️ The United Nations maintains a peacekeeping force in Cyprus to monitor the buffer zone between the divided regions. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
 - 📌 It is politically divided between the Republic of Cyprus (internationally recognized and an European Union (EU) member) and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

Polity & Governance

17.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 The Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act (CLNDA), 2010 is India's nuclear liability law ensuring compensation for victims and defining responsibility for nuclear accidents. It aligns with the Convention on Supplementary Compensation (CSC, 1997), adopted post-Chernobyl to set global minimum compensation standards; India ratified the CSC in 2016.
- 💡 The Act imposes a strict and no-fault liability on the operator, meaning the operator is liable for nuclear damage regardless of fault or negligence. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- 💡 The Act introduces a provision for supplier liability under Section 17(b), allowing the operator to seek recourse against suppliers in case of defective equipment or material. This is a departure from international norms like the Convention on Supplementary Compensation (CSC), where only the operator is held liable. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

- 💡 The operator's liability under the Act is capped at Rs 1,500 crore (not Rs 3,000 crore). The central government's liability is not unlimited; it is capped at the rupee equivalent of 300 million Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), which amounts to approximately Rs 2,100-2,300 crore. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

18.

Ans: C

Exp:

PM-WANI (Prime Minister's WiFi Access Network Interface) Scheme:

- 💡 PM-WANI was launched in December 2020 by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications & Information Technology (not the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology). Moreover, the scheme focuses on promoting public Wi-Fi infrastructure, especially in rural and underserved areas, not private broadband in urban areas. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- 💡 The scheme encourages local shops and small establishments to set up Wi-Fi hotspots (as Public Data Offices) to offer internet access without requiring any license or registration fee. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- 💡 The PM-WANI ecosystem comprises four key entities: Public Data Office (PDO), Public Data Office Aggregator (PDOA), App Provider, and the Central Registry. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
 - ✖️ PDOs set up Wi-Fi hotspots and deliver internet access to users.
 - ✖️ PDOAs handle authorization, authentication, and accounting functions for PDOs.
 - ✖️ App Providers enable users to discover and connect to nearby PM-WANI hotspots.
 - ✖️ The Central Registry, maintained by the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), manages the registration of PDOs, PDOAs, and App Providers.

19.

Ans: C

Exp:

Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan (DAJA):

- 💡 It is a nationwide tribal empowerment campaign launched under Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh (15 Nov 2024 – 15 Nov 2025), focusing on remote and PVTG habitations. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

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✦ **15th November** was declared **Janjatiya Gaurav Divas** in 2021 to honor tribal freedom fighter **Birsa Munda** on his 150th birth anniversary.

💡 It aims to achieve **saturation of all central welfare schemes** such as Aadhaar, Ayushman Bharat, PM-Kisan, Ujjwala Yojana, Jan Dhan, and tribal-specific entitlements. It also supports key tribal initiatives like **PM-JANMAN** and **Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA)**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

💡 The five pillars of DAJA are: **Janbhagidari** (community participation), **Saturation** (universal entitlement coverage), **Cultural Inclusion** (integration of tribal heritage), **Convergence** (coordination among ministries, CSOs, and youth), and **Last-Mile Delivery** (reaching remote tribal areas). Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

20.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 Zonal Councils are **statutory advisory bodies** set up under the **States Reorganisation Act, 1956**. Their purpose is to promote **cooperative federalism** by fostering **Centre-State and inter-State coordination** on issues of common interest such as security, infrastructure, and economic planning. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

💡 The **Union Home Minister** serves as the **ex-officio Chairman** of all five Zonal Councils. The **Vice-Chairman** is a **Chief Minister** of one of the member states, selected by **annual rotation**, ensuring participatory leadership among states. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

💡 The **North Eastern States** -Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram, Meghalaya, and Nagaland are **not part of any Zonal Council**. Their regional issues are addressed separately through the **North Eastern Council (NEC)**, constituted under the **North Eastern Council Act, 1972**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

21.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 The **National Statistical Office (NSO)** was created in **2019** through the **merger of the Central Statistics Office (CSO)** and the **National Sample Survey Office**

(**NSSO**). This reorganization was recommended by the **Rangarajan Committee** to streamline statistical operations under a unified body. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

💡 The **Field Operations Division** of the NSO conducts important socio-economic surveys such as the **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** and the **Consumer Expenditure Survey**. These surveys are vital for assessing employment trends and consumption patterns in India. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

💡 The NSO functions under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**, not under **NITI Aayog**. It is a **government body**, not an **independent data agency**, and is responsible for the coordination and maintenance of statistical standards and data dissemination. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

22.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 The **Rare Donor Registry of India (RDRI)** is a national database developed by **ICMR-National Institute of Immunohaematology (ICMR-NIIH)** in collaboration with top medical institutes. It maintains a record of donors with **rare blood types**, including **screening for over 300 rare blood group markers**. The registry supports patients suffering from conditions like **thalassemia and sickle cell disease**, who require specially matched transfusions. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

💡 **e-Rakt Kosh** is a **centralized digital blood bank management system**, developed by

💡 **CDAC** under the initiative of the **Blood Cell, National Health Mission**, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. It provides **real-time tracking** of blood availability, donation camps, and inventory across blood banks in India, ensuring safe and timely transfusions. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

✦ It includes a **standard-compliant Blood Bank Management System (BBMS)** with rule-based enforcement, a **location-aware portal and mobile app**, integration with the **UMANG platform**, and **APIs** for linking with state systems and other platforms.

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23.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 National Statistics Day, initiated by the Government of India in 2007, National Statistics Day is observed on **29th June to honour Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- ✖ P.C. Mahalanobis was a pioneering Indian statistician who founded the Indian Statistical Institute (1931). He introduced pilot surveys, sampling methods, and statistical tools like the **Mahalanobis Distance**, contributing significantly to planning, industrialization, and crop yield estimation in India.
- 💡 The Mahalanobis Distance (MD) is a statistical measure used to determine how far a point is from the average in multi-dimensional data. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- ✖ MD measures **distance relative to the centroid (mean) in multi-dimensional space**, accounting for correlations between variables. It is widely used in pattern recognition, classification, and anomaly detection.
- 💡 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) was formed by merging the Departments of Statistics and Programme Implementation. It has two wings: **the Statistics Wing includes the Central Statistics Office and National Sample Survey Office**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.
- ✖ Programme Implementation Wing comprises Twenty Point Programme, Infrastructure and Project Monitoring, and Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme.

24.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 The **Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969**, mandates that the registration of births and deaths in India must be done at the place where the event occurred, not at any arbitrary location. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- 💡 A child born outside India must register their birth under the **Citizenship Act 1955 and the Citizens (Registration at Indian consulates) Rules, 1956**. However, under the RBD Act, if the parents return to India with the intent to settle, the birth can be

registered within 60 days from the child's arrival in India. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

- 💡 The Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2023 includes provisions for the registration of **abandoned, orphaned, surrendered, adopted, and surrogate children**, ensuring legal identity for all, in line with **Sustainable Development Goal Target 16.9**: "By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration." Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

25.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 Tamil Nadu leads in higher education enrollment with a GER of 47%, surpassing the national average of 28.4%. The other states that performed well in terms of GER in higher education are Himachal Pradesh (43.1%), Uttarakhand (41.8%), Kerala (41.3%), and Telangana (40%). Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- ✖ GER indicates the percentage of students aged 18–23 enrolled in higher education. A higher GER reflects greater access and participation in tertiary education.
- 💡 The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 aims to increase the GER in higher education, including vocational education, from 26.3% in 2018 to 50% by 2035. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

26.

Ans: D

Exp:

- 💡 Lakhpati Didi Initiative is implemented under the **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)** under the **Ministry of Rural Development**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- 💡 A **Lakhpati Didi** is an **SHG member earning Rs 1 lakh or more annually** through sustainable livelihood activities. It focuses on agriculture, allied sectors, services, and small enterprises for multiple income sources. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- 💡 The income of a Lakhpati Didi must be **sustained over at least four agricultural seasons or business cycles, i.e., Rs 10,000+ per month on average**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

27.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 Standing Committees are permanent bodies within the Parliament, which are reconstituted annually as per the Rules of Procedure or Acts of Parliament.

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- ✦ These committees are tasked with conducting continuous and regular work, often related to the examination of bills, policies, and financial matters.

💡 **Out of the three committees mentioned:**

- ✦ **Estimates Committee** – Elected by the Lok Sabha only, not by both Houses.
- ✦ **Public Accounts Committee (PAC)** – Elected by both Houses of Parliament.
- ✦ **Committee on Public Undertakings (COPU)** – Elected by both Houses of Parliament.

💡 Therefore, only two committees, the **Public Accounts Committee (2)** and the **Committee on Public Undertakings (3)**, are elected by both Houses of Parliament.

💡 Hence, option B is correct.

28.

Ans: D

Exp:

💡 **National Mineral Exploration Trust** was established under **Section 9C of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957**, with the aim to accelerate mineral exploration in India. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**

💡 The Trust supports regional and detailed mineral exploration in the country and other activities approved by the Governing Body. Its objectives include:

- ✦ Special studies and projects to identify, explore, extract, beneficiate and refine deep seated and concealed mineral deposits
- ✦ Studies on mineral development, sustainable mining, mineral extraction and metallurgy adopting advanced scientific and technological practices.

💡 **Governance Structure:** NMET has a two-tier structure.

- ✦ **Governing Body:** The apex body is the Governing Body, **chaired by the Hon'ble Minister of Mines.** It holds the overall control of the Trust. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**
- ✦ **Executive Committee:** The Executive Committee, chaired by the Secretary, Ministry of Mines, administers and manages its activities.

29.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 The Government of India launched the **NAVYA (Nurturing Aspirations through Vocational Training for Young Adolescent Girls)** initiative to **provide vocational training to adolescent girls** aged 16–18 years with at least a Class 10 qualification, particularly in non-traditional job roles.

💡 This joint pilot project, **launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD)** and the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), covers 27 districts across 19 states, including Aspirational Districts and those in the North-Eastern region.

💡 The program **draws from existing schemes** like the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) and PM Vishwakarma Yojana, fostering inter-ministerial collaboration.

💡 Hence, option B is correct.

30.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 **Alcohol regulation** falls under the **State List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution**, giving States exclusive authority over their **production, sale, and distribution**, resulting in wide inter-State legal variations. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

- ✦ States like **Bihar, Gujarat, Nagaland, and Mizoram** enforce prohibition, while others have experimented with bans.

💡 **Article 47 (DPSP)** provides that the State shall endeavour to **prohibit the consumption of intoxicating drinks and drugs injurious to health** and to **improve public health and nutrition.** Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

31.

Ans: B

Exp:

Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006:

💡 The **Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006** aims to address historical injustices faced by forest-dwelling **Scheduled Tribes (STs)** and **Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFDs)** who have lacked legal ownership of forest lands and resources.

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✦ Grants **ownership over Minor Forest Produce (MFP)**, which includes non-timber forest products such as bamboo, brushwood, stumps, and canes.

✦ The act allows the collection, use, and disposal of forest produce by the forest-dwelling communities. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

✍ Recognizes traditional usage rights such as **Nistar**, allowing communities to gather forest produce for subsistence.

✦ The act allows **diversion of forest land** for public welfare projects (like infrastructure, schools, etc.) with **Gram Sabha approval**, ensuring that local communities are consulted before any land-use changes. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

💡 **Decentralized Governance:** The FRA follows a **bottom-up governance model**, where the **Gram Sabha (village assembly)** plays a central role in identifying and verifying claims for forest rights.

💡 The Gram Sabha forms **Forest Rights Committees (FRCs)** to process and verify the claims of forest-dwelling communities at the village level. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

✦ **Sub-Divisional Level Committees (SDLCs)** review the claims and forward them to the **District Level Committees (DLCs)** for approval.

💡 **State Monitoring Committees** are tasked with ensuring the overall implementation of the FRA and monitoring the process at the state level.

32.

Ans: B

Exp:

Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2.0:

💡 **About:** The Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2.0 is an **evidence-based framework** developed by the **Ministry of Education** to assess the **school education system** across all States and UTs through a **structured and data-driven approach**.

✦ PGI was originally launched in 2017 and was revamped as **PGI 2.0 in 2021** to align with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** and **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 **Indicators & Grading Mechanism:** PGI 2.0 assesses school education through **73 indicators** across **2 categories** (Outcomes and Governance & Management), which are further divided into **6 domains**.

Categories	Domain	Indicators	Total Weight
1. Outcomes	Learning Outcomes and Quality (LO)	12	240
	Access (A)	7	80
	Infrastructure & Facilities (IF)	15	190
	Equity (E)	16	260
2. Governance Management (GM)	Governance Processes (GP)	15	130
	Teacher Education & Training (TE&T)	8	100
Total		73	1000

✦ PGI 2.0 scores are graded on a **scale of 1,000 points**, classified into **10 performance levels**, ranging from **Daksh (highest)** to **Akanshi-3 (lowest)**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

💡 **Data Sources:** It is based on data from the **National Achievement Survey (NAS) 2021**, **Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+)**, and information on the **mid-day meal programme (PM-POSHAN)**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

33.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 **Subordinate courts** are the lower courts in a state's judicial structure, functioning under the supervision of the High Court and they perform their duties at the district and lower levels.

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- 💡 **Articles 233 to 237 of Part VI of the Constitution** deal with the **organization and independence of subordinate courts** and ensure judicial independence from the executive. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 Control over subordinate courts (postings, promotions, leave of judicial officers below district judge) lies with the concerned High Court.
- 💡 **District Judges** are appointed, posted, and promoted by the **Governor (and not Chief Minister)** in consultation with the **High Court. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ✘ Other judicial service appointments (below district judge) are made by the Governor after consulting the State Public Service Commission and the High Court.

Social Issues

34.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 **Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994 (amended in 2011)** regulates organ and tissue transplantation in India, covering post-death donation, setting rules for healthcare providers, and prescribing penalties for violation. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 **National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO):** The NOTTO, under the **Ministry of Health**, was set up as per the **Transplantation of Human Organs (Amendment) Act, 2011.**

36

Ans: A

Exp:

Key Agricultural Boards in India:

Board	Constituted Under	Headquarters	Remarks
Tea Board	Tea Act, 1953	Kolkata	Hence, row 1 is not correctly matched.
Coffee Board	Coffee Act, 1942	Bangalore	
Rubber Board	Rubber Act, 1947	Kottayam, Kerala	Hence, row 2 is not correctly matched.
Spices Board	Spices Board Act, 1986	Kochi, Kerala	
Tobacco Board	Tobacco Board Act, 1975	Guntur, Andhra Pradesh	Hence, row 3 is correctly matched.
National Turmeric Board	Not a statutory body	Nizamabad, Telangana	
Makhana Board	-	Bihar (Proposed)	

- ✘ **5 Regional Organ and Tissue Transplant Organizations (ROTTOs) and 14 State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organizations (SOTTOs)** were established to strengthen the network at the **regional and state levels. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- 💡 India is the **3rd country** in the world after the **USA and China**, in terms of the total number of transplants done in a year. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Agriculture & Allies Sector

35.

Ans: C

Exp:

Nano Fertilisers

- 💡 **Fertilisers** coated with **nanomaterials** (particles ranging from **1 to 100 nanometres**) are known as **nanofertilizers**. These nanomaterials enable the **controlled release of nutrients**, improving their **availability to plants over a longer period.**

Nanomaterial Components:

- ✘ **Inorganic Materials:** Metal Oxides (e.g., **Zinc oxide (ZnO)**, **titanium dioxide (TiO₂)**, **Silica Nanoparticles** and **Hydroxyapatite Nanohybrids.**
- ✘ **Organic Materials:** **Chitosan** (natural biopolymer derived from **chitin** found in **crustacean exoskeletons**), **Carbon-based Nanomaterials** (e.g., **carbon nanotubes (CNTs)**, **fullerenes**, and **fullerols**).

- 💡 **Hence, option C is correct.**

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Environment & Ecology

37.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 Male Mahadeshwara Hills Wildlife Sanctuary is located in Chamarajanagar district, southeast Karnataka, near the Tamil Nadu border, and was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 2013.
- 💡 Its topography includes mainly dry deciduous forests, along with patches of moist deciduous, semi-evergreen, evergreen, and shola forests at varying altitudes.
- 💡 It is contiguous with Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple (BRT) Tiger Reserve and Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary in Karnataka, and Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu, forming a critical tiger corridor between the two states. Hence, option A is correct.
 - ✦ Mollem National Park is located in Goa.

38.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), established in 1972 and headquartered in Nairobi, is the UN's leading agency on environmental issues. Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.
- 💡 It is governed by the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) and supports global action on climate, ecosystem restoration, clean seas, and SDGs. Hence, Statement 2 is correct.
- 💡 It publishes key reports like the Emissions Gap Report, Global Environment Outlook, and Adaptation Gap Report. Hence, Statement 3 is correct.

39.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) comprise 17 interconnected goals (169 targets) aimed at tackling major global challenges such as poverty, inequality, climate change, and environmental degradation.
 - ✦ They were adopted in 2015 by 193 UN Member States as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- 💡 The concept of sustainable development was first defined in the 1987 Brundtland Commission Report as development that meets present needs without

compromising future generations. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

- 💡 In 2002, the Johannesburg Declaration at Rio+10 reviewed the outcomes of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit.
- 💡 In 2012, the Rio+20 Summit laid the foundation for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and a more comprehensive global development agenda. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- 💡 The Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) assesses progress every 4 years. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

40.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 Van Vihar has the status of a national park, but is developed and managed as a modern zoological park, following the guidelines of the Central Zoo Authority. Animals are kept in near-natural habitats.
 - ✦ Most animals are either orphaned and brought from various parts of the state or are exchanged from other zoos. No animal is deliberately captured from the forest.
- 💡 Located in Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh), lies next to the Upper Lake (Bada Talab), a Ramsar Site and part of the Bhoj Wetland.
- 💡 It serves as a rescue centre for lions, tigers, sloth bears, and other animals saved from circuses and conflict zones.
- 💡 The park is also a Conservation Breeding Centre for the Hard Ground Barasingha and Gyps vultures.
- 💡 Hence, option A is correct.

41.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 *Spartaeus karigiri*, a newly discovered jumping spider species from Karnataka, marks the first recorded presence of the *Spartaeus* and *Sonoita* genera (part of the *Spartaeinae* subfamily of *Salticidae* family) in India, previously known only from Southeast Asia and Africa.
- 💡 The species is named after Karigiri, or Elephant Hill of Karnataka. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- 💡 Physical Traits: Small, fuzzy spiders (<0.5 inch) with 8 eyes, two large front-facing eyes provide high-resolution vision for hunting, navigation, and courtship.

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- ♀ Females guard **silk-encased egg sacs**, spiderlings molt into adults. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

42.

Ans: A

Exp:

Eurasian Otter (*Lutra lutra*):

- ♀ It is a **semi-aquatic carnivorous mammal** native to Eurasia.
- ♀ It is a **keystone species** in river ecosystems as its presence is an indicator of **clean water** and **healthy aquatic biodiversity**.
- ♀ Other species in India include **smooth-coated Otter (throughout India)**, and **Small-clawed Otter (Himalayas and southern India)**.
- ♀ It mainly **feeds on fish, crustaceans, and amphibians** and occasionally eats **reptiles, birds, eggs, insects, and worms**.
- ♀ It is found in the **Himalayas, northeast India, and Western Ghats**.
- ♀ It prefers **clean freshwater ecosystems** such as **rivers, lakes, streams, and wetland** and is also found in **coastal areas**.
- ♀ It is **mostly active at night, builds dens (holts) near water, and lives mostly solitary**, though **mothers** are sometimes seen with their cubs.
- ♀ It is classified as Schedule II under the **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**, and is considered **Near Threatened** by the IUCN.
- ♀ Hence, **option A is correct.**

43.

Ans: D

Exp:

- ♀ The Global Forest Watch, an **open-source platform that monitors and tracks changes in forests worldwide**, developed by the US-based research organization **World Resources Institute (WRI)**, has released data highlighting India's deforestation and forest degradation trends from 2001 to 2024. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**
- ♀ According to the **WRI Report on India's Forests** globally, India **ranked second in deforestation (2015–2020)**, losing 668,000 ha/year (FAO). Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ✦ Between **2001 and 2024**, India **lost 2.31 million hectares** of tree cover, a **7.1% decline** since 2000, causing **1.29 gigatonnes** of CO₂ emissions.

- ♀ In **2024 alone**, India lost 150,000 hectares of natural forest, resulting in approximately **68 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions**.

- ♀ **Primary forest loss increased** from 17,700 hectares in 2023 to 18,200 hectares in 2024.

44.

Ans: C

Exp:

- ♀ **Mugger or Marsh Crocodile:** It is an egg-laying, hole-nesting species, known to be dangerous.
 - ✦ **Habitat:** Found mainly in the Indian subcontinent, in freshwater habitats, and coastal saltwater lagoons and estuaries. Extinct in Bhutan and Myanmar.
 - ✦ **Protection Status:** It is listed as **Vulnerable** on the **IUCN Red List** of Threatened Species, is included in **CITES Appendix I**, and is protected under **Schedule I** of the **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**. Hence, **pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- ♀ **Saltwater Crocodile or Estuarine:** It is earth's largest living crocodile species, known for its reputation as a man-eater.
 - ✦ **Habitat:** Found in Odisha's Bhitarkanika National Park, the Sundarbans in West Bengal, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Also found across Southeast Asia and northern Australia.
 - ✦ **Protection Status:** It is listed as **Least Concern** on the **IUCN Red List**, included in CITES Appendix I (except in Australia, Indonesia, and Papua New Guinea, where it is in Appendix II), and is protected under **Schedule I** of the **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**. Hence, **pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- ♀ **Gharial:** It is also known as **gavials**, they are a type of **Asian crocodilian** with long, thin snouts resembling a pot (ghara in Hindi). Their population is a good **indicator of clean river water**. It is a relatively harmless, fish-eating species.
 - ✦ **Habitat:** Mostly found in the fresh waters of Himalayan rivers. The **Chambal River (Madhya Pradesh)** is their **primary habitat**. Other Himalayan rivers like Ghagra, Gandak, Girwa, Ramganga, and Sone serve as secondary habitats.
 - ✦ **Protection Status:** It is listed as **Critically Endangered** on the **IUCN Red List**, and it is protected under **CITES Appendix I** and **Schedule**

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I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.

☛ Hence, option C is correct.

45.

Ans: A

Exp:

3rd UN Ocean Conference:

☛ The **2025 UN Ocean Conference (UNOC3)**, held in **Nice, France**, adopted the declaration **“Our Ocean, Our Future: United for Urgent Action”**, reinforcing global commitments to **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 14 (Life Below Water)**.

☛ The objectives of UNOC3 was to establish the **“Nice Ocean Agreements”** as an international pact aligned with the **UN’s 2015 SDGs**, and to advance the **Agreement on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement)** by securing **ratification from 60 countries** to regulate the **high seas**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

✦ The **Nice Ocean Agreements** will play a pivotal role in shaping global ocean governance, drawing inspiration from the framework established by the **Paris Climate Agreement in 2015**.

☛ **Key Ocean Conservation Initiatives Announced at UNOC3:**

✦ **European Commission:** Announced a **1 billion Euro investment** to promote **ocean conservation**, advance **marine science**, and support **sustainable fishing practices**.

✦ **French Polynesia:** Pledged to create the **world’s largest marine protected area** — covering its entire **exclusive economic zone (5 million sq km)** to safeguard marine biodiversity.

✦ **Spain:** Announced the creation of **five new marine protected areas**, enhancing its network of safeguarded marine zones.

✦ **Indonesia**, in collaboration with the **World Bank**, has introduced the **‘Coral Bond’** — an innovative financial instrument designed to **fund reef conservation and restoration efforts** in Indonesia. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

46.

Ans: D

Exp:

National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC):

☛ **NAPCC** is India’s **overarching policy framework** to address the challenges of climate change while

ensuring **sustainable development**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

☛ It was launched in **2008** with the aim to promote **low-carbon, climate-resilient growth** through a strategic and multi-sectoral approach. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

☛ It comprises the following **8 national missions**, collectively addressing **key sectors** such as **energy, water, agriculture, ecosystems, and urban habitats**, with the goal of achieving **inclusive and sustainable climate resilience**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

✦ National Solar Mission

✦ National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency

✦ National Mission on Sustainable Habitat

✦ National Water Mission

✦ National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem

✦ National Mission for A Green India

✦ National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture

✦ National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change

47.

Ans: A

Exp:

Elephants:

☛ **About:** Elephants, **India’s National Heritage Animal**, are **matriarchal** and live in **female-led groups**.

✦ As **keystone species** and **ecosystem engineers**, they maintain forest health by **dispersing seeds and creating water access** for other species.

☛ **Species:**

✦ **Asian Elephant** (*Elephas maximus*)

✦ **African Elephants:**

📎 **Savannah Elephant** (*Loxodonta africana*)

📎 **Forest Elephant** (*Loxodonta cyclotis*)

☛ **Population in India:** Indian elephants (*Elephas maximus indicus*), a subspecies of Asian elephants, account for **around 60% of the global Asian elephant population**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

✦ As per the **2017 census**, India hosts approximately **29,964 elephants**.

✦ **Karnataka** recorded the highest elephant population, followed by **Assam** and **Kerala**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

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- ✦ In terms of **protected areas**, **Sathyamangalam forest division** has the highest number of elephants.

Economy

48.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 A **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** is a form of **intellectual property right** that identifies a product as originating from a specific **geographical location**, where a given **quality, reputation, or other characteristics** of the product are **essentially attributable to its geographic origin**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- ✦ This includes factors like **climate, traditional knowledge, craftsmanship, or natural conditions** specific to that place.
- 💡 The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, functioning under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, is the **nodal authority responsible for overseeing the Geographical Indications (GI) tag process in India**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- ✦ The **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999** governs the GI tag status.
- 💡 **Kolhapuri Chappals** was granted **GI status in 2019**, covering **eight districts in Maharashtra and Karnataka**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

49.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 **Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)** is a company **registered under the Companies Act, 1956 or 2013**, engaged in the business of **loans and advances, investment in shares, bonds, debentures, leasing, hire-purchase, etc.**, as its **principal business**.
- ✦ **NBFCs in India are primarily regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) under the RBI Act, 1934**. The RBI has powers to **register, regulate, issue directions, inspect, supervise, and monitor NBFCs**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- 💡 Unlike **commercial banks**, **NBFCs cannot accept demand deposits, do not participate in the payment and settlement system**, and cannot issue cheques

drawn on themselves. Moreover, depositors of NBFCs are not covered under the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), unlike bank depositors. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

- 💡 NBFCs are classified based on their core functions into **Infrastructure Finance Companies (IFCs), Asset Finance Companies (AFCs), Loan Companies (LCs), and Investment Companies (ICs)**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

50.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 India is the **second-largest fish producer**, contributing 8% to global output and 4% in global fisheries exports. It ranks second in aquaculture, first in shrimp production, and **third in capture fisheries**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- ✦ The term capture fishery is used to describe a **fishery conducted in an aquatic environment (e.g. marine, brackish or freshwater)** and involving one or more fishery sectors (e.g. artisanal, industrial, subsistence, sport or recreational).
- 💡 India's inland fisheries have grown significantly from 7.5 lakh tonnes in 1950-51 to 147 lakh tonnes in 2024-25, now contributing over 75% of total fish production. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- 💡 The **Chilika mud crab** is India's **first inland fishery** nominated for **Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) sustainability certification**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
- ✦ **MSC is an international non-profit organisation** promoting **sustainable fishing** through its eco-label and certification programme. **MSC certification promotes responsible fishing** to secure **healthy oceans and sustainable seafood** for future generations.

51.

Ans: B

Exp:

Monetary Policy Committee:

- 💡 Under Section 452B of the amended RBI Act, 1934, the **Central Government (not RBI) is empowered to constitute a six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- 💡 The MPC is **required to meet at least four times in a year**. Each member of the MPC has one vote, and in

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the event of an equality of votes, the Governor has a second or casting vote. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

💡 The **primary objective is price stability, with inflation targeting as the primary focus.** Hence, statement 3 is correct.

✦ The target is CPI (Combined) inflation within the 2-6% range, set by the Government in consultation with the RBI.

💡 Other objectives include promoting growth, generating employment, and ensuring exchange rate stability.

52.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 As of 2025, India is the largest producer, consumer, and importer of pulses in the world. India accounts for about 25% of global pulse production, 27% of global consumption, and 14% of global imports. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

💡 Pulses occupy approximately 23% of the total area under food grains but contribute only about 7–10% to India's overall foodgrain production. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

💡 Rabi pulses contribute over 60% of total pulse production in India. Key Rabi pulses include Gram (Chana) and Lentil (Masoor), which dominate the production share. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

53.

Ans: D

Exp:

💡 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) announced that the government is revising the **Gross Domestic Product (GDP) base year** from 2011-12 to 2022-23. The revised data will be released on 27th February 2026. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

💡 GDP is the key metric for measuring a country's annual economic growth or its overall economic size, and the "base year" serves as the reference point for these calculations.

✦ Currently, 2011-12 is the base year, meaning the GDP of 2011-12 is used as the benchmark to compute the growth of subsequent years.

💡 The base year for Index of Industrial Production (IIP) will also be revised to 2022-23 while the base year for Consumer Price Index will be revised to 2023-24.

💡 In June 2024, MoSPI set up a **26-member Advisory Committee on National Accounts Statistics (ACNAS)** to decide the **base year for GDP data**, under the chairmanship of Biswanath Goldar. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

✦ It also focused on aligning GDP with other key macro indicators such as the WPI, CPI, and IIP.

54.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 Derivatives are contracts whose value depends on underlying assets or indicators such as currencies, stocks, or commodities, and include instruments like forwards, futures, and options. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

💡 An option gives the holder the right, but not the obligation, to buy (call) or sell (put) an asset at a specified price before or at a certain date, for a premium. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

💡 Electricity derivatives are financial instruments that help Gencos, Discoms, and large industrial consumers hedge against fluctuations in power prices by trading on future electricity output.

✦ Electricity futures contracts, options, and swaps will enable players to hedge risks, ensure supply certainty, and improve demand forecasting, key for deploying energy storage systems (ESS).

Defence & Security

55.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 Exercise Shakti is a bilateral military exercise between India and France aimed at enhancing interoperability, operational coordination, and military-to-military connect. It is a biennial training engagement between the Indian and French Armies. Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.

✦ The 8th edition of Exercise Shakti is scheduled from 18th June to 1st July 2025 at La Cavalerie, France.

💡 Exercise Varuna is a bilateral naval exercise between India and France, not the USA. Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.

✦ It focuses on maritime cooperation and naval interoperability.

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💡 **Exercise Desert Knight** is a **trilateral air combat** exercise between **India, France, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)**. Hence, **pair 3 is correctly matched**.

✦ It focuses on enhancing interoperability and combat readiness among the participating air forces. The exercise involves complex air combat maneuvers and strengthens defense cooperation.

💡 Hence, **option B is correct**.

Science & Tech

56.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 Rice Yellow Mottle Virus (RYMV) originated in the **Eastern Arc Mountains of Tanzania** in the 1800s from **wild grasses**, spreading to the **Kilombero Valley and Morogoro (Tanzania)** before expanding across **Sub-Saharan Africa**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

💡 It spreads through **insect vectors, mechanical means (sap or water contact)**, and **root injuries**, but is **not seed-borne**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

💡 **Vectors** include **beetles (Chrysomelidae), grasshoppers, cows, rats, and donkeys**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

💡 Yellow-green streaks appear on **young leaves**, leading to **mottling and leaf twisting**. Plants show **stunted growth, poor panicle formation, sterility**, and may eventually die.

57.

Ans: D

Exp:

💡 **Rinderpest** is also known as **cattle plague**, is a highly **contagious viral disease** that primarily affects **cattle, buffalo, and other even-toed ungulates**. Rinderpest was the first animal disease to be **globally eradicated by vaccination**. Hence, **pair 1 is correctly matched**.

💡 **Peste des Petits Ruminants** is a **contagious viral disease that affects** goats, sheep, and some wild relatives of domesticated small ruminants, as well as camels. Hence, **pair 2 is correctly matched**.

💡 **New World Screwworm** infests the living **flesh of warm-blooded animals**, most commonly livestock and less commonly birds, pets, and humans. It causes severe wounds and infections with tissue damage. Hence, **pair 3 is correctly matched**.

💡 **Bluetongue** is an infectious, non-contagious, **vector-borne viral disease** affecting wild and domestic ruminants like sheep, goats, cattle, buffaloes, deer, African antelope, and camels. It causes **severe illness and death in sheep, particularly fine-wool breeds**. The disease is characterized by fever, inflammation of mucous membranes, and in some cases, a blue discoloration of the tongue. Hence, **pair 4 is correctly matched**.

💡 Hence, **option D is correct**.

58.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 **DNA Analysis Techniques** refer to scientific methods used to examine an **individual's genetic material (DNA)** for the purpose of **identification, relationship testing, or detecting genetic traits**.

✦ **DNA profiling** is used to **identify individuals by examining specific regions of their DNA**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

💡 **Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) analysis** is used when nuclear DNA is absent or degraded, mtDNA analysis focuses on maternally inherited genetic material. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

✦ Since mtDNA exists in multiple copies per cell, it has higher survivability in degraded remains.

✦ Identification is done by matching with maternal relatives such as the mother, maternal siblings, or maternal uncles and aunts.

💡 **Short Tandem Repeat (STR) Analysis:** STR analysis is the **most commonly used** method in forensic DNA identification. It **examines short, repeating sequences in nuclear DNA** that differ significantly among individuals. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

✦ **Analyzing 15 or more STR loci** can confirm identity with **high accuracy**. However, **its reliability decreases if the nuclear DNA is badly degraded**.

59.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 A black box consists of two main components: the **Digital Flight Data Recorder (DFDR)** and the **Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR)**.

✦ The DFDR records vital flight data such as **altitude, airspeed, engine performance, and**

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control movements for the last 25+ hours of flight.

✦ The CVR captures **cockpit audio**, including pilot conversations, alarms, and background sounds, for at least 2 hours.

💡 Constructed from **titanium or steel**, these devices are encased in crash-resistant containers to preserve data after a crash. The information retrieved from blackboxes plays a vital role in **accident investigations**, helping experts identify causes and prevent future incidents.

💡 Hence, option B is correct.

60.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 ICAR-NIHSD serves as a **reference laboratory for transboundary and zoonotic animal diseases** such as avian influenza and Newcastle disease. It plays a crucial role under the **One Health framework**, which emphasizes integrated human-animal-environment health surveillance and management. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

💡 NIHSD operates under the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)**, which is part of the **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare**, not the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, which falls under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

💡 NIHSD is India's premier **Biosafety Level-3 (BSL-3) high-containment facility**, specifically designed for research and diagnostics related to exotic and high-risk animal pathogens. It ensures bio-containment of infectious agents with potential cross-species transmission. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

61.

Ans: D

Exp:

💡 In human cells, **most DNA is located in the cell nucleus** (called nuclear DNA). However, a **small portion is also found in the mitochondria**, known as mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA). This is a key feature of cellular structure and energy-related genetic material. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

💡 The **genetic information in DNA is determined by the specific sequence of four nitrogenous bases—adenine (A), guanine (G), cytosine (C), and thymine**

(T). These bases form a code that directs the synthesis of proteins and the functioning of cells, much like letters form words in a language. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

💡 One of the most essential properties of DNA is its **ability to replicate**, i.e., **make exact copies of itself**. This process is crucial during **cell division**, as each new cell must receive an identical copy of DNA to function correctly. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

62.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 **Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR)** is an **active remote sensing system** that uses microwave radiation, which can **penetrate clouds, smoke, and even rain**. It does **not depend on sunlight**, allowing it to collect data **day and night**, making it ideal for **persistent monitoring**, including **over oceans**, where cloud cover is high (around 70%). Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

💡 SAR uses **microwaves (radio waves)**, **not visible or infrared light**, for imaging. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

💡 In SAR, the term "**synthetic**" refers to the technique of **mimicking a very large antenna by combining radar signals collected from multiple positions** as the satellite moves along its orbit. This **synthetic aperture** allows for **high spatial resolution** without needing a physically large antenna in space. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

63.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 Quantum communication is the **secure transmission of information** using principles of quantum mechanics. A key reason it offers enhanced security is the **fundamental property of quantum states**: they **cannot be cloned or measured without disturbance**, as per the **no-cloning theorem** and **Heisenberg uncertainty principle**.

💡 This property is the basis of **Quantum Key Distribution (QKD)**, where encryption keys are shared using **qubits (quantum bits)**, often transmitted via photons in optical fibres or free space.

💡 Any eavesdropping attempt on these qubits **disturbs their state**, causing **detectable anomalies** in the

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transmission. Thus, quantum communication ensures **tamper-evident, highly secure data exchange**.

- Quantum Entanglement, another foundational principle, allows particles to remain interconnected, so that the state of one instantly affects the other—enabling secure protocols like **entanglement-based QKD**.

Hence, option A is correct.

64.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Hydraulic systems operate based on **Pascal's Law**, which states that **any pressure applied to a confined fluid is transmitted equally and undiminished in all directions throughout the fluid**. This principle enables **force multiplication in hydraulic devices**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- In a hydraulic system, a **small input force** applied to a **smaller area piston** creates pressure, which is transmitted to a **larger area piston**, generating a **larger output force**. This is how **heavy loads** are lifted using minimal effort, as force is proportional to the area when pressure remains constant. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- Incompressible fluids** (such as oil) are used in hydraulic systems because they **do not compress under pressure**, ensuring that the force is **transmitted efficiently** without loss. Compressible fluids like gases would absorb some of the energy, making the system less efficient. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

65.

Ans: C

Exp:

- Candida tropicalis* is a **fungal pathogen** known to cause **severe infections** in humans, particularly in **immunocompromised individuals**, with a **mortality rate of 55–60%**.
- A study reveals that the **agricultural fungicide tebuconazole** is driving **increased resistance** in *Candida tropicalis* (a **fungal pathogen**) by causing **unexpected genetic changes** that make the **strains resistant to commonly used antifungal drugs** like **fluconazole** and **voriconazole**.
- Hence, option C is correct.

66.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) is a **genetic disorder** caused by an **SMN1 gene mutation** and **protein deficiency**, leading to the **progressive weakening of muscles** due to damage to motor neurons. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- It occurs when **both parents pass on SMN1 gene mutations**, though they are typically **carriers without showing symptoms**.
- It causes **weakness in voluntary muscles** like the **shoulders, hips, and thighs**, along with **breathing and swallowing difficulties**, while **involuntary muscles** (heart, blood vessels, digestive tract) remain **unaffected**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

67.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Star A980**, located in the Ophiuchus constellation, is a rare **Extreme Helium (EHe)** star. Scientists at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics observed **singly-ionized germanium (Ge II)** in its atmosphere. This is the **first time Ge II has ever been detected in an EHe star**, marking a significant scientific breakthrough in stellar spectroscopy. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- Current models of **stellar evolution and nucleosynthesis** suggest that heavy elements like **germanium** are typically formed during **supernova explosions or in asymptotic giant branch (AGB) stars**. However, EHe stars like A980 are not expected to contain such elements. The detection of high germanium levels in A980—**eight times higher than in the Sun**—contradicts existing theoretical predictions and hence **challenges these models**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- The formation of Extreme Helium (EHe) stars is not linked to **black hole collisions**. Rather, they are believed to form from the **merger of two white dwarfs**—a helium-rich and a carbon-oxygen rich white dwarf. The discovery of A980 does **not provide any evidence or confirmation** of the involvement of black holes in the formation of such stars. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

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68.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 **CRISPR-dCas9** is a modified version of the **CRISPR-Cas9** system where the Cas9 enzyme is deactivated (hence “dCas9” stands for dead Cas9).
- 💡 Unlike active Cas9, which cuts DNA, dCas9 binds to DNA without cleaving it. This **allows scientists to modulate gene expression** by attaching transcriptional activators or repressors to dCas9, thereby turning genes on or off without changing the DNA sequence itself. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 Just like in the standard CRISPR-Cas9 system, dCas9 uses a guide RNA (gRNA) to locate and bind to specific DNA sequences. The gRNA is designed to be complementary to the **target DNA sequence, ensuring high specificity in targeting. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

69.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 **Favipiravir** is an antiviral drug originally developed in **Japan** for the treatment of **influenza**. It functions by inhibiting **RNA-dependent RNA polymerase (RdRp)**, an enzyme crucial for the replication of RNA viruses.
- 💡 Due to this mechanism, **Favipiravir has been repurposed to treat several emerging RNA viral infections, such as Ebola, Lassa fever, Zika, and more recently, SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) in emergency settings.**
- 💡 The drug is not associated with treating bacterial infections, inhibiting DNA replication, or affecting protein synthesis in human cells.
- 💡 **Hence, option B is correct.**

70.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 The International Space Station (ISS) is indeed the **largest habitable artificial satellite in Low Earth Orbit (LEO). Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ✘ It is a massive structure that houses astronauts and scientific equipment.
- 💡 The **ISS orbits the Earth in a west-to-east direction, not east-to-west. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ✘ This direction aligns with the Earth’s rotation, which allows the station to gain speed from the Earth’s motion.

- 💡 The **ISS completes an orbit around the Earth every 90 minutes**, traveling at a speed of approximately 28,000 kilometers per hour. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

71.

Ans: D

Exp:

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR):

- 💡 **About:** AMR occurs when **bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites** no longer respond to antimicrobial medicines. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ✘ This makes **antibiotics and other treatments ineffective**, leading to infections that are harder to treat, and increasing the risk of **severe illness, disability, and death.**
- 💡 **Prevalence of AMR:** AMR is among the **top global health and development threats**. In 2019, bacterial AMR caused 1.27 million deaths and contributed to 4.95 million deaths globally.
 - ✘ The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has identified **AMR as one of the top ten threats to global health. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ✘ According to the WHO, AMR may result in an additional USD 1 trillion in healthcare costs by 2050, and cause USD 1–3.4 trillion in annual GDP losses by 2030.
- 💡 **Common Drug-Resistant Pathogens in India:**
 - ✘ **E. coli (gut infections):** Resistance rising; susceptibility to **carbapenem** dropped from **81.4% (2017) to 62.7% (2023). Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ✘ **Klebsiella pneumoniae (pneumonia/UTI):** Resistance to two key carbapenems fell from 58.5% to 35.6%, and 48% to 37.6% (2017–2023).
 - ✘ **Acinetobacter baumannii (hospital infections):** Already highly drug-resistant; shows no major change but remains difficult to treat.

72.

Ans: A

Exp:

Turning Lead into Gold :

- 💡 Scientists at CERN (European Council for Nuclear Research) briefly transformed lead (Pb) into gold (Au) (just a nanosecond) in tiny amounts using high-energy particle collisions inside the world’s most powerful particle accelerator, Large Hadron Collider (LHC). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

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⚡ This was achieved **not by direct collisions** but through **ultra-peripheral “near-miss” interactions** between accelerated **lead nuclei (atomic number 82)**, demonstrating **nuclear transmutation**. Hence, **statement II is correct**.

✦ **Nuclear transmutation** is the process of **changing one element into another by altering the number of protons or neutrons in an atom’s nucleus**. Hence, **statement III is correct**.

⚡ Hence, **option A is correct** because both **Statement II and Statement III are correct** and both of them explain **Statement I**.

73.

Ans: C

Exp:

⚡ All three diseases mentioned—**Trachoma, Yaws, and River Blindness**—are considered **Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) by the World Health Organization (WHO)**.

⚡ NTDs are a group of infectious diseases that primarily affect populations living in **tropical and subtropical regions** with limited access to healthcare.

⚡ **Trachoma** is a leading cause of blindness, **Yaws** is a chronic bacterial infection that causes disfiguring skin lesions, and **River Blindness (Onchocerciasis)** is caused by **parasitic worms** transmitted by blackflies and leads to blindness.

⚡ Despite their significant impact on public health, these diseases have been historically neglected in terms of funding and research, which is why they are classified as NTDs.

⚡ Hence, **option C is correct**.

74.

Ans: A

Exp:

⚡ **Lamarck’s Theory**, proposed in 1809, suggested that **traits acquired during an organism’s lifetime through use, disuse, or environmental factors could be inherited**. Hence, **pair 1 is not correctly matched**.

✦ A modern study, however, showed that exposing rice plants to cold triggered epigenetic changes in their genes, conferring cold tolerance that was heritable for five generations. Despite this, several scientific challenges arose against Lamarck’s theory.

⚡ **Darwin’s natural selection** argued that genetic variations, not acquired traits, drive evolution through **“survival of the fittest.”** Hence, **pair 2 is not correctly matched**.

✦ Weismann’s Experiment (1890s), where tailless mice produced normal-tailed offspring, further disproved the inheritance of acquired traits.

⚡ Finally, **Gregor Mendel’s** research demonstrated that **genes, rather than environmental factors, are the stable units of heredity**. Hence, **pair 3 is correctly matched**.

75.

Ans: B

Exp:

⚡ **Quantum Key Distribution (QKD)** is a cutting-edge secure communication method that utilizes the principles of quantum mechanics to generate and share cryptographic keys between two parties.

⚡ It involves the **use of qubits (quantum bits)**, which are transmitted through optical fibers. These qubits are encoded on photons and are highly sensitive to disturbances, making them ideal for secure key exchange.

⚡ The process ensures that **two distant users, who initially do not share a secret key, can generate a common, random secret key**.

✦ These interactions, although based on quantum principles, are authenticated through classical cryptographic methods.

⚡ A crucial aspect of QKD is its ability to **detect eavesdropping**: if an eavesdropper attempts to intercept the communication, the disturbance caused to the qubits will result in transmission errors, alerting the legitimate users.

⚡ Hence, **option B is correct**.

International Relations & Current Affairs

76.

Ans: B

Exp:

⚡ **South Africa is the southernmost country of Africa**, bordering Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe (North), Mozambique, Eswatini (Northeast & East), and Lesotho (enclave).

⚡ It has 3 capitals: Pretoria (Executive), Cape Town (Legislative), Bloemfontein (Judicial).

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✦ South Africa shares **maritime boundaries with the Indian and Atlantic Oceans.**

💡 Major physical features include the Drakensberg Mountains, **Limpopo and Orange rivers**, and landforms like the **Highveld (grassland plateau), Bushveld (tree-dotted plains)**, and the Great Escarpment (mountainous rim).

💡 Hence, option B is correct.

77.

Ans: C

Exp:

Key Outcomes of the 51st G7 Summit:

💡 **Kananaskis Wildfire Charter:** It commits to addressing **wildfire threats through science-based, local actions and nature-based solutions**, aligning with the goal to **halt and reverse deforestation and land degradation by 2030** under the **Glasgow Leaders' Declaration (2021)**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

💡 **G7 Critical Minerals Action Plan:** It focuses on **diversifying critical mineral production**, boosting **investment and local value creation**, and **promoting innovation**, building on the **2023 Five-Point Plan for Critical Minerals Security** (also endorsed by India).

✦ The G7 also committed to strengthening the **World Bank-led Resilient and Inclusive Supply Chain Enhancement (RISE) Partnership**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**

💡 **Condemned Transnational Repression (TNR):** The **G7 condemned Transnational Repression (TNR)**, which refers to **aggressive foreign interference** where states or their proxies seek to **intimidate, harass, harm, or coerce individuals or communities beyond their own borders**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**

💡 **Prevent Migrant Smuggling:** G7 committed to **preventing migrant smuggling** through the **G7 Coalition to Prevent and Counter the Smuggling of Migrants** and the **2024 G7 Action Plan** targeting this issue.

78.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 Israel, under **Operation Rising Lion**, launched **airstrikes and drone attacks** on **Iran's nuclear and military sites** — including **Tehran, the Natanz uranium**

enrichment facility, a nuclear research centre, two military bases in Tabriz, and an **underground missile storage site in Kermanshah** — to prevent Iran from advancing towards building an **atomic weapon**.

💡 India announced launching **'Operation Sindhu'** to evacuate **Indian nationals** as fears of an all-out **Israeli-American military strikes on Iran** increased.

💡 **Iran borders Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Turkmenistan to the north**. It shares borders with **Afghanistan and Pakistan to the east, Iraq to the west, Turkey to the northwest**, and has a southern coastline along the **Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman**.

💡 Hence, option A is correct.

79.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 The **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)** is a specialized UN agency established by the **Chicago Convention in 1944** to regulate global civil aviation. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

✦ ICAO is headquartered in **Montreal, Canada**, with **India as one of its 193 member states**.

💡 India is a signatory of **Chicago Convention, 1944** which recognizes that every State has complete and exclusive sovereignty over the airspace above its territory. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

✦ India's Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) sets aviation security standards aligned with the **Chicago Convention of ICAO**, oversees implementation and training, and conducts surprise checks and mock drills to ensure preparedness and vigilance at airports.

80.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 The **Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)** is an **international non-profit** that promotes **sustainable fishing** through its **eco-label and certification programme**. The **MSC certification** is globally recognised for **wild-capture fisheries** that ensure:

✦ Sustainable fish stocks
✦ Minimal environmental impact
✦ Effective and adaptive fisheries management.
Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

💡 The **Chilika mud crab fishery**, located in **Odisha's Chilika Lake**, is **India's first inland fishery** to be nominated for **MSC sustainability certification**,

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marking a significant step in promoting **sustainable inland fisheries**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

81.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 **International Yoga Day**, celebrated to raise awareness about yoga's benefits for **health, well-being, and peace**.
- ✦ Its objectives are to **promote physical, mental, and spiritual health, spread awareness of yoga as a gift of ancient Indian tradition, and encourage global harmony and peace** through its practice.

💡 **UNESCO** inscribed **Yoga** as an **Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity** in 2016. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

- ✦ The **World Health Organization (WHO)** recognizes **Yoga** as a tool for **mental and physical well-being, combating non-communicable diseases (NCDs)**, and included it in its **Global Action Plan (2018–30)**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- ✦ In **2015**, India's **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports** classified **Yoga** as a **'Priority' sports discipline**.



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