



CURRENT AFFAIRS

MCQ CONSOLIDATION

November

2025

PART-I



C-171/2,
Block-A,
Sector-15,
Noida



641,
Mukherjee Nagar,
Opp. Signature
View Apartment,
New Delhi



21,
Pusa Road,
Karol Bagh
New Delhi



Tashkent Marg,
Civil Lines,
Prayagraj,
Uttar Pradesh



Tonk Road,
Vasundhra
Colony,
Jaipur,
Rajasthan



Burlington Arcade
Mall, Burlington
Chauraha,
Vidhan Sabha Marg,
Lucknow



12,
Main AB Road,
Bhawar Kuan,
Indore,
Madhya Pradesh



Crystal Heights,
Circular
Road, Lalpur
Chowk, Ranchi,
Jharkhand

Practice Question

Polity & Governance

1. Consider the following pairs:

Articles of Indian Constitution	Provision
1. Article 1	Declares India as a Union of States, including territories that may be acquired in the future.
2. Article 2	Empowers Parliament to admit or establish new States on suitable terms
3. Article 3	Deals with renaming of States and Union Territories

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

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

2. Consider the following statements regarding the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY):

Statement I: PMKVY aims to provide free short-duration training, certify skills through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).

Statement II: PMKVY focuses only on traditional sectors and does not cover emerging areas like AI, robotics.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below :

- A. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I
- B. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct but Statement II does not explain Statement I
- C. Statement I is correct but Statement II is not correct
- D. Statement I is not correct but Statement II is correct

3. Consider the following statements:

1. The right to vote in India is a Fundamental Right under Article 19 and considered as a part of freedom of speech and expression.

2. Under the Representation of the People Act, 1951, if candidates are equal to the number of seats, no poll is held and the Returning Officer declares them elected.

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

4. Consider the following statements regarding the Information Technology Act, 2000:

1. It provides safe harbour provision that shields social media platforms from liability for user-generated content.
2. The Grievance Appellate Committee (GAC) is empowered to take suo motu action on social media intermediaries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

5. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 operationalises the constitutional mandate of free legal aid to ensure access to justice for all.

Statement II: Article 39A of the Constitution directs the State to provide free legal aid so that justice is not denied due to economic constraints.

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

- A. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I
- B. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct but Statement II does not explain Statement I
- C. Statement I is correct but Statement II is not correct
- D. Statement I is not correct but Statement II is correct

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



6. Consider the following statements regarding migration in India as per Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2020–21:

1. More females migrated for marriage than males migrated for work.
2. Rural male migration is higher than urban male migration.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

7. With reference to PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (NMP), consider the following statements:

1. It is a GIS-based digital platform hosting over 550 layers of real-time data on economic and social infrastructure.
2. It enables inter-ministerial coordination to reduce cost overruns and project delays.
3. It is coordinated by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

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

8. Schedule M under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, primarily deals with which of the following?

- A. Standards for labelling and packaging of drugs
- B. Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) for pharmaceutical manufacturing
- C. Standards for testing new drugs and clinical trials
- D. Regulations for sale and distribution of Schedule H and Schedule X drugs

International Relations

9. Consider the following statements with reference to the Chabahar Port:

1. It is Iran's only deep-water port with direct access to the Indian Ocean.
2. The port is strategically located east of Pakistan's Gwadar port.

3. It serves as a key node in the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).
4. The port provides India with direct land access to Afghanistan, bypassing China.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

10. With reference to Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), consider the following statements:

1. APEC refers to its participants as "economies" rather than "countries," and works through consensus-based, voluntary participation.
2. The APEC process is supported by a permanent secretariat headquartered in Singapore.
3. India is a founding member of APEC.

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

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

11. Consider the following statements regarding India's nuclear policy:

1. India has made its voluntary moratorium on nuclear testing a legally binding treaty commitment.
2. India's No First Use policy is a cornerstone of its nuclear doctrine, which is based on credible minimum deterrence.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

12. Golden Dome, Patriot, HQ-16 and Avenger System, recently seen in the news, can be best described as:

- A. Cybersecurity frameworks for critical infrastructure protection.
- B. Advanced air defence and missile interception systems.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



- C. Space-based surveillance and reconnaissance satellites.
- D. Artificial intelligence platforms for military communication.

13. Places like Kordofan, El Fasher, and Gezira have recently been in the news due to a severe civil war. These regions are located in:

- A. Ethiopia
- B. Sudan
- C. Chad
- D. Somalia

14. Which of the following countries are signatories to the Abraham Accords?

- 1. Israel
- 2. India
- 3. Bahrain
- 4. Morocco
- 5. Sudan

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Economy

15. With reference to India's textile industry, consider the following statements:

- 1. The textile industry contributes over 2% to India's GDP, accounts for more than 13% of industrial production, and 12% of total exports.
- 2. In 2023–24, India's textile exports amounted to more than USD 34 billion, with apparel having the largest share.
- 3. More than 80% of the sector's production capacity lies within Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) clusters.
- 4. The Indian textile industry directly employs over 45 million people, making it the second-largest employment generator after agriculture.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 3 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2 and 4 only
- D. All of the above

16. With reference to the recent Foreign Liabilities and Assets (FLA) Census, consider the following statements:

- 1. The United States and Singapore together accounted for over one-third of India's total FDI inflows during 2024–25.
- 2. Manufacturing remained the largest FDI-receiving sector, followed by services.
- 3. Outward Direct Investment (ODI) grew at a slower pace than FDI, thereby widening the inward-to-outward DI ratio.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

17. With reference to India's household financial trends (2019–2025), consider the following statements:

- 1. Household financial liabilities grew faster than financial assets.
- 2. Fresh household financial assets as a share of GDP increased steadily during this period.
- 3. Deposits in commercial banks remain the main choice of household financial assets.

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 Digital Gold in India:

- 1. Digital gold is classified and regulated as a commodity derivative under SEBI.
- 2. It allows investors to buy, sell, and store gold electronically without physical possession.
- 3. Digital gold eliminates counterparty risk and provides formal investor protection mechanisms.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



19. With reference to Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in India, consider the following statements:

1. SEZs are treated as foreign territory for the purpose of trade operations, duties, and tariffs.
2. They can be established by the private sector, public sector, joint ventures, or State Government agencies.
3. They are governed under the Foreign Trade Policy of 2000 only.

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

20. Which of the following statements about India's export diversification strategy is NOT correct?

- A. India aims to reduce dependence on traditional markets like the United States.
- B. Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with countries such as the UAE and Japan support trade diversification.
- C. India's export policy discourages participation in regional trade agreements.
- D. Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Schemes promote manufacturing competitiveness and export growth.

21. Consider the following statements regarding the Gini Coefficient:

1. It is a statistical measure that ranges between 0 and 1, where 0 represents perfect income equality and 1 represents perfect inequality.
2. It is derived directly from the Kuznets Curve, which hypothesizes the relationship between economic development and inequality.

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

22. Consider the following statements:

1. Anti-dumping duty is imposed to counter export subsidies provided by foreign governments.
2. Countervailing duty is imposed when foreign goods are sold below their normal value.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

23. With reference to India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), consider the following statements:

1. An EEZ extends up to 200 nautical miles from the baseline of a coastal nation.
2. Within the EEZ, a coastal state enjoys sovereign rights for exploration and exploitation of living and non-living resources.
3. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), 1982, provides for EEZ rights but excludes marine scientific research.
4. India has one of the largest Exclusive Economic Zones in the world.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Environment & Ecology

24. Consider the following statements about India's Panchamrit announced at 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) to the UNFCCC:

1. One of its goals is to meet 50% of total energy requirements from renewable sources by 2030.
2. It includes a commitment to reduce the carbon intensity of the economy by less than 45% by 2030, over 2005 levels.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

25. With reference to the Rowmari–Donduwa Wetland Complex, consider the following statements:

1. It is a part of the Manas National Park in Assam.
2. It supports a higher diversity of waterbird species compared to Loktak Lake (Manipur).
3. It has been designated as a 'Wetland of International Importance' under the Ramsar Convention in 2025.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



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

26. With reference to Biosphere Reserves (BRs), consider the following statements:

1. They function as “learning sites” for demonstrating sustainable development.
2. Biosphere Reserves can include terrestrial, marine, and coastal ecosystems.
3. The Great Rann of Kutch in Gujarat is the largest Biosphere Reserve in India.

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

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

27. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: Tractor Emission Norms (TREM) Stage V are pollution-control standards set by the government to regulate harmful exhaust emissions from agricultural tractors.

Statement II: India introduced tractor emission norms in 2019.

Which one of the following is correct with respect to the above statements?

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

28. Consider the following Acts:

1. Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
2. Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981
3. Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
4. Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
5. Biological Diversity Act, 2002
6. Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972

How many of the above Acts fall under the original jurisdiction of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) as per Schedule I of the NGT Act, 2010?

- A. Only three
- B. Only four
- C. Only five
- D. All six

29. Consider the following statements regarding the Bustards:

1. Great Indian Bustard is highly prone to power line collisions due to poor frontal vision.
2. The Lesser Florican is the smallest bird in the bustard family.
3. Lesser Florican is a rare summer visitor to the Terai region of Nepal.

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

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

30. With reference to the Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary, consider the following statements:

1. It is part of the Tapti River basin.
2. The Indian Wolf is its keystone species.
3. The area is dominated by Tropical Dry Deciduous forests.

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

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

31. Consider the following statements about mussels:

1. Mussels are bivalve mollusks found only in marine environments.
2. Mussels are used as bioindicators because they accumulate pollutants like heavy metals and microplastics in their tissues.

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

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



32. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: Singapore has become the first country to introduce a Green Fuel Levy on air passengers to reduce emissions in the aviation sector.

Statement II: The aviation sector produces 5.2% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

Which one of the following is correct with respect to the above statements?

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

History and Art & Culture

33. Consider the following statements regarding Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati:

- He founded the Arya Samaj and championed the motto "Back to the Vedas," promoting rationality, equality, and justice in society.
- He was the first to demand "Swaraj" for India in 1876, inspiring future nationalist leaders.
- He opposed major social evils such as untouchability, caste discrimination, and child marriage, and advocated for women's education and widow remarriage.
- He established DAV institutions and inspired the introduction of modern, Vedic, and scientific education in India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- 1, 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 4 only
- 2, 3 and 4 only
- All of the above

34. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: Lucknow was declared a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy during the 43rd Session of the UNESCO General Conference held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

Statement II: Lucknow became the first Indian city to receive this distinction.

Which one of the following is correct with respect to the above statements?

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

35. With reference to Mughal miniature paintings, consider the following statements:

- The Mughal School of Painting began under Emperor Babur, who established the first imperial atelier in India.
- Basawan and Daswanth were among the leading artists in Emperor Akbar's court.
- During Jahangir's reign, Mughal painting shifted its focus from narrative scenes to portraits and nature studies.
- Under Aurangzeb, Mughal painting flourished with increased court patronage and innovation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

36. Match the following tribal revolts with their corresponding regions as depicted in India's first Digital Museum of Tribal Freedom Fighters.

Revolt	State
1. Halba Rebellion	Chhattisgarh
2. Sarguja Revolt	Odisha
3. Bhil Uprising	Rajasthan
4. Kol Rebellion	Jharkhand

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

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

37. With reference to India's National Song "Vande Mataram", consider the following statements:

- It was included in Bankim Chandra Chatterjee's novel *Anandamath*.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



2. It was first sung at the 1896 Calcutta Session of the Indian National Congress.
3. The Constitution of India explicitly mentions "Vande Mataram" as the National Song in Article 51A(a).

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
38. In 1912, he attended the Bankipore Congress as a delegate, became Secretary of the Home Rule League in Allahabad in 1919, and was later elected Congress President at the Lahore Session of 1929, where Purna Swaraj was adopted as the national goal. Which of the following personalities best fits this description?
- A. Dr. Rajendra Prasad
 - B. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru
 - C. C. Rajagopalachari
 - D. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

Geography

39. This nation is an archipelago of about 30 islands located in a bay on the southwestern coast of the Persian Gulf, connected to Saudi Arabia via the King Fahd Causeway. It lies west of Qatar, shares maritime borders with Iran, and its highest point is Jabal ad Dukham. Which of the following countries best fits the above description?
- A. Oman
 - B. Bahrain
 - C. Maldives
 - D. Cyprus
40. With reference to Gogabil Lake, which was in news recently, consider the following statements:
1. It lies between the Ganga and Mahananda rivers in the Trans-Gangetic Plains.
 2. It is Bihar's first Community Reserve and an important wintering site along the Central Asian Flyway.
 3. It is a man-made reservoir created for irrigation and flood control purposes.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- A. Only one
 - B. Only two
 - C. All three
 - D. None
41. With reference to tropical forests, consider the following statements:
1. Tropical forests are located between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn and are characterized by high biodiversity.
 2. Tropical rainforests experience heavy rainfall and remain evergreen throughout the year.
 3. Tropical seasonal forests shed their leaves during a dry season and are found in regions like India, Central America, and eastern Africa.
- 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. All of the above
42. With reference to Sal (*Shorea robusta*) forests in India, consider the following statements:
1. Sal forests are typically found in the moist and dry deciduous ecological zones of India.
 2. Saranda, located in Jharkhand, is considered the largest Sal forest in Asia.
 3. Sal forests occur naturally only in the eastern Himalayan region.
- How many of the statements given above are correct?
- A. 1 and 3
 - B. 1 and 2
 - C. 1, 2 and 3
 - D. 2 and 3
43. This Southern African nation is celebrated for its Kalahari Desert, vast savanna landscapes, and the Okavango Delta, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Home to Chobe National Park's large elephant herds, it devotes 17% of its land to conservation and thrives on diamond exports. The country described above is:
- A. Namibia
 - B. Botswana
 - C. Zimbabwe
 - D. Angola

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



44. A country on the western coast of Africa, often called the Giant of Africa, shares borders with Chad, Cameroon, Benin, and the Gulf of Guinea. It has Africa's largest population, major rivers like the Benue, and was recently added as a BRICS partner nation. Which country has been described above?

- A. Ghana
- B. Nigeria
- C. Kenya
- D. Angola

Science and Technology

45. With reference to CMS-03 Satellite, consider the following statements:

1. It has been launched to facilitate seamless communication for the Indian Navy.
2. It was launched using the LVM3 rocket, which also launched the Chandrayaan-3 mission.

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

46. With reference to the private sector participation in India's space sector, consider the following statements:

1. The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) was established as an autonomous body under the Department of Space to promote private sector participation in India's space activities.
2. The Government of India permits up to 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the space sector for manufacturing of satellite components and systems.
3. Skyroot Aerospace became India's first private company to successfully launch a rocket with the Vikram-S suborbital mission.

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. With reference to the Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. The scheme is an initiative of the NITI Aayog with a dedicated corpus of Rs. 1 lakh crore.
2. Its primary funding mechanism for the private sector is through long-term concessional loans.
3. The Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) Governing Board, chaired by the Prime Minister, provides the strategic direction for the scheme.
4. One of its key goals is to establish a Deep-Tech Fund of Funds to support high-tech startups.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

48. Which of the following best describes the No-Cloning Theorem in quantum mechanics?

- A. It says an unknown quantum state can be copied perfectly using entanglement.
- B. It says it is impossible to make an identical copy of an unknown quantum state.
- C. It states that energy cannot be created or destroyed, only transformed.
- D. It states that no two electrons can have the same set of quantum numbers.

49. Consider the following statements regarding Vanadium Redox Flow Battery (VRFB) System:

1. VRFBs store energy through redox reactions involving vanadium ions in different oxidation states.
2. VRFBs are used to provide long-duration energy storage solutions, supporting renewable integration and grid stability.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

50. Consider the following statements about Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA):

1. DNA consists of two long strands that twist around each other to form a double helix.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



2. Each strand of DNA is composed of sugar and phosphate molecules, forming the backbone of the structure.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

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

51. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: The Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues (Amendment) Rules, 2025 have removed the mandatory requirement for clinical specular microscopes in corneal transplantation centres.

Statement II: These clinical specular microscopes were often expensive and difficult to procure for smaller centres.

Which one of the following is correct with respect to the above statements?

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

52. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: Astronomers have observed the largest and most distant flare from a black hole, linked to a tidal disruption event (TDE) in which the black hole consumed a star.

Statement II: A TDE is a cataclysmic phenomenon where a star is torn apart by the intense gravitational forces of a supermassive black hole, releasing an intense flash of radiation.

Which one of the following is correct with respect to the above statements?

- A. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement I
B. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I

- C. Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
D. Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

Agriculture & Allied Sector

53. With reference to Soil Organic Carbon (SOC), consider the following statements:

1. Both unscientific use of fertilizers and increasing temperature reduce the soil organic carbon content.
2. Rice-based and pulse-based cropping systems help in retaining higher organic carbon in the soil. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

54. Consider the following statements:

1. Farmers may save, use, exchange, or sell seed of protected varieties, but not as branded seed under the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPV&FRA) Act, 2001
2. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) is the main agency implementing the PPV&FRA Act.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

55. With reference to Beekeeping and Honey Production in India, consider the following statements:

1. The National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM) is implemented by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).
2. India is the largest exporter of Honey in the world.

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

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



56. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: Speciality fertilisers are advanced nutrient formulations beyond basic NPK (Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium, and Sulphur), like water-soluble, slow-release, and micronutrient-based products.

Statement II: Currently, India is self-reliant in the production of speciality fertilisers.

Which one of the following is correct with respect to the above statements?

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

Miscellaneous**57. Consider the following statements regarding Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak:**

- It was instituted by the Ministry of Home Affairs in 2024.
- The award is announced every year on 31st October, the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- It is given only to personnel of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs).

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

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

58. The recently conducted Exercise Trishul is related to which of the following?

- A joint air force exercise between India, Japan and USA.
- A tri-service (Army, Navy & Air Force) exercise by India.
- A training module under the Gaganyaan Mission.

- A missile development test of the short-range 'Trishul' missile.

59. With reference to the Malabar Naval Exercise, consider the following statements:

- Australia is the latest Quad country to join this exercise.
- Along with the Quad countries, members of the G7 also participate in this exercise.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

60. Consider the following statements regarding the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI):

- DRI was constituted in 1957 under the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs and functions under the Ministry of Finance.
- DRI enforces provisions only under the Customs Act, 1962, and Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

61. Consider the following statements:

- Hockey was introduced in India during British rule in the 1850s.
- The Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna is India's highest sporting award.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

62. Consider the following statements regarding Ricin:

- It is a naturally occurring protein obtained from the castor beans.
- It is classified as a Schedule-1 agent under the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

63. With reference to Exercise Mitra Shakti, consider the following statements:

1. It is an annual joint military exercise between the Indian and Sri Lankan Armies.
2. The 25th edition of this exercise was held in 2025.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

64. Where is India's newest and highest fighter-capable airbase, built by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), located?

- A. Siachen, Jammu & Kashmir

- B. Nyoma, Ladakh
- C. Jodhpur, Rajasthan
- D. Pathankot, Punjab

65. Consider the following statements regarding Ammonium Nitrate:

1. Pure ammonium nitrate is an oxidising agent and not explosive by itself.
2. In India, fertilisers from which ammonium nitrate cannot be extracted are exempt from being treated as explosives.
3. Storage of large quantities in populated areas is prohibited under Ammonium Nitrate Rules, 2012.

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

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

Answers

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

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Explanation:

Polity & Governance

1.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 **Article 1** declares **India as a Union of States, which includes all States, Union Territories, and any territories that may be acquired in the future. Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- 💡 **Articles 2** empowers **Parliament to admit new States into the Union** or establish new States on such terms and conditions as it deems fit. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- 💡 **Article 3** empowers Parliament to form new States, **alter their areas, boundaries, or names, and unite or separate territories. Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**
 - ✦ Such a Bill can be introduced only with the President's recommendation, and if it affects a State's area, boundary, or name, the President must refer it to the concerned State Legislature for its views, which are not binding on Parliament.

2.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)** is the flagship skill-development scheme of the MSDE, launched in July 2015. It aims to provide **free short-duration training, certify skills through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)**, and enhance youth employability across India. **Hence, Statement I is correct**
 - ✦ Training is delivered through approved Training Centres under a standard quality framework aligned with the **National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF)**.
- 💡 It has trained candidates across sectors like manufacturing, construction, healthcare, IT and retail, and has expanded to future-focused areas such as Artificial Intelligence, Drone Technology, Robotics, Mechatronics and Internet of Things (IoT). **Hence, Statement II is not correct.**
- 💡 **Therefore, option C is correct because Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is not correct.**

3.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 **The right to vote is a statutory right under the Representation of the People Act, 1951.** While **Article 326** allows all citizens aged 18 and above to vote, the right itself is interpreted as statutory, not a **Fundamental Right. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- 💡 **Freedom of Voting is considered part of Article 19(1) (a) (guarantees all citizens the right to freedom of speech and expression).**
 - ✦ It covers the voter's ability to express preference, including choosing a candidate or selecting NOTA (None of the Above), but this expressive freedom exists only when an actual poll occurs.
- 💡 **Under Section 53(2) of the RPA, 1951, if the number of contesting candidates is equal to the number of seats to be filled, no poll is conducted.** Instead, the Returning Officer declares the candidates elected uncontested using **Form 21 (for general elections) or Form 21B (for by-elections).** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

4.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 **Section 79 of the Information Technology Act, 2000** grants safe harbour protection to intermediaries, meaning they are not legally liable for user-generated content as long as they act to remove or disable access to unlawful material upon receiving actual knowledge or a takedown order. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 **The Grievance Appellate Committee (GAC)** is established under the **Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021**, made under the Information Technology Act, 2000 hears appeals from users dissatisfied with decisions of Grievance Officers.
 - ✦ It is **not empowered to take suo motu action**; it acts only on appeals filed by users. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



5.

Ans: A

Exp:

🔦 The **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987**, operationalizes the constitutional mandate for free legal aid by establishing a nationwide system to provide legal services to the weaker sections of society, ensuring that economic or other disabilities do not prevent citizens from accessing justice. Hence, **Statement I is correct.**

🔦 **Article 39A of the Indian Constitution is a Directive Principle** that mandates the State to provide free legal aid to ensure that economic constraints do not prevent any citizen from accessing justice. Hence, **Statement II is correct**

✦ This provision was added by the **42nd Amendment Act of 1976** to uphold the principles of equal justice and equal opportunity.

🔦 Therefore, **option C is correct because both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I**

6.

Ans: A

Explanation

🔦 **Migration:** According to the **International Organization for Migration (IOM)**, migration is the **movement of people** away from their usual place of residence to a new place of residence, either across an international border or within a State.

🔦 Under India's NSS, **migration refers to movement that changes an individual's Usual Place of Residence (UPR).**

🔦 A person is considered a migrant if their last UPR differs from the current place of enumeration.

🔦 **Migration in India:** Migration in India (2020-2021) report contains estimates of the indicators based on information collected Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2020–21.

✦ The report showed India's migration rate at 28.9%, with **women migrating far more than men in both rural and urban areas.**

✦ Reasons for moving differed sharply: **67% of men migrated for work, while 87% of women moved due to marriage.** Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

✦ **Rural female migration was 48% compared to 5.9% for men.** A similar pattern appeared in urban areas as well, where **47.8% of women migrated**, while **urban men** showed a migration rate of **22.5%**

🔦 Overall, **male migration** remains significantly **higher in urban areas (22.5%)** than in **rural areas (5.9%).** Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**

7.

Ans: A

Exp:

🔦 The **PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (NMP)** is a **GIS-based digital platform** developed under the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**. It integrates over **550 layers of spatial data** covering transport networks, logistics hubs, industrial clusters, and environmental assets to facilitate coordinated infrastructure planning. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

🔦 The platform enables **inter-ministerial and inter-departmental coordination**, allowing multiple agencies to plan, approve, and monitor projects on a common digital interface. This integration helps **avoid duplication, reduce cost overruns, and minimize project delays** through real-time data sharing. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

🔦 The plan is coordinated by **DPIIT** under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, not by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH). Hence, **statement 3 is not correct.**

8.

Ans: B

Explanation:

Schedule M of the Drugs and Cosmetic Act 1940

🔦 The **Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI)** has instructed state drug regulators to enforce revised **Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) under Schedule M of the Drugs and cosmetic act 1940** and rules 1945, by January 2026, aligning India's pharmaceutical manufacturing norms with global standards.

🔦 The Schedule M under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 (and the corresponding Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945) serves as the **statutory framework** that ensures all medicines produced in the country are **safe, effective, and of consistent quality**, both for domestic use and export.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025UPSC
Classroom
CoursesIAS Current
Affairs Module
CourseDrishti
Learning
App

- In 2023, the Centre revised **Schedule M** requirements wherein **“GMP”** was upgraded to **“good manufacturing practices and requirements of plan and equipment for pharmaceutical products”** to align India’s drug manufacturing standards with World Health Organization (WHO) -GMP norms.
- Hence, option (b) is correct.

International Relations

9.

Ans: B

Exp:

- Chabahar Port** is situated in **Iran’s Sistan-Baluchestan province** on the **Gulf of Oman**, near the **mouth of the Strait of Hormuz**.
- It is **Iran’s only oceanic and deep water port**, giving direct access to the Indian Ocean. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The Chabahar port is located about **170 km west of Pakistan’s Gwadar Port**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- It serves as a key node in the **International North–South Transport Corridor (INSTC)** linking India with **Iran–Caspian Sea–Russia–Europe** and strengthens India’s maritime connectivity and energy security in the Indian Ocean Region. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
- Chabahar Port provides direct access to Afghanistan and Central Asia, bypassing Pakistan. Hence, **statement 4 is not correct**.
- India Secures Six-Month US Waiver for Chabahar Port**

10.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)** founded in **1989**, is a regional forum of **21 economies** that promotes balanced, inclusive, sustainable, and innovative growth while advancing regional economic integration across the Asia-Pacific.
 - It uses the term **“economies”** instead of **“countries”** to stress economic cooperation over political representation.
 - APEC operates on **consensus and voluntary participation**, with all members having an **equal voice** and decisions made through dialogue. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

- The APEC process is supported by a **permanent secretariat based in Singapore**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- India is not a member of APEC**, and views APEC as a gateway to deeper trade, investment, and regional integration in the Asia-Pacific. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.
 - APEC membership would help India align with global trade standards, simplify procedures, and attract more foreign investment

11.

Ans: B

Exp:

- India** upholds a **voluntary moratorium** on nuclear testing but chooses not to make it a **legally binding treaty commitment**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- India** follows a **No First Use (NFU)** policy, formally declared in its **2003 Nuclear Doctrine**, which emphasizes **credible minimum deterrence** as a cornerstone of national security. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

12.

Ans: B

Exp:

- Golden Dome (US, proposed), Patriot (US), HQ-16 (China), and Avenger System (US)** are **air defence and missile interception systems** designed to detect, track, and destroy incoming enemy aircraft, drones, and missiles.
- Air Defence Systems:**

Country	Air Defence Systems
India	Akash System, Prithvi Air Defence (PAD), QRSAM (Quick Reaction SAM).
USA	Golden Dome Missile Defense System (proposed), Patriot, THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense), NASAMS (National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System), Avenger System.
Russia	S-400 “Triumph”, S-500 “Prometey”, Buk and Tor Systems.
China	HQ-9, HQ-16, HQ-22, HQ-19
Israel	Iron Dome, David’s Sling, Arrow 2 and Arrow 3.

- Hence, option B is correct.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



13.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 Sudan is gripped by a **devastating civil war** that has **derailed its democratic transition** and created one of the world's **worst humanitarian crises**.
- 💡 The war stems from a **power struggle** between two rival military factions — the **Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF)** led by **General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan** and the **Rapid Support Forces (RSF)** led by **General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo (Hemedti)**.
- 💡 The conflict spread from **Khartoum** to **Darfur, Kordofan, El Fasher and Gezira**, and turned into **Sudan's worst crisis in decades**.
- 💡 Hence, option B is correct.

14.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 **Abraham Accords:** The Abraham Accords are US-brokered agreements (2020) that normalised ties between Israel and several **Arab/Muslim-majority countries**
 - ✦ The accords are named after the **biblical figure Abraham**, considered a common ancestor of Jews and Arabs, symbolising brotherhood.
- 💡 **Key Signatories:** The key signatories to the Abraham Accords include **Israel, UAE, Bahrain, and Morocco (all in 2020)**, and **Sudan (2021)**.
 - ✦ The **UAE was the first to announce full normalisation**, followed by Bahrain. Sudan joined after being removed from the US terror list, while Morocco normalised ties in exchange for US recognition of its Western Sahara claim.
 - ✦ Recently, US President Donald Trump announced that **Kazakhstan will join the Abraham Accords**, expanding the framework that normalises relations between Israel and Muslim-majority nations.
 - ✦ **India is not a signatory** to the Abraham Accords.
- 💡 Hence, option B is correct.

Economy

15.

Ans: D

Exp:

- 💡 The textile industry contributes over 2% to India's GDP (2.3%), makes up over 13% of industrial

production, and accounts for about 12% of total exports.

- 💡 For 2023–24, India's textile exports were valued at USD 34.4 billion, with apparel forming the largest portion at approximately 42%.
- 💡 Around 80% of the production capacity is situated in MSME clusters, highlighting the decentralized and inclusive nature of the sector.
- 💡 The textile industry provides direct employment to over 45 million people in India and is the second-largest job creator after agriculture.
- 💡 Hence, all the statements are correct.

16.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 The **United States (20%)** and **Singapore (14.3%)** together contributed **over one-third of India's total FDI during 2024–25**, reaffirming their position as India's top investment partners. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- 💡 The **manufacturing sector** attracted the **highest share of FDI (48.4%)**, followed by services, aligning with India's industrialisation and export-led growth objectives. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- 💡 **Outward Direct Investment (ODI)** grew at **17.9%**, faster than **FDI growth of 11.1%**, thereby **narrowing**, not widening, the inward-to-outward direct investment ratio from **6.3 to 5.9**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

17.

Ans: B

Exp:

Trends in India's Household Financial Health

- 💡 **Debt Outpacing Asset Creation:** Household financial liabilities grew **102%** between 2019-20 and 2024-25, compared with a **48%** rise in assets. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - ✦ Borrowing is **expanding almost twice as fast as saving**, reflecting higher credit dependence.
- 💡 **Weaker Savings Relative to GDP:** Fresh financial assets fell from **12% of GDP (2019-20)** to **10.8% (2024-25)**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
 - ✦ **Liabilities as a share of GDP** increased from **3.9% to 4.7%**, peaking at **6.2% in 2023-24** before easing.
 - ✦ The divergence highlights weaker household balance sheets and reduced capacity to absorb shocks.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



💡 **Deposits Remain Dominant:** Deposits in **commercial banks** made up 32% of total household financial assets added in 2019-20, which grew marginally to **33.3% by 2024-25**.

✦ This shows households are adding other investment options like mutual funds while still keeping bank deposits as their main choice.

Hence, statement 3 is correct.

✦ Other avenues like life insurance, provident and pension funds, equity, and small savings kept a **largely stable share between 2019-20 and 2024-25**.

18.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 **Digital gold** is not classified or regulated as a **security** or **commodity derivative** and lacks the **investor protection mechanisms** available for **SEBI-approved products**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

💡 **Digital gold** allows investors to **buy, sell, and store gold electronically** without physical possession, with its price linked to **physical gold**. It is created using **blockchain technology**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

💡 Digital gold investors may face **counterparty risk**, and market safeguards like **insurance, grievance redressal, and guaranteed settlements do not apply**, leaving investors without formal recourse. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

19.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 **Special Economic Zones (SEZs)** are **duty-free enclaves** treated as **foreign territory for trade, duties, and tariff purposes**, aimed at promoting export competitiveness and attracting foreign investment. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 SEZs can be established by the **private sector, public sector, joint ventures, or State Government agencies**, providing flexibility and enabling broader participation in industrial development. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

💡 Although the idea of SEZs was first introduced under the **Foreign Trade Policy (2000)**, they are **now governed by a dedicated legal framework** of the **SEZ Act, 2005** and **SEZ Rules, 2006**, which provide statutory backing and regulatory clarity. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

20.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 India's diversification strategy seeks to **reduce dependence on the US market**, focusing instead on expanding trade with Africa, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia.

💡 India's **FTAs with UAE, Japan, and South Korea** have helped open new export destinations and lower tariff barriers, supporting regional diversification.

💡 India's policy **actively promotes**, not discourages, regional and bilateral engagement through FTAs and trade pacts to enhance export outreach.

💡 **PLI Schemes** encourage domestic manufacturing in high-value sectors like electronics and pharmaceuticals, improving export competitiveness and supply chain resilience. **Hence, option C is correct.**

21.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 The **Gini Coefficient** is a measure of **income or wealth inequality** within a population.

✦ A value of **0** means **every person has the same income (perfect equality)**, while a value of **1** means **a single individual receives all the income (perfect inequality)**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 The **Gini Coefficient** is derived from the **Lorenz Curve**, not the **Kuznets Curve**. The **Lorenz Curve** is a graphical representation of the distribution of **income or wealth**. The **Gini Coefficient** is calculated as the ratio of the area between the line of **perfect equality** and the **Lorenz Curve** to the total area under the line of **perfect equality**.

✦ The **Kuznets Curve**, on the other hand, is a hypothetical **inverted-U-shaped relationship** between **economic development** and **income inequality**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

22.

Ans: D

Exp:

💡 **Anti-dumping duty (ADD)** is used when foreign goods enter the domestic market at prices **lower than their normal value**, causing injury to local producers. It deals with **unfair pricing**, not with subsidies. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



💡 **Countervailing duty (CVD)** addresses a different issue: it offsets the effect of *government-provided subsidies* in the exporting country that artificially reduce production costs and distort fair competition. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**

✘ ADD and CVD are applied under separate **WTO agreements**—ADD under the *Anti-Dumping Agreement* and CVD under the *Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures*.

💡 The purpose of these two duties is distinct: ADD corrects price-based distortions, whereas CVD neutralizes subsidy-driven distortions.

23.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 The **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)** represents the maritime area where a coastal nation exercises special rights over marine resources. It extends **up to 200 nautical miles from the baseline**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

💡 According to **Article 56 of UNCLOS**, within the EEZ, a coastal state enjoys sovereign rights for the **exploration, exploitation, conservation, and management** of both **living resources** (fish, marine organisms) and **non-living resources** (oil, gas, minerals) of the water column and seabed. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

💡 The **UNCLOS (1982)** explicitly provides coastal states jurisdiction over **marine scientific research, environmental protection, and artificial structures** within the EEZ. Therefore, the statement that it excludes research is incorrect. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct.**

💡 **India's EEZ**, extending up to 200 nautical miles from its coastline, is **among the largest globally**, spanning over **2 million sq km**, and contributes significantly to its **marine resources, trade, and fisheries-based livelihoods**. Hence, **statement 4 is correct.**

Environment & Ecology

24.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 At the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) to the UNFCCC held in Glasgow, the Government of India strongly voiced the concerns of developing countries

and outlined the *Panchamrit*—five key elements of India's climate action:

✘ Achieve **500 GW of non-fossil energy capacity** by 2030.

✘ Meet **50% of energy requirements** from renewable sources by 2030. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

✘ **Reduce total projected carbon emissions by 1 billion tonnes** by 2030.

✘ **Cut the carbon intensity of the economy by 45%** by 2030, compared to 2005 levels. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

✘ Achieve **net-zero emissions by 2070.**

25.

Ans: C

Exp:

Rowmari–Donduwa Wetland Complex

💡 **Location:** It is located within the **Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS)**, a part of the **Kaziranga Tiger Reserve in Assam**. It is an interconnected floodplain–marsh system spanning about 2.5 to 3 square kilometres. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**

💡 **Biodiversity:** It hosts a **higher diversity** of bird species compared to the two existing Ramsar sites in Northeast India — **Deepor Beel (Assam) and Loktak Lake (Manipur)**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

💡 The 2025 Kaziranga Wetland Bird Census recorded 47,000+ birds from 75–88 species, including Knob-billed Duck, Black-necked Stork, and Ferruginous Pochard.

💡 **Ramsar Site Designation:** The complex has **not yet been designated as a Ramsar Site**. Conservationists and forest officials have strongly proposed its inclusion due to its ecological significance. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct.**

26.

Ans: D

Exp:

💡 **Biosphere Reserves (BRs)** are special areas designated to **conserve biodiversity** while supporting **sustainable development**. They serve as “**learning places for sustainable development,**” helping study and manage interactions between people and nature. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

💡 Biosphere reserves include **terrestrial, marine and coastal ecosystems**. Each site promotes solutions

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



reconciling the conservation of biodiversity with its sustainable use. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

- 🔦 The **Great Rann of Kutch Biosphere Reserve in Gujarat is India's largest**, covering about 12,454 sq km (notified in 2008). It protects a unique saline desert with seasonal wetlands and grasslands supporting the Indian wild ass and many migratory birds. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

27.

Ans: C

Exp:

Tractor Emission Norms (TREM)

- 🔦 **Tractor Emission Norms (TREM):** These are pollution-control standards set by the government to regulate and reduce harmful exhaust emissions from **agricultural tractors and farm machinery**.
 - ✦ Farmers' organisations have opposed the Union government's proposal to implement **Tractor Emission Norms (TREM) Stage V** for tractors from 1st October 2026, urging that the rules would **force farmers to buy new tractors**, increasing debt and economic hardship. Hence, **statement I is correct**.
 - ✦ They are similar to **Bharat Stage (BS) norms** for other vehicles but are **specifically designed for agricultural equipment** to limit pollutants like **NOx, particulate matter (PM), hydrocarbons, and carbon monoxide**.
- 🔦 **TREM Stages:** India introduced tractor emission norms in **1999**, followed by Bharat (Trem) Stage II in 2003 based on the **Expert Committee on Auto Fuel Policy (Mashelkar Committee, 2002)**, and Bharat (Trem) Stage -III in 2005. Hence, **statement II is not correct**.
 - ✦ TREM-III (2010–11) brought **horsepower (HP)-based limits**, and TREM-IV was implemented in 2023 for tractors **above 50 HP to further curb emissions**.
- 🔦 **Impact:** TREM-IV and V norms for tractors above 50 HP could increase tractor prices by **20–25%**, adding pressure on small farmers.
 - ✦ Farmers insist TREM-V should apply only to **tractors above 70 HP**, mostly used for non-agricultural work.
- 🔦 **Therefore, option C is correct because Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect.**

28.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 🔦 **The NGT Act, 2010** specifies in its **Schedule I** the environmental laws under which the Tribunal exercises **original jurisdiction**. These Acts are the basis for adjudicating disputes relating to **environmental protection, conservation, pollution control, and hazardous substances**.
- 🔦 The NGT deals with **civil cases** under the **seven laws** related to the environment, these include:
 - ✦ The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974,
 - ✦ The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977,
 - ✦ The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980,
 - ✦ The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981,
 - ✦ The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986,
 - ✦ The Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 and
 - ✦ The Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- 🔦 The **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972** is **not** included in Schedule I of the NGT Act and therefore does not fall under NGT's original jurisdiction.
- 🔦 **Hence, option C is correct.**

29.

Ans: D

Exp:

- 🔦 There are four species of Bustards in India – The Great Indian Bustard, Lesser Florican, Bengal Florican and Houbara Bustard.
- 🔦 Great Indian Bustard (GIB) is found in India and the eastern regions of Pakistan. It lives in arid and semi-arid grasslands, open landscapes with thorny scrub and tall grasses mixed with cultivation.
- 🔦 The **GIB** is omnivorous and highly vulnerable to power line collisions due to its **poor frontal vision**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- 🔦 The **Lesser Florican is the smallest bird in the bustard family**. It has a small body with longish bill and legs. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- 🔦 Lesser Florican breeds in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh and it is a **rare summer visitor to the Terai region of Nepal**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



30.

Ans: B

Exp:

Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary

- 💡 **Location:** It is the **largest wildlife sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh**, declared in 1975. The entire Sanctuary is situated on the upper Vindhyan plateau within the Deccan Peninsula biogeographic region.
- 💡 **Rivers & Drainage:** Three fourth of Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary falls in the Yamuna (Ganges) basin and one fourth of the sanctuary falls in the Narmada basin. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- 💡 **Flora:** Teak is the main species, along with Saja, Dhaora, Bhirra, Mahua, Tendu, Ber, Bel, Gunja, and Amla.
- 💡 **Fauna:** It hosts tiger, leopard, wild dog, sloth bear, and Indian wolf (*Canis lupus pallipes*), alongside nilgai, chinkara, spotted deer, sambar, and blackbuck.
 - ✦ The **Indian wolf** is recognised as the sanctuary's keystone species, reflecting its strong canid presence. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 **Habitat & Forests:** The area is dominated by Tropical Dry Deciduous forests of the central Indian monsoon zone. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

31.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 Mussels are **bivalve mollusks** (shell-bearing invertebrates with two hinged shells). They are found in both **marine (family Mytilidae)** and **freshwater (family Unionidae)** environments. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- 💡 Mussels are used as **bioindicators** because they are **sessile, filter-feeding organisms** that accumulate **contaminants like heavy metals, microplastics**, and other pollutants in their tissues, providing a record of water quality over time. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

32.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 **Singapore** has become the **first country in the world to introduce a Green Fuel Levy** on air passengers departing from the country, starting next year. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- 💡 The revenue generated will be used for the centralised purchase of **Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)** to help the aviation industry cut emissions.

- 💡 The aviation sector produces **1.2% of global greenhouse gas emissions**, yet SAF, despite being a promise, remains costly and scarce, forming only 0.3% of global jet fuel in 2024. **Hence, statement II is not correct.**
- 💡 **Therefore, option C is correct because Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect.**

History and Art & Culture

33

Ans: A

Exp:

Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati:

- 💡 Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati founded the Arya Samaj and emphasized the motto "Back to the Vedas," aiming to revive authentic Vedic teachings and bring rationality, equality, and justice to Hindu society. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 He was the first to call for "Swaraj" (self-rule) in 1876, well before it became the national demand, directly inspiring later leaders of India's freedom movement like Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Lala Lajpat Rai, and Mahatma Gandhi. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 Dayanand Saraswati actively opposed social evils including untouchability, caste discrimination, polygamy, child marriage, and gender inequality. He advocated for progressive reforms such as women's education, widow remarriage, and the upliftment of depressed classes. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- 💡 He inspired the establishment of Dayanand Anglo-Vedic (DAV) institutions such as schools and colleges, integrating Vedic values with modern scientific education. The first DAV school was founded in Lahore, and the network grew as a pioneering educational movement. **Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**

34.

Ans: C

Exp:

UNESCO 'Creative City of Gastronomy'

- 💡 **Lucknow** has officially been declared a **UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy** during the **43rd Session of the UNESCO General Conference** held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- 💡 **Reasons for Inclusion:** The recognition honours **Lucknow's rich Awadhi cuisine**, known for **kebabs**,

Prepare with DrishtiIASUPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025UPSC
Classroom
CoursesIAS Current
Affairs Module
CourseDrishti
Learning
App

biryanis, kormas, and sheermal, reflecting its culinary artistry, hospitality, and cultural heritage.

✦ Lucknow is now the 2nd Indian city, after Hyderabad (2019) to achieve this distinction. Hence, statement II is not correct.

💡 **Criteria for Creative City of Gastronomy:** A city must have

- ✦ A rich culinary heritage, traditional ingredients and skills,
- ✦ Promote sustainability and food education,
- ✦ Foster community participation and cultural exchange through food, etc.

💡 Therefore, option C is correct because Statement I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect.

35.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 Babur (1526–1530) made no significant contribution to painting, as his short reign was primarily devoted to military conquests.

✦ Akbar (1556–1605) was the true founder of Mughal painting, who established the Imperial Atelier (Tasvir Khana) and blended Persian techniques with Indian themes and naturalism. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

💡 Basawan, Daswanth, Lal, Miskin, and Kesu Das were prominent painters during Akbar's court. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

💡 Mughal painting peaked under Jahangir's supervision, shifting focus from narrative scenes to portraits, nature studies, and album art. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

💡 Aurangzeb (1658–1707) showed little interest in painting, viewing it as un-Islamic, leading to a decline in imperial patronage. Hence, statement 4 is not correct.

36.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 The Halba Rebellion (1774–1779) was one of the earliest tribal uprisings in Chhattisgarh, led by the Halba tribe against Maratha and British interference. Hence, pair (a) is correctly matched.

💡 The Sarguja Revolt occurred in Chhattisgarh, not in Odisha, and reflected tribal resistance against British

control and local exploitation. Hence, pair (b) is not correctly matched.

💡 The Bhil Uprising primarily took place in Rajasthan (and adjoining areas of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh), led by Bhil tribes protesting British oppression and local injustices. Hence, pair (c) is correctly matched.

💡 The Kol Rebellion (1831–32) took place in Jharkhand, where the Kol tribes revolted against moneylenders and landlords under British authority. Hence, pair (d) is correctly matched.

37.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 *Vande Mataram* was composed by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee and later included in his novel *Anandamath* (1882). It was set to music by Rabindranath Tagore, symbolizing devotion and national unity. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

💡 The song was first sung publicly at the 1896 Calcutta Session of the Indian National Congress, where it became an enduring symbol of India's freedom struggle. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

💡 The Constitution of India does not explicitly mention "Vande Mataram" as the National Song; however, Article 51A(a) enjoins citizens to respect the Constitution, National Flag, and National Anthem, not the National Song. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

38.

Ans: B

Exp:

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

💡 In 1912, he attended the Bankipore Congress as a delegate, and became Secretary of the Home Rule League, Allahabad in 1919.

💡 In 1928, Nehru attended the All-Party Congress and signed the Nehru Report on constitutional reforms (named after his father Shri Motilal Nehru). In the same year, he founded the 'Independence for India League,' advocating complete break from British rule, and became its General Secretary.

💡 Also, Jawaharlal Nehru was elected as Congress President at the landmark Lahore Session (1929), which adopted Poorna Swaraj as the national goal.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Geography

39.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 🔦 **Bahrain** is a small Arab island country situated in a bay on the **southwestern coast of the Persian Gulf**. The country is an archipelago of around 30 islands, with Bahrain Island being the largest.
- 🔦 It is situated to the east of **Saudi Arabia** and west of **Qatar**. **Bahrain** also shares a maritime border with the **Islamic Republic of Iran** and is connected to Saudi Arabia via the **King Fahd Causeway**.
- 🔦 Most of Bahrain consists of desert with low, rocky and sandy plains. Its highest point is **Jabal ad Dukham**.
- 🔦 Hence, **option B is correct**.

40.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 🔦 **Gogabil Lake** is an **ox-bow wetland** located in **Katihar district, Bihar, between the Ganga and Mahananda rivers** in the Trans-Gangetic Plains, making it a **unique fluvial formation**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- 🔦 It is **Bihar's first Community Reserve** and a vital wintering site along the **Central Asian Flyway**, hosting threatened bird species such as the Black-bellied Tern, Lesser Adjutant Stork, and Ferruginous Duck. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- 🔦 Gogabil is a **natural ox-bow lake**, not a man-made reservoir. It is a **permanent freshwater body** that shrinks during summer but never dries completely. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

41.

Ans: D

Exp:

- 🔦 **Tropical forests** are dense, **warm-weather (20-25°C) forests** found in the **equatorial region** (between **23.5°N and 23.5°S latitude**, between the **Tropic of Cancer** and the **Tropic of Capricorn**). They are characterized by high **biodiversity**, towering **trees**, and a multi-layered **canopy** that creates a unique **ecosystem**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- 🔦 **Tropical rainforests** are biologically rich, receive **heavy rainfall** (over 2,000 mm/year), maintain **warm**

and **humid conditions year-round**, and remain **evergreen**, as seen in the **Amazon, Congo Basin, and Southeast Asia**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

- 🔦 **Tropical seasonal (dry) forests** experience a **distinct dry season**, causing trees to shed leaves, found in **India, Central America, and eastern Africa**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

42.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 🔦 **Sal** thrives in **moist and dry deciduous forest formations** across eastern, central, and northern India, making these its primary ecological zones. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- 🔦 The **Saranda Forest** of Jharkhand represents one of the **largest and most continuous Sal-dominated forest landscapes in Asia**, noted for its extensive canopy cover and ecological integrity. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- 🔦 **Sal forests are not restricted to the eastern Himalayas**; they occur widely across Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, and the Uttarakhand Shivalik–Terai belt. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

43.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 🔦 Botswana is a landlocked country in **Southern Africa**, bordered by **South Africa (south & east), Namibia (west), and Zimbabwe (east)**. **Kalahari Desert** covers over **70% of Botswana's landmass**; though called a desert, it receives moderate rainfall and supports vegetation.
- 🔦 It hosts the **Okavango Delta**, one of the **world's largest inland deltas** and a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, and **Chobe National Park**, famous for its **elephant population**.
- 🔦 Approximately **17% of its land** is designated for **national parks and wildlife conservation**.
- 🔦 Economically, it is a **major global diamond producer**, contributing nearly **20% of the world's output**, with **diamonds making up around 80% of its exports**.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App





👉 Hence, option B is correct.

44.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 👉 Nigeria is located on the **western coast of Africa** and is often called the **Giant of Africa** because of its **size, population, and economic influence** on the continent.
 - ✦ It shares borders with **Niger** to the north, **Chad** and **Cameroon** to the east, the **Gulf of Guinea** to the south, and **Benin** to the west.
- 👉 Nigeria has the **world's 6th largest population** and **Africa's largest**, and it ranks as the **4th largest economy in Africa**.
- 👉 Nigeria's main drainage basins are the **Niger–Benue**, **Lake Chad**, and the **Gulf of Guinea**. The **Niger River** and its major tributary, the **Benue River**, are the country's most important rivers.
- 👉 Nigeria recently became the **9th BRICS partner country** (without membership or decision-making power), joining **Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Thailand, Uganda, and Uzbekistan**.
- 👉 Hence, option B is correct.

Science and Technology

45.

Ans: D

CMS-03 (GSAT-7R)

- 👉 The CMS-03, also known as GSAT-7R, was launched aboard the **Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3)** on its fifth operational mission (LVM3-M5).

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



It is a state-of-the-art, multi-band communication satellite designed to provide **seamless and secure communication across the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)** and the Indian mainland for the **Indian Navy**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

✦ Weighing around **4,400 kg**, CMS-03 is the heaviest communication satellite ever launched to Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) from **India**.

It was launched using the **LVM3 rocket**, which was the same launch vehicle used for the **Chandrayaan-3 mission**, which made India the first nation to successfully land near the lunar south pole. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

46.

Ans: D

Exp:

The **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe)** was established in **June 2020** as an **autonomous nodal agency under the Department of Space**, providing a **single-window mechanism** for private entities to access ISRO's infrastructure and expertise while functioning **independently of ISRO's hierarchy**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

India's revised **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy** for the space sector allows **100% FDI automatically for manufacturing components**, 74% for satellite manufacturing and operation, and 49% for launch vehicles and spaceports. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

Skyroot Aerospace, a Hyderabad-based startup, made history in **November 2022** by launching the **Vikram-S suborbital rocket**, becoming **India's first private company** to achieve this milestone. It now aims for **India's first private commercial satellite launch in January 2026**, marking a new phase in India's private space industry. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

47.

Ans: B

Exp:

The RDI Scheme is an initiative by the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)** with a corpus of **Rs 1 lakh crore** to promote private sector participation in research, innovation, and technology commercialization. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.

Its primary funding mechanism for the private sector is through **financing or refinancing at low or zero interest rates**, aimed at boosting investment in **R&D and innovation**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) Governing Board, chaired by the **Prime Minister**, guides the **RDI Scheme's strategic direction**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

The scheme supports **sunrise sectors, strategic industries, and critical technologies**, finances **high-TRL projects**, and establishes a **Deep-Tech Fund of Funds** to promote **high-tech startups**. Hence, **statement 4 is correct**.

48.

Ans: B

Explanation:

Quantum Key Distribution (QKD)

QKD is a secure communication technology that uses the principles of **quantum mechanics** to generate and share **encryption keys** between two parties, ensuring that the data exchanged **cannot be intercepted or hacked** — even by quantum computers.

Its core promise is to detect the presence of any third party trying to eavesdrop on the key exchange.

Core Principle: The strong security of QKD is based on two key quantum principles:

✦ **No-Cloning Theorem:** An unknown quantum state cannot be copied, so an eavesdropper cannot duplicate photons without changing them. Hence, option (b) is correct.

✦ **Observer Effect:** Measuring quantum particles disturbs them, meaning any attempt to spy on the key creates detectable changes.

Functioning: QKD uses qubits (quantum bits) transmitted through optical fibers via total internal reflection to securely exchange encryption keys between two users.

✦ Unlike classical bits, qubits, encoded on photons, are highly sensitive to interference, and any eavesdropping disrupts them, enabling tamper-evident quantum encryption.

49.

Ans: C

Exp:

Vanadium Redox Flow Battery (VRFB) System is a type of **electrochemical energy storage system** that uses **vanadium ions in different oxidation states** to

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



store and release electrical energy through **redox (reduction–oxidation) reactions**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

✦ Unlike **conventional batteries**, a VRFB stores energy in liquid electrolytes kept in external tanks, making it modular and easily scalable.

💡 VRFBs are scalable, durable, and safe energy storage systems that store excess **solar and wind power**, providing **long-duration backup** and **grid stability** for renewable integration. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

50.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) has a **double helix structure**, discovered by **James Watson** and **Francis Crick** in **1953**, which revolutionized **biology** and laid the foundation for **modern genetics**, **biotechnology**, and **medical research**.

💡 DNA consists of **two long strands** that twist around each other to form a **helical shape**, creating the **“double helix.”** Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

💡 Each strand is made up of **sugar and phosphate molecules**, which form the backbone of the structure. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

✦ The two strands are connected by **nitrogenous base pairs**, with Adenine (A) always pairing with Thymine (T), and Cytosine (C) pairing with Guanine (G).

51.

Ans: A

Exp:

Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues (Amendment) Rules, 2025

💡 **Eases Equipment Requirements:** The mandatory requirement for **clinical specular microscopes in corneal transplantation centres** has been removed. Hence, **statement I is correct**.

✦ These microscopes, used to assess **corneal cell health**, were often expensive and difficult to procure for smaller centres. Hence, **statement II is correct**.

✦ The amendment will **ease infrastructure and operational hurdles** for smaller eye centres, improving access to corneal transplant services nationwide.

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

52.

Ans: A

Exp:

Astronomers have detected the **largest and most distant flare** from a **black hole**, originating from the **supermassive black hole** at the heart of the **Active Galactic Nucleus (AGN) J2245+3743**, located **10 billion light-years** away from Earth.

💡 **Brightest Flare:** First observed in **2018**, this black hole is responsible for the **brightest flare ever recorded**, linked to a **tidal disruption event (TDE)** caused by the consumption of a star. Hence, **statement I is correct**.

✦ A **TDE** is a cataclysmic phenomenon where a **star is torn** apart by the **intense gravitational forces** of a supermassive black hole, releasing an **intense flash of radiation**. Hence, **statement II is correct**.

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

Agriculture & Allied Sector

53.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 The **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** has released a comprehensive study on **Soil Organic Carbon (SOC) dynamics** across India, highlighting the combined impacts of fertiliser use, climate change, and cropping systems on soil health and fertility.

✦ **Impact of Fertilisers and Climate Change:**

📎 **Unscientific fertiliser use and rising temperatures reduce soil organic carbon.** Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

📎 States like Haryana, Punjab, and parts of Western Uttar Pradesh overuse urea and phosphorus, harming soil health, while Bihar, with balanced fertiliser use, fares better.

✦ **Influence of Environmental Factors:**

📎 **Organic carbon is higher at higher elevations and lower in lowlands**, and decreases with higher temperatures, as seen in Rajasthan and Telangana. Rainfall has a smaller effect compared to temperature and elevation.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



✦ **Impact of Cropping Systems:**

- ✍ Rice-based and pulse-based systems help retain higher organic carbon due to microbial activity and irrigation. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ✍ Wheat and coarse-grain systems have lower organic carbon content.

✦ **Correlation with Micronutrients:**

- ✍ Low organic carbon results in higher micronutrient deficiency, while high organic carbon improves soil fertility.

54.

Ans: A

Exp:

Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPV&FRA) Act, 2001

- 💡 The PPV&FR Act, 2001 under the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**, establishes a sui generis system for protecting plant varieties.
 - ✦ The Act provides legal recognition to both commercial plant breeders and farmers, promoting conservation and improvement of plant genetic resources.
- 💡 **Rights under the Act:**
 - ✦ **Breeders' Rights:** Breeders get exclusive rights to produce, sell, market, distribute, import, or export protected varieties. They may appoint agents or licensees and can seek legal action for infringement.
 - ✦ **Researchers' Rights:** Researchers may use any registered variety for experiments or to develop new varieties but repeated use needs prior permission of the registered breeder.
 - ✦ **Farmers' Rights:** Under the act, a farmer who has evolved or developed a new variety is entitled to register it and receive protection in the same manner as a breeder.
 - ✦ A farmer can continue to save, use, sow, re-sow, exchange, share, or sell his farm produce, including seed, **even if the variety is protected under the PPV&FR Act, but he cannot sell it as branded seed. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 **Implementing Authority:** Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPV&FRA) is the primary body responsible for the implementation of the Act. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

55.

Ans: D

Exp:

National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM)

- 💡 The **National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM)** is a **Central Sector Scheme** launched by the Government of India for the overall promotion and development of scientific beekeeping and the production of quality honey and other beehive products.
- 💡 **Implementing Agency:** The scheme, implemented by the **National Bee Board (NBB)**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- 💡 **Ranking:**
 - ✦ India is the **second largest exporter** of honey, after China, as of 2024. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ✦ Major Indian states producing honey include **Uttar Pradesh (17%), West Bengal (16%), Punjab (14%), Bihar (12%) and Rajasthan (9%)**.
 - ✦ Major export destinations included the **USA, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Libya**.

56.

Ans: C

Exp:

Speciality Fertilisers

- 💡 **About:** Speciality fertilisers are **advanced formulations** beyond basic **NPK** (Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium, and Sulphur), including water-soluble, slow or controlled-release, and **micronutrient-based products** that enhance nutrient efficiency and crop-specific performance. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- 💡 **Examples:** **Chelated micronutrients** (Fe-EDTA, Zn-EDTA, Fe-EDDHA), **water-soluble fertilisers** (WSFs) such as monoammonium phosphate (MAP) and potassium nitrate (KNO₃); and **stabilised nitrogen fertilisers** with urease inhibitors (NBPT).
- 💡 **Uses:**
 - ✦ For **high-value crops** (fruits, vegetables, flowers) and horticulture.
 - ✦ For **soils** with specific deficiencies or in micronutrient-deficient zones (zinc, boron, etc).
 - ✦ For **precision agriculture** and improved nutrient-use efficiency.
- 💡 **India & Speciality Fertilisers:**
 - ✦ India currently imports about **95% of its speciality fertilisers**-mainly water-soluble and

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



advanced formulations, due to **limited domestic R&D, raw material shortages**, and China's market dominance. **Hence, statement II is not correct.**

- ✦ India has recently initiated its **first indigenous water-soluble fertiliser** production and secured supply contracts with **Russia, Jordan, Israel, and Morocco** to curb excessive dependence on China.

💡 **Therefore, option C is correct because Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect.**

Miscellaneous

57.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 **Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak** was instituted by the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** in February 2024. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- ✦ It honours excellence in Special Operations, Investigation, Intelligence, and Forensic Science, promoting professionalism, **high ethical standards, and motivation among security and police personnel.**

💡 It is announced **annually on 31st October**, marking the **birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**, India's **first Home Minister**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

💡 It is conferred on members of Police Forces, Security Organizations, Intelligence Wings, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and Central Police Organisations (CPOs), and Forensic Science institutions across the country. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

58.

Ans: B

Exp:

Exercise Trishul:

💡 India has begun **Tri-Services Exercise "Trishul-2025"** to strengthen integrated operations across land, air, and sea in the Sir Creek and desert sectors of Rajasthan–Gujarat, extending into the northern Arabian Sea.

- ✦ **Sub-exercises: "Trinetra" and "Mahagujarat"** are sub-exercises under the larger annual Tri-Services Exercise Trishul 2025.

💡 **Operational Focus:** The exercise will validate joint Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR), Electronic Warfare (EW) and Cyber Warfare plans.

💡 **Hence, option B is correct.**

59.

Ans: A

Exp:

Malabar Exercise

💡 The annual Malabar exercise, involving India, the US, Australia, and Japan (Quad countries) has commenced in the Northern Pacific near Guam.

💡 It started as an annual bilateral naval drill between India and the US in 1992. Japan joined in 2015, and **Australia participated in Malabar 2020**, making it a four-nation exercise under the Quad framework. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 **Only the Quad nations** (India, US, Japan, and Australia) participate - G7 members do not take part. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

60.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 **Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)** is the apex anti-smuggling agency of India, constituted in 1957 under the **Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs, Ministry of Finance**. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**

💡 DRI enforces the provisions of the **Customs Act, 1962 and over 50 other allied Acts** including the **Arms Act (1959), Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, COFEPOSA (1974), Antiquities and Art Treasures Act (1972)** etc. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**

61.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 Hockey arrived in India in the **1850s under British rule** and quickly grew popular, leading to the **first Hockey club in Calcutta (1855)**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

💡 The **Indian Hockey Federation (IHF)**, the country's first governing body for the sport was founded on **7th November 1925**, one year after the formation of the.

- ✦ **Hockey India (HI)** is the apex body of the country which has the sole mandate to govern and conduct all activities for both men and women hockey in India.

💡 India's 1926 New Zealand tour revealed **Dhyan Chand** (the "Wizard of Hockey" and widely regarded as the greatest ever). The **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna** now honours his legacy as India's highest sporting award. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



- ✦ **National Sports Day** is observed annually on **29th August** to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dhyhan Chand.

62.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 **Ricin** is a naturally occurring **carbohydrate-binding protein** produced in the **seeds of *ricinus communis***, the plant that produces castor oil. Hence, **Statement 1 is correct.**
- ✦ It is toxic when inhaled, ingested, or injected. Ricin stops cells from making the proteins they need to stay alive, without these proteins, the cells get **damaged and eventually die.**
- 💡 Due to its extreme toxicity and high misuse potential, **ricin is classified as a Schedule-1 agent** under the **Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)**. Hence, **Statement 2 is correct.**
- ✦ **CWC** is a **global, non-discriminatory disarmament treaty** that prohibits the development, production, stockpiling, acquisition, transfer, and use of chemical weapons.
- ✦ India ratified the CWC in 1996 and enacted the Chemical Weapons Convention Act, 2000 to enforce its provisions.

63.

Ans: A

Exp:

Exercise MITRA SHAKTI-2025

- 💡 Exercise **MITRA SHAKTI-2025**, a joint military drill between India and Sri Lanka, was held at Belagavi, Karnataka. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- ✦ This is the **11th edition** of this exercise. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 The aim of the exercise is to jointly rehearse conduct of Sub Conventional Operations under **Chapter VII of United Nations Mandate.**

64.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 India has inaugurated its **newest and highest fighter-capable airbase at Nyoma in Ladakh**, built by the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)**, marking a major boost to the country's air power along the northern front.

- 💡 **Nyoma lies at 13,700 feet**, making it one of the **world's highest fighter-capable airbases.**

- ✦ Located only **35 km from the Line of Actual Control (LAC)**, it gives India a rapid-response capability against China.
- ✦ It strengthens India's forward military posture after the **Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) troop buildup in eastern Ladakh (2020)**.
- ✦ The base will significantly boost air infrastructure in **Ladakh and enhance the Indian Air Force's (IAF) ability to respond quickly to any aerial threats along the northern frontier.**

- 💡 Hence, **option B is correct.**

65.

Ans: D

Exp:

- 💡 Pure ammonium nitrate (NH_4NO_3) is a white, crystalline, water-soluble, nitrogen-rich compound made by reacting ammonia with nitric acid, and it melts at about 170°C .
- 💡 Pure ammonium nitrate is **not explosive by itself** and is classified as an **oxidiser** under **United Nations classification of dangerous goods**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- ✦ It becomes **volatile** when combined with **fuel oil, potassium chlorate, sulphur or other accelerants**. This mixture creates **ANFO (Ammonium Nitrate Fuel Oil)**, a commonly used explosive.
- 💡 Any substance containing more than 45% ammonium nitrate by weight (including emulsions, suspensions, melts or gels) is deemed an explosive under the **Explosives Act, 1884, unless it is a fertiliser from which ammonium nitrate cannot be extracted by physical or chemical means**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 All activities (**manufacture, conversion, bagging, import, export, transport, possession, sale, and use**) are governed under the **Ammonium Nitrate Rules, 2012.**
- ✦ **Storage of large quantities in populated areas is prohibited** under these rules. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**



Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025UPSC
Classroom
CoursesIAS Current
Affairs Module
CourseDrishti
Learning
App