



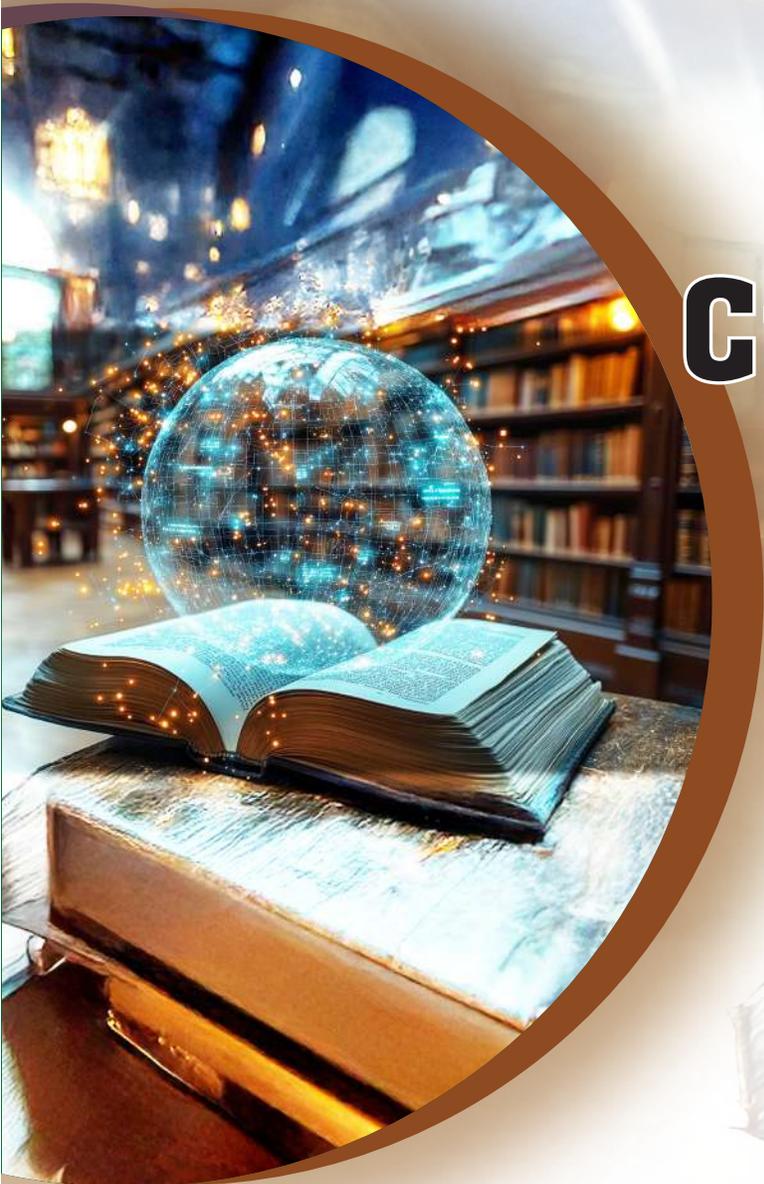
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MCQ CONSOLIDATION

SEPTEMBER

2025

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Practice Question

Polity & Governance

1. Consider the following pairs:

Article	Provision
Article 126	Appointment of acting Chief Justice
Article 127	Appointment of ad hoc Judges
Article 128	Attendance of retired Judges at sittings of the Supreme Court

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

2. Consider the following statements regarding the eSHRAM portal:

1. It is a national database for unorganised workers including migrant workers, construction workers, gig and platform workers.
2. Registration on the eSHRAM portal is open to workers aged 16–59 years who are not members of EPFO, ESIC, or government-funded NPS.
3. Workers registered on the portal receive Rs 12,000 per month as social security benefits.

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

3. Consider the following statements regarding BHARATI initiative launched by APEDA:

1. It aims to support 100 agri-food startups to boost India's exports to USD 50 billion by 2030.
2. It targets high-value agri-food products such as GI-tagged, organic, superfoods, processed foods and AYUSH products, not staple crops.

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 Economically Weaker Section (EWS) quota in India:

1. The 103rd Constitutional Amendment introduced a 10% reservation for EWS in government jobs and educational institutions.
2. EWS quota can be availed by all backward classes, irrespective of their social category.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

5. Which of the following is *not* correct regarding state creation in India?

- A. A new State can only be admitted into India if it is already a part of an international treaty.
- B. States can be formed through reorganization as per Article 3 of the Indian Constitution.
- C. Territory acquired under international law can be established as a State.
- D. The Instrument of Accession was used to integrate Jammu and Kashmir into India in 1947.

6. Consider the following statements:

1. According to Article 67 of the Constitution, the Vice-President can resign by submitting a written letter addressed to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.
2. The Constitution does not provide for an acting Vice-President.
3. The election of the next Vice-President is to be held within 60 days of the expiry of the outgoing Vice-President's term.

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

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

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7. With reference to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2023, consider the following statements:

1. The exploration licence shall be granted solely by the Central Government through competitive bidding.
2. A single exploration licence permits activities in an area of up to 50 square kilometres only.
3. It allows pitting, trenching, drilling, and sub-surface excavation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

8. With reference to the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) in India, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a statutory body constituted under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
2. Its primary role is to advise the government on proposals for the diversion of forest land for non-forest uses.
3. The recommendations made by the FAC are legally binding on the Central Government.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

9. Consider the following statements with reference to Burden of Aedes Mosquitoes disease in India

1. Dengue is an endemic and emerging disease in india
2. India has already approved mass immunization using dengue vaccine.
3. Large scale fumigation is still used by local authorities despite limited effectiveness
4. Kerala has 10 Hafte,10 Baje,10 Minute campaigns promoting water storage.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

10. Match the following components / institutions with their purposes under the tribal development schemes:

Column I	Column II
a. Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan	1. Convergence-driven mission to saturate essential services in tribal villages
b. PM-JANMAN	2. Grassroots leadership programme mobilizing change leaders in tribal areas
c. Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan	3. Focused on Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups to ensure basic infrastructure & livelihoods
d. Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan	4. Outreach drive/benefit saturation camps and awareness for tribal households

Choose the correct matching:

- A. a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
- B. a-2, b-1, c-3, d-4
- C. a-4, b-3, c-2, d-1
- D. a-2, b-3, c-4, d-1

11. With reference to the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025, consider the following statements:

1. The Act completely bans the offering and advertising of online money games in India.
2. Authorities under the Information Technology Act, 2000 have been empowered to block unlawful gaming platforms.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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12. Consider the following statements regarding with ULLAS Programme

1. It is central sponsored scheme
2. It mainly target adults 15 years and above who are illiterate
3. It it focused only digital literacy

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. None of these

13. With reference to the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement, consider the following statements:

1. It mandates Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for all major oceanic projects, but only those that are carried out exclusively in the high seas.
2. India has ratified the BBNJ Agreement, making it legally binding on the country.
3. One of its primary objectives is the conservation of marine biodiversity, which includes the establishment of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

14. Which of the following are part of the Electoral College for the election of the Vice-President of India?

1. Elected members of the Lok Sabha
2. Nominated members of the Lok Sabha
3. Elected members of the Rajya Sabha
4. Nominated members of the Rajya Sabha
5. Members of the State Legislative Assemblies

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

15. With reference to the “Gyan Bharatam Mission,” which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The mission’s primary objective is to survey, conserve, and digitize India’s manuscript heritage.
2. The Ministry of Education is the nodal ministry responsible for its implementation.
3. The initiative aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 by integrating Indian Knowledge Systems into modern education.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

16. Which of the following correctly describes the Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan?

- A. The world’s largest grassroots tribal leadership programme, mobilizing leaders across about 1 lakh tribal-dominated villages to act as catalysts of responsive governance and social transformation.
- B. A component under Mission Karmayogi aimed exclusively at training central civil servants in e-governance.
- C. A scholarship scheme of the Ministry of Education to fund overseas higher education for tribal students.
- D. A one-time amnesty programme to settle pending cases related to forest rights in scheduled areas.

Economy

17. Consider the following statements regarding the GST Council:

1. Every decision of the GST Council requires a majority of at least three-fourths of the weighted votes of the members present and voting.
2. The voting power of the Central Government and the State Governments in the GST Council is equal.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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18. With reference to the World Economic Forum (WEF), consider the following statements:

1. It was founded in 1971 by Klaus Schwab, originally as the European Management Forum.
2. The annual meeting of WEF is held in Geneva, Switzerland, where its headquarters is located.
3. It played a role in the genesis of the G20, which initially began as a forum of finance ministers.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

19. Consider the following items:

1. All individual life insurance policies.
2. Ultra-High Temperature (UHT) milk
3. Textile caps
4. All the Indian Breads

Which of the above items is/are exempted under GST (Good and Services Tax) 2.0?

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

20. In the question given below, there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R).

Assertion (A): In 1991, the Narasimham committee recommended reducing the Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) and to achieve a capital adequacy ratio of 8%.

Reason (R): The banking sector's capacity to lend effectively and maintain financial stability was compromised by high SLR and insufficient adequate capital.

- A. Both A and R are correct, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B. Both A and R are correct, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- C. A is correct, but R is incorrect.
- D. A is incorrect, but R is correct.

International Relations

21. Consider the following statements about the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA):

1. The idea of IORA was first conceived during the visit of South Africa's President Nelson Mandela to India in 1995.
2. India is set to assume the chairmanship for 2027–2029.
3. Germany and Italy are its key dialogue partners.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

22. Consider the following statements regarding the membership of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO):

1. The founding members of the SCO in 2001 were all former members of the Shanghai-5 group.
2. India was first granted Observer status in 2005 and became a full member in 2017.
3. Iran and Belarus became full members of the SCO in 2023 and 2024, respectively.

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

23. Consider the following statements regarding the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO):

1. India is a founding member state of the SCO.
2. The SCO Secretariat is located in Shanghai, China.
3. The supreme decision-making body of the SCO is the Council of Heads of States (CHS).

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

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

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24. With reference to India–Japan relations, consider the following statements:

1. India and Japan established diplomatic relations in 1952 through a post–World War II peace treaty.
2. The partnership has been upgraded over time from a Global Partnership (2000) to a Special Strategic and Global Partnership (2014), and is guided by the India–Japan Vision 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

25. Sderot, Ashkelon, and Tulkarm, often in the news, are associated with which of the following regions?

- A. The Korean Peninsula
- B. The Sahel region of Africa
- C. Russian and Ukrainian Territories
- D. Israel and the Palestinian Territories

26. The recent Generation Z protests in Nepal, was primarily triggered by:

- A. Alleged electoral fraud in municipal elections
- B. Discontent over corruption, nepotism, unemployment, inequality, and social media restrictions.
- C. Military intervention in politics.
- D. Imposition of a nationwide curfew

27. Consider the following countries:

1. Egypt
2. Indonesia
3. Iraq
4. United Arab Emirates
5. Ethiopia

How many of the above have been recently inducted into the BRICS grouping?

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

28. Consider the following statements:

1. The first Jan Aushadhi Kendra outside India has been established in Mauritius.
2. The India–Mauritius Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA), 2021, is the first trade agreement signed by India with an African country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

29. Consider The following statements:

1. Katchatheevu Island was ceded to Sri Lanka under the 1974 Maritime Boundary Agreement.
2. Indian fishermen were granted perpetual fishing rights around Katchatheevu under this agreement.

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

30. With reference to the India–Japan Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA), which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It creates a framework for reciprocal provision of supplies and services between the armed forces of the two countries during exercises, UN peacekeeping, humanitarian relief, and other agreed activities.
2. The agreement includes items such as food, fuel, transportation, medical services, and communications support, and aims to enhance interoperability and maritime cooperation.
3. The pact is valid for 10 years and extends automatically for another 10 years unless terminated by either party.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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31. Consider the following statements:

1. Under UNCLOS, artificial islands and land reclamation activities do not change the legal status of naturally occurring rocks or reefs.
2. China's "Nine-Dash Line" claim in the South China Sea overlaps with the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) of Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Brunei.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Science & Technology

32. With reference to Rare Earth Minerals, consider the following statements:

1. Despite their name, these minerals are relatively abundant in the Earth's crust, but are difficult to mine and extract economically.
2. They are critical components in the manufacturing of high-technology products such as semiconductors, electric vehicle motors, and missile guidance systems.
3. India is the world's largest producer, dominating the global supply chain for these strategic minerals.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

33. Consider the following statements regarding the Mira Star (Omicron Ceti):

1. Mira is a pulsating red giant star whose brightness varies periodically due to expansion and contraction of its outer layers.
2. Mira stars are relatively cool and represent stars in the late stages of stellar evolution.

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

34. Consider the following disorders:

1. Traumatic brain injuries
2. Spinal cord injuries
3. Stroke
4. Encephalitis

Which among the above are considered injury-related neurological disorders?

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

35. Which of the following plastics is noted for its persistence and its capacity to adsorb pollutants in water bodies?

- A. Polyethylene terephthalate (PET)
- B. Polylactic acid (PLA)
- C. Starch-based plastic
- D. Polyhydroxyalkanoates (PHA)

36. Which one of the following is India's first AI-powered translator designed for tribal language?

- A. Aadi Vaani
- B. Van Vaani
- C. Eklavya Vaani
- D. Adi Bhashini

37. Consider the following statements about Naegleria fowleri:

1. It is commonly known as the "brain-eating amoeba."
2. Infection occurs when contaminated water enters the body via the nose.
3. It can be transmitted directly from one person to another.

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

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38. Consider the following statements related to Vikram-32 Chip:

1. It is developed by Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre of ISRO in collaboration with Semi-conductor Laboratory, Chandigarh
2. It boasts a custom instruction set architecture that is tailored for the Ada programming language
3. It is capable of handling floating-point computation.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

39. The term 'CEREBO', recently in the news, is best associated with which of the following?

- A. A satellite navigation system developed by ISRO for precision agriculture.
- B. An indigenously developed hand-held device for rapid detection of Traumatic Brain Injuries.
- C. A blockchain-based platform for securing digital land records.
- D. A deep-sea drone for mapping ocean resources.

40. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Suspect Registry' in India:

1. It is developed by the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) and contains data on cybercriminals sourced from the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP).
2. Its primary objective is to enable banks to verify customer credentials and monitor real-time transactions to prevent financial fraud.

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

41. Consider the following statements with reference to 'Black Aspergillus'.

1. Scientists have discovered two new species of black aspergillus from the Western Ghats, marking India's first study in this group using advanced polyphasic taxonomy.

2. It comprises a diverse group of filamentous fungi that are ubiquitously distributed across various ecological niches.
3. It is known as 'workhorses of industrial application' especially in citric acid production, food mycology, fermentation technology, and agriculture.

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

42. Consider the following statements:

1. The Act continues the operation of the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920 without repeal.
2. It exempts educational institutions and medical institutions from reporting information about foreign nationals
3. Only officers of the rank of Superintendent of Police and above are empowered to arrest without warrant.

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

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

43. Consider the following statements With reference WHO's Reports on World Mental Health.

1. Globally, 13.6% of the world's population currently has a mental disorder (age-standardized prevalence)
2. Anxiety and depressive disorders together account for more than two-thirds of global mental disorder cases.
3. Suicide is the leading cause of death among young people worldwide.
4. According to present projections, the number of suicides will drop by one-third by 2030, achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

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44. Which new category was introduced in NIRF 2025 to assess “green” practices in higher education institutions?

- A. State Public Universities
- B. Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- C. Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)
- D. Skill Universities

45. With reference to Bioproducts, consider the following statements:

1. Bioproducts are exclusively derived from dedicated food crops like sugarcane and soybeans, which limits their sustainability.
2. The adoption of bioproducts can contribute to climate change mitigation by reducing reliance on fossil fuels and generating rural employment.
3. A defining characteristic of all bioproducts is their complete biodegradability.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

46. Regarding the phenomenon known as a “Blood Moon,” consider the following statements:

1. It is the scattering of red light by the Earth’s atmosphere that causes the Moon’s reddish appearance.
2. This event can only be observed during a total lunar eclipse.
3. The color is a result of sunlight bending as it passes directly through the Earth’s atmosphere before reaching the Moon.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

47. With reference to the Sample Registration System (SRS) in India, consider the following statements:

1. It is a large-scale demographic survey that provides key fertility and mortality indicators at both national and sub-national levels.

2. The SRS is the primary responsibility of the National Statistical Office (NSO) and collects data on the population’s age, sex, and marital status.

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

48. Consider the following pairs:

Cyber Attack	Characteristic
1. Vishing	Fraudulent calls asking for OTPs
2. Ransomware	Locks files/systems and demands payment
3. Trojan Horse	Malware disguised as legitimate software

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

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

49. Consider the following types of materials:

1. Silicon
2. Gallium Nitride
3. Graphene

How many of the above are considered as advanced or next-generation semiconductor materials?

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

50. Hubble constant in cosmological studies refers to which one of the following?

- A. The rate at which the universe is expanding at present
- B. The age of the universe since the Big Bang
- C. The maximum distance light can travel in one year
- D. The mass of the observable universe

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51. NuScale in the US and CAREM in Argentina, sometimes in news, are associated with which of the following?

- Space Launch Vehicles
- Advanced Renewable Wind Turbines
- Nuclear Small Modular Reactors
- High-Speed Rail Projects

52. Recently seen in news for its application in deep-space navigation, which of the following best describes the phenomenon of 'stellar parallax'?

- The change in a star's brightness caused by a planet passing in front of it.
- The apparent shift in the position of a nearby star when viewed from two different points in Earth's orbit.
- The gradual movement of stars across the sky over centuries due to their proper motion.
- The bending of starlight as it passes through a strong gravitational field.

53. Consider the following statements regarding Isobutanol:

- It is colorless and flammable.
- It can be produced both from petrochemical processes and fermentation of biomass.
- It absorbs less water than ethanol, making it suitable for fuel use.

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

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

54. Consider the following:

- Lanthanum
- Cerium
- Bauxite
- Dysprosium
- Calcite

How many of the above are rare earth metals?

- Only two
- Only three

- Only four
- All five

55. With reference to Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), which of the following statements is/are correct?

- SMRs are nuclear reactors with a rated electrical output of up to 300 MW(e) per unit, about one-third that of conventional reactors.
- The term "modular" refers to factory-assembly of major systems and components that can be transported and installed as a complete unit.
- SMRs generate energy by harnessing nuclear fission to produce heat.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Environment & Ecology

56. Consider the following statements regarding the BioE3 Policy, 2024:

- It aims to promote high-performance biomanufacturing across diverse sectors.
- Biomanufacturing involves the production of bio-based products through biological systems using techniques such as fermentation, cell culture, and recombinant DNA technology.
- It is implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

57. Consider the following statements regarding the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ):

- Commercial fishing can be done without the consent of the coastal state.
- Mining the seabed for rare earth minerals can be done without the permission of the coastal state.
- Marine scientific research can be conducted without the permission of the coastal state.

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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

58. With reference to the Great Indian Bustard (GIB), which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is among the heaviest flying birds and is now found mainly in Rajasthan's Thar Desert, with small populations in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh.
2. It is one of four bustard species recorded in India, the others being the Lesser Florican, Bengal Florican, and Macqueen's Bustard.
3. Being omnivorous and lacking strong frontal vision, it is especially vulnerable to collisions with overhead power lines.
4. As a keystone species of grasslands, its status indicates the ecological health of arid and semi-arid grassland ecosystems.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

59. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: India aims to reduce its carbon intensity by 45% by 2030.

Statement II: Carbon intensity is measured as the ratio of CO₂ emissions per unit of GDP.

Which one of the following is correct?

- 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; Statement II is not correct
- D. Statement I is not correct; Statement II is correct

60. With reference to the Protected Areas in India, consider the following information:

	Protected Area	Established under	Activities Allowed
1.	National Parks	Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972	Only scientific research and regulated tourism permitted
2.	Wildlife Sanctuaries	Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972	Activities like grazing and collection of forest produce may be allowed if they do not harm wildlife
3.	Conservation Reserves	Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972	Allow controlled human use (e.g., grazing/ firewood collection) with community participation
4.	Community Reserves	Established with direct local community participation on private or community lands	Allow livelihood-compatible activities (e.g., tourism, agriculture, small-scale NTFP extraction) aligned with conservation goals

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

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

61. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: India is using Contracts for Difference (CfD) to boost green finance for its renewable energy goals.

Statement II: CfD is a financial agreement between renewable energy producers and the government to stabilize revenues.

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Statement III: If market prices fall below an agreed strike price, the government pays the producer the difference, and if prices rise above it, the producer returns the surplus.

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

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

62. With reference to the Environment Audit Rules, 2025, consider the following statements:

- The implementation of these rules will be primarily overseen by the Environment Audit Designated Agency (EADA).
- The rules establish a two-tiered compliance system involving both government regulators and third-party Registered Environment Auditors (REAs).
- To ensure transparency, industrial units are permitted to select their own REAs from a certified list for conducting audits.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

63. Consider the following statements regarding biodiversity:

- Species richness refers to the total number of different species present at a given site.
- Alpha diversity refers to the diversity within a particular area or ecosystem.
- Tropical latitudes have greater species diversification than temperate regions due to long evolutionary time.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

64. Consider the following statements regarding India's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement:

- To reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by 60% by 2030, relative to 2005 levels.
- To create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent by 2030.
- To meet 50% of its energy requirements from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

65. Consider the following statements regarding coral reefs:

- Coral reefs cover about 1% of the ocean floor but support nearly 25% of marine life.
- Corals contain zooxanthellae algae that perform photosynthesis, providing 80–90% of their energy needs.
- Eutrophication caused by nutrient-rich sewage or fertilizer runoff promotes rapid algae growth, which inhibits coral development.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

66. The bioluminescence produced by beetles, such as fireflies, through a biochemical reaction, primarily serves which of the following purposes?

- Thermoregulation and maintaining body heat
- Photosynthesis and energy production
- Mating signals and predator deterrence
- Digestion and nutrient absorption

67. Consider the following statements regarding the differences between Green Credits and Carbon Credits:

- Green Credits are governed under The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, while Carbon Credits are governed under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001 in India.

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2. Green Credits are primarily focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, whereas Carbon Credits incentivize a wider range of positive environmental actions.
3. Green Credits are accessible to individuals and communities for eco-friendly actions, while Carbon Credits are typically traded internationally by entities reducing emissions.

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

68. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: Carbon markets allow trading of carbon credits, where one credit represents one ton of reduced, avoided, or sequestered CO₂ or GHG emissions.

Statement II: Companies and countries purchase these credits to offset emissions, which promotes transparency, accountability, and funding for sustainable projects.

Which one of the following is correct?

- 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, Statement II is not correct
- D. Statement I is not correct, but Statement II is correct

69. Consider the following types of protected areas in India:

1. Conservation Reserve
2. National Park
3. Wildlife Sanctuary
4. Community Reserve

Arrange them in the correct order of strictness of protection, from most protected to least protected.

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

70. Which of the following statements about Great Nicobar Island is correct?

- A. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are divided by the Eight Degree Channel.
- B. Indira Point, India's southernmost tip, is located on Great Nicobar Island.
- C. Great Nicobar Island has been part of the Man and Biosphere (MAB) Program of UNESCO since 2003.
- D. The island is uninhabited and has no tribal populations.

History and Art & Culture

71. Consider the following pairs of social reformers and their movements.

Leading Figure	Social Reform Movements
1. Jyotiba Phule	Satyashodhak Samaj
2. E.V. Ramasamy Naicker	Self-Respect Movement
3. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel	Mahad Satyagraha

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

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

72. This ancient city, whose name translates to "mound of the dead," was one of the southernmost ports of the Indus Valley Civilization. Located in modern-day Gujarat between the Bhogavo and Sabarmati rivers, it is renowned for its sophisticated dockyard. Identified in 1954, it is a candidate for UNESCO World Heritage status. Which archaeological site is this?

- A. Dholavira
- B. Kalibangan
- C. Lothal
- D. Rakhigarhi

73. Consider the following statements regarding the Manki-Munda system:

1. The system represents the traditional political framework for customary self-governance within the Ho tribal community.

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2. The basic administrative unit of the system is the village, which is headed by a Manki who holds hereditary authority for adjudicating local disputes.
3. The customary laws of the Manki-Munda system were formally codified and integrated into the colonial administrative structure by Governor-General Warren Hastings.

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

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

74. Consider the following statements:

1. India's inaugural commercial-scale bio-refinery for producing ethanol from bamboo was commissioned in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
2. Following a 2017 amendment to the Indian Forest Act, 1927, bamboo grown in non-forest areas was officially declassified from the category of 'tree'.
3. Bioethanol produced from bamboo is classified as a 'first-generation' (1G) biofuel since it is derived directly from a plant source.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

75. Consider the following statements regarding the Harappan Script:

1. The script has been fully deciphered and is known to be an logosyllabic system.
2. The script sometimes follows the Boustrophedon style.

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

Geography

76. Consider the following statements regarding the Gangotri Glacier:

1. It is located in Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand and originates from the northern slopes of the Chaukhamba range.
2. It is a compound valley glacier, fed by tributaries such as Raktvarn, Chaturangi, and Swachand glaciers.
3. The glacier terminates at Gaumukh, from where the Alaknanda River originates.
4. Peaks like Shivling, Thalay Sagar, Meru, and Bhagirathi III feed the glacier.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

77. Consider the following statements about cotton in India:

1. India is the second-largest producer and consumer of cotton in the world, after China, contributing significantly to global trade and providing raw material to the domestic textile industry.
2. Archaeological evidence shows that traces of cotton cultivation and usage were found in the Indus Valley Civilization, making it one of the earliest centers of cotton domestication in the world.
3. Cotton is a subtropical crop that requires a warm, sunny, frost-free climate with moderate rainfall or adequate irrigation, along with relative humidity during the growth season for optimum yield.

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

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

78. Consider the following statements regarding the La Niña and El Niño phenomena:

1. La Niña is characterized by the weakening of trade winds, leading to an increase in sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern Pacific.
2. La Niña typically results in colder-than-normal winters in northern India, particularly in Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh.
3. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) was established as a UN specialized agency to focus on weather, climate, and hydrological sciences.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

79. Consider the following pairs of Ports and their respective Countries:

Port	Country
1. Fremantle	Australia
2. Lyttelton	Oman
3. Cape Town	South Africa

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

80. The crop popularly nicknamed “White Gold” is a subtropical crop requiring a warm, sunny, frost-free climate with adequate humidity; it grows well in deep alluvial soils in north India but is highly vulnerable to waterlogging. Which crop best fits this description?

- A. Cotton
- B. Sugarcane
- C. Sorghum
- D. Pearl millet

81. Consider the following statements With reference to the Seychelles,

1. Seychelles is located in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of West Africa.
2. It is the smallest nation in Africa in terms of both land area and population.
3. The largest island of the archipelago is Mahe.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

82. With reference to “Phosphate Rock,” which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a sedimentary rock rich in phosphate minerals, formed over millions of years from accumulations on ancient ocean floors.
2. It is mostly extracted through deep underground shaft mining due to the great depth of deposits.
3. The largest deposits are in Morocco; major reserves also occur in Africa, North America, Kazakhstan, and the Middle East, while in India key production is in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

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Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Defence & Security

83. Which of the following statements regarding the ZAPAD Exercise is correct?

- A. The ZAPAD exercise series has been conducted by Russia since 2009 to enhance military cooperation and interoperability.
- B. The exercise focuses solely on counter-terrorism operations and does not involve conventional warfare.

- C. The ZAPAD exercise includes joint company-level operations in mountainous terrains only.
- D. The primary objective of the ZAPAD exercise is to promote diplomatic relations between Russia and NATO countries.

84. Consider the following pairs:

Exercise Name	Hosting/Lead Countries (Along with India)
1. Malabar	US, Japan, Australia
2. IBSAMAR	Brazil & South Africa
3. SURYA KIRAN	Nepal

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

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

Answers

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

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Explanation

Polity & Governance

1.

Ans: C

Exp:

Acting CJI (Article 126): If the Chief Justice of India's (CJI) office is vacant or the CJI is unable to perform duties, the President may appoint the senior most Judge of the Supreme Court to carry out those duties. Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.

Ad hoc Judges (Article 127): When there is a lack of quorum of the permanent judges to hold or continue any session of the Supreme Court, the Chief Justice of India can appoint a judge of a High Court as an ad hoc judge of the Supreme Court for a temporary period. He can do so only after consultation with the chief justice of the High Court concerned and with the previous consent of the president. Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.

Retired Judges (Article 128): At any time, the chief justice of India can request a retired judge of the Supreme Court or a retired judge of a high court (who is duly qualified for appointment as a judge of the Supreme Court) to act as a judge of the Supreme Court for a temporary period. Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.

Hence, option C is correct.

2.

Ans: A

Exp:

eSHRAM is the national database of unorganised workers under the Ministry of Labour & Employment. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Registration is open to workers aged 16–59 years who are not members of EPFO, ESIC, or government-funded NPS. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Registration on eSHRAM does not automatically guarantee any money. It primarily facilitates access to social security schemes. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

3.

Ans: C

Exp:

BHARATI (Bharat's Hub for Agritech, Resilience, Advancement and Incubation for Export Enablement) initiative is launched by Agricultural and Processed

Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) to support 100 agri-food startups with the aim to boost exports to USD 50 billion by 2030. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

The initiative focuses on high-value agri-food products such as GI-tagged, organic, superfoods, processed foods and AYUSH products, not staple crops. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

BHARATI promotes advanced technologies like AI, blockchain, IoT, and agri-fintech to tackle challenges in perishability, logistics, quality, and sustainability.

4.

Ans: A

Exp:

The 103rd Constitutional Amendment (2019) added Article 15(6) and 16(6) for EWS quota. It introduced a 10% reservation for EWS in government jobs and educational institutions. Hence statement 1 is correct.

Only economically weaker individuals who are not covered under SC, ST, or OBC categories are eligible. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

5.

Ans: A

Exp:

States Creation in India:

A new state can be admitted into India under Article 2 of the Indian Constitution, and it does not necessarily require an international treaty. It can be admitted based on the decision of the Indian Parliament.

According to Article 3 of the Indian Constitution, Parliament can create new states by reorganizing the boundaries or merging territories of existing states, which is a legal process for state creation.

Territory acquired through international law, such as through agreements or treaties, can indeed be established as a state. For example, Goa was integrated into India in 1961 after a military intervention and subsequent treaty-based agreement.

Jammu and Kashmir's integration into India was done through the Instrument of Accession in 1947, a document signed by Maharaja Hari Singh, which allowed Jammu and Kashmir to join India under specific terms.

Hence, option A is correct.

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6.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 The Vice-President can resign by writing under his hand, **addressed to the President**, as per Article 67(a) of the Constitution. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ✖ The resignation takes effect immediately once submitted.
- 💡 The Constitution **does not provide for an acting Vice-President**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ✖ However, in the Vice-President's absence, the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha will preside over its proceedings.
- 💡 The election of the next Vice-President is to be held **within 60 days** of the expiry of the outgoing Vice-President's term. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ✖ However, in the case of a mid-term resignation, unlike the President (where the vacancy must be filled within six months), there is no fixed time frame for electing a new Vice-President.

7.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 The **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2023**, was introduced to reform India's mining sector, particularly to encourage the exploration and extraction of critical and deep-seated minerals.
- 💡 The Act introduces a new Exploration Licence to attract private sector participation and foreign direct investment.
 - ✖ However, the **exploration license is to be granted by the State Government through a competitive bidding process**, not solely by the Central Government. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- 💡 Furthermore, while the Act specifies a maximum area for a single exploration licence, it is **1,000 square kilometers**, not **50 square kilometers**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 The Act's provisions aim to streamline the exploration process and provide incentives for successful discoveries by private entities.
 - ✖ It specifies that reconnaissance operations can include **pitting, trenching, drilling, and sub-surface excavation**, which were previously prohibited. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

8.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 The Forest Advisory Committee is a statutory body, but it was constituted under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, not the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- 💡 This is the core mandate of the FAC. It appraises projects that require the diversion of forest land for activities like mining, infrastructure development, and industry, and then provides its expert advice to the government. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**
- 💡 The role of the FAC is advisory in nature. While its recommendations carry significant weight, they are not legally binding. The final decision to approve or reject a proposal rests with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC). Statement 3 is incorrect. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

9.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 In India, dengue is endemic (occurring more frequently) and emerging (increasing in incidence and spread). Additionally, with about 33 million symptomatic cases per year, India has one of the highest dengue burdens in the world. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 Mass vaccination with a dengue vaccine has not been approved by India. No vaccine has been approved for widespread use in India at this time, regardless of ongoing research such as DengiAll being underway. Also, India does not currently have an approved Zika or chikungunya vaccine. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- 💡 Local governments continue to use significant fumigation considering its poor long-term effectiveness. However, because routine fogging ignores Aedes mosquitoes that rest indoors, national health agencies don't recommend it. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- 💡 Delhi's "10 Hafte, 10 Baje, 10 Minute" campaign encourages households to check water containers weekly. **Hence, statement 4 is incorrect.**

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10.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 **Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan:** The world's largest grassroots tribal leadership programme, **mobilizing 20 lakh change leaders across 1 lakh villages** to act as catalysts of social transformation.
- 💡 **Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan:** It is a convergence-driven mission aimed at delivering essential services, schemes, and infrastructure comprehensively in tribal villages through coordinated planning.
- 💡 **Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN):** A focused initiative to ensure housing, health, education, water, electrification, and livelihoods for **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)**.
- 💡 **Dharti Abba Janbhagidari Abhiyan** - focused on Outreach drive, benefit saturation camps and awareness for tribal households.
- 💡 **Hence option A is correct.**

11.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 **Ban on Online Money Games:** The Act explicitly prohibits offering, advertising, or facilitating financial transactions for real-money gaming platforms (like poker, rummy, fantasy sports). **Hence, Statement 1 is correct**
- 💡 **Blocking Powers through IT Act, 2000:** Section 69A of the IT Act allows the government to block access to unlawful online content. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct**
- 💡 **Hence, option C is correct.**

12.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 **Statement 01 is correct:** Introduced in 2022 as part of the New India Literacy Program, ULLAS (Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society) is an initiative sponsored by the central government that has the Union and State governments share funding and responsibilities.
- 💡 **Statement 02 is correct:** mainly illiterate adults (15+), ULLAS aims to provide digital literacy, financial literacy, and essential life skills for social and economic

inclusion as well as to basic skills in writing and reading.

- 💡 **Statement 03 is incorrect:** ULLAS program is not only about digital literacy it also covers other basic skills.

13.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 The requirement for Environmental Impact Assessments under the treaty is not limited to activities within the high seas. It also applies to projects within national jurisdiction if they are likely to cause substantial harm to the marine environment in areas beyond national boundaries. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- 💡 India has signed the agreement, which signals its intention to comply with the treaty's provisions. However, signing is distinct from ratification. The process of ratification, which makes the treaty legally binding, has not yet been completed by India. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 A central pillar of the agreement is the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity. The establishment of large-scale Marine Protected Areas in the high seas is a key tool provided by the treaty to achieve this goal. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

14.

Ans: C

Exp:

According to **Article 66** of the Indian Constitution, the electoral college for the Vice-President's election consists of **all members of both Houses of Parliament.**

This means it includes:

- 💡 **Elected** members of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.
- 💡 **Nominated** members of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.
- 💡 A key difference from the Presidential election is that **members of the State Legislative Assemblies (5) do not participate** in the election of the Vice-President.
- 💡 **Hence, the correct answer is C.**

15.

Ans: A

Exp:

Gyan Bharatam Mission

- 💡 The Gyan Bharatam Mission, announced in Union Budget 2025-26, is a national initiative to preserve, digitise, and disseminate India's vast manuscript heritage, combining tradition with modern technology for future generations. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

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- ⚡ The nodal authority for planning and implementation is the **Ministry of Culture**, not the Ministry of Education. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- ⚡ The mission supports the goals of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 by bringing traditional Indian Knowledge Systems into the modern education framework. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

16.

Ans: A

Exp:

- ⚡ Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan is a tribal grassroots leadership and responsive-governance initiative that seeks to build a cadre of community leaders and functionaries across roughly 1 lakh tribal villages, enabling last-mile service delivery, convergence of schemes, and participatory “village vision” planning.
- ⚡ It is not a Mission Karmayogi civil-service training sub-scheme (B is incorrect), not a scholarship for overseas studies (C is incorrect), and not an amnesty for legal disputes (D is incorrect).
- ⚡ **Hence, the correct answer is A.**

Economy

17.

Ans: A

Exp:

- ⚡ The **GST Council**, established under the **Article 279A**, is a constitutional body responsible for implementing and administering GST in India, with its Secretariat in New Delhi.
 - ✦ It envisions setting high standards of cooperative federalism and serves as the first constitutional body empowered to make key decisions on GST.
- ⚡ As per **Article 279A(9)**, decisions of the Council require a **three-fourths majority of the weighted votes of members present and voting**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ⚡ The **Centre and the States do not have equal voting power in the GST Council**. The **Centre’s vote carries one-third weight**, while the **States’ collective votes together carry two-thirds weight**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

18.

Ans: B

Exp:

- ⚡ The **World Economic Forum (WEF)** was founded in **1971 by Klaus Schwab**, originally as the **European**

Management Forum, and later renamed WEF in 1987 to reflect its global vision. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- ⚡ Its headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland, but the **well-known annual meeting takes place in Davos**, bringing together world leaders, businesses, and civil society. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- ⚡ Importantly, **WEF played a role in the genesis of the G20** by emphasizing the inclusion of major developing countries in global economic discussions, which began as a forum of finance ministers before evolving into a summit. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

19.

Ans: C

Exp:

- ⚡ GST (Good and Services Tax) 2.0 replaces four GST slabs (5%, 12%, 18%, and 28%) with a **two-slab system (5% (merit rate) for essential items and 18% (standard rate) for others)**, plus a **40% demerit rate** for luxury, sin, and demerit goods like tobacco and pan masala.
- ⚡ Under GST 2.0, **all individual life and health insurance policies are fully exempt from GST**. Essential goods such as Ultra-High Temperature (UHT) milk, paneer, and Indian breads are **now taxed at a NIL rate**. All the Indian Breads will see NIL rates (Chapati or roti, paratha, parotta, etc)
- ⚡ Under GST 2.0, the GST rate on textile caps has been reduced from 12% to 5%.
- ⚡ **Hence, option C is correct.**

20.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The Narasimham Committee-I (1991) made two landmark recommendations to reform India’s banking sector:
- ⚡ **Reduce the Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR):** This was the percentage of deposits that banks were forced to invest in low-yield government securities.
 - ⚡ **Increase the Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) to 8%:** This was to ensure banks had a sufficient capital buffer to absorb unexpected losses and remain stable.
 - ✦ Hence, Assertion (A) is Correct.
 - ⚡ High SLR locked bank funds into low-yield government securities and inadequate capital undermined resilience, explaining the recommendation. Hence, Reason (R) is correct.
 - ⚡ The **Reason (R)** correctly explains the assertion. **Hence, A is the correct answer.**

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International Relations

21.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 The concept for the **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)** was proposed by **Nelson Mandela** during his **visit to India in 1995**, emphasizing socio-economic cooperation among Indian Ocean countries. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ✖ This led to the **Indian Ocean Rim Initiative (IORI) in March 1995**, which was formally established as the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) in March 1997, and is now known as the IORA.
- 💡 India is currently the Vice-Chair of IORA and is scheduled to assume the chairmanship for **2025–2027**, not 2027–2029. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 **Germany, Italy, Japan, the European Union, Egypt,** and several other countries are recognized as key dialogue partners of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

22.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 The **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)** is a **ten-member multilateral organization**, established on **15th June 2001** by the leaders of **Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.**
 - ✖ These countries, except **Uzbekistan**, had been members of the **Shanghai-5 group** formed in **April 1996.**
 - ✖ In **2001, Uzbekistan** was admitted as a member, transforming it into the **Shanghai-6.** **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- 💡 At the **July 2005 Astana Summit**, **India, Iran and Pakistan** were granted **Observer status.** In **June 2017**, at the **Astana Summit**, **India and Pakistan** officially joined the **SCO as full members.** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 **Iran** was granted **full membership** at the **July 2023 Summit** hosted by **India**, and **Belarus** was admitted as a **full member** at the **July 2024 Summit in Astana.** **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

23.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is a permanent intergovernmental body established in 2001 in Shanghai by China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, succeeding the Shanghai Five mechanism. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ✖ India and Pakistan joined as full members in 2017, followed by Iran in 2023 and Belarus in 2024.
- 💡 The SCO has two permanent bodies: the SCO Secretariat, located in Beijing, China, and the Executive Committee of the SCO **Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS)**, based in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 SCO's supreme decision-making body is the **Council of Heads of State (CHS)** which meets annually on a rotational basis (Russian alphabetical order) in the country chairing the SCO. India hosted the 23rd Summit of CHS in 2023. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

24.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 India and Japan established diplomatic relations in 1952 through a separate Treaty of Peace signed on 9 June 1952, which formally restored peace and relations after World War II. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 The relationship has been progressively upgraded: Global Partnership (2000), Strategic and Global Partnership (2006), and Special Strategic and Global Partnership (2014), with the India–Japan Vision 2025 providing a roadmap for deeper strategic cooperation. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

25.

Ans: D

Exp:

- 💡 **Sderot, Ashkelon, and Tulkarm** are all located in the region of **Israel and the Palestinian Territories.**
 - ✖ **Sderot and Ashkelon** are located in **southern Israel**, and their proximity to Gaza keeps them in the news.
 - ✖ **Tulkarm, on the other hand, is a Palestinian territory in the northern West Bank.** Its location makes it a site of frequent Israeli military operations and clashes.

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- ⚡ The Korean Peninsula, the Sahel region, and the Russian-Ukrainian territories, are all regions associated with recent global conflicts, but they do not contain these specific cities.

⚡ Hence, option D is correct.



26.

Ans: B

Exp:

- ⚡ Nepal is facing a phase of political unrest, with Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli resigning amid widespread youth-led (Generation Z) demonstrations.
- ⚡ The unrest stems from long-standing concerns over corruption, nepotism, unemployment, and widening inequalities, alongside discontent with restrictions on social media platforms.
- ⚡ The situation grew more volatile after police firing in Kathmandu resulted in casualties, deepening public grievances and instability.
- ⚡ Hence, option B is correct.

27.

Ans: C

Exp:

- ⚡ BRICS is a cooperative intergovernmental organization of emerging economies that was originally formed to enhance economic collaboration and increase the global political and economic influence of its members.
- ✦ The name BRICS is an acronym for its five founding countries: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- ✦ The term “BRIC” was first coined in 2001 by Jim O’Neill to describe the rapidly growing economies of Brazil, Russia, India, and China.
- ⚡ BRICS has recently expanded its membership to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, and the United Arab Emirates and Iran, a development often described as “BRICS+.”
- ✦ Iraq is not a member of the BRICS group.

⚡ Hence, option C is correct.

28.

Ans: C

Exp:

- ⚡ India’s first overseas Jan Aushadhi Kendra has been inaugurated in Mauritius, supplying affordable Made-in-India generic medicines. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- ⚡ The India–Mauritius CECPA (signed Feb 2021; in force from 1 April 2021) is India’s first trade agreement with an African country. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

29.

Ans: A

Exp.

- ⚡ Under the 1974 Maritime Boundary Agreement, India formally ceded sovereignty of Katchatheevu Island to Sri Lanka. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- ⚡ Statement 2 – Incorrect: The treaty did not grant perpetual fishing rights; it only allowed Indian fishermen limited access to the islet for drying nets and pilgrimage to St. Antony’s church. Fishing rights were not settled and remain disputed. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- ⚡ Hence, option A is correct.

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30.

Ans: D

Exp:

Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA)

- 💡 ACSA establishes an enabling framework for reciprocal provision of logistics “supplies and services” between Indian and Japanese armed forces during bilateral activities such as exercises, UN peacekeeping, humanitarian relief, and other mutually agreed operations. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 Statement 2 is correct since the listed support explicitly covers food, fuel/petroleum, transportation/airlift, medical and communications services, with the objective of enhancing interoperability and deepening maritime cooperation. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 Statement 3 is correct as the agreement remains in force for 10 years and is automatically extended for additional 10-year periods unless either party decides to terminate it. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

31.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) explicitly states human-made changes cannot turn rocks into islands generating Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs). **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- 💡 The “Nine-Dash Line” claimed by China overlaps with the EEZs of Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, and the Philippines. This overlap is the crux of the South China Sea disputes. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**
- 💡 **Hence, option C is correct.**

Science & Technology

32.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 The term “rare earth” is a misnomer. These 17 metallic elements are not exceptionally rare in terms of their geological abundance. For instance, Cerium is more abundant than copper.
 - ✦ The challenge lies in the fact that they are typically dispersed and not found in concentrated, economically viable deposits, making their extraction and processing complex and costly. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 Rare Earth Minerals have unique magnetic, luminescent, and electrochemical properties that

make them indispensable for a wide range of modern technologies.

- ✦ They are essential for manufacturing permanent magnets used in wind turbines and EV motors, as well as for applications in consumer electronics (like smartphones), and advanced defense equipment. This makes them highly strategic. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- 💡 The global production and processing of rare earth minerals are overwhelmingly dominated by **China**, not India.
 - ✦ For decades, China has controlled a significant majority of the world’s supply, giving it immense leverage in the global high-tech and defense industries.
 - ✦ While India has reserves and is working to increase its production, it is not the largest producer. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

33.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 Mira Star is a **pulsating red giant star** whose brightness varies regularly, with periods ranging from **100 to 1,000 days**, due to **expansion and contraction cycles** in its outer layers. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 It was the **first known variable star** (a star that doesn’t shine with a constant brightness), identified in the 17th century.
- 💡 They are **relatively cool**, with surface temperatures around **3,000 Kelvin**, and are in the **late stages of stellar evolution**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

34.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 **Traumatic brain injuries** and **spinal cord injuries** are **directly caused by physical trauma**, so they are considered **injury-related neurological disorders**.
- 💡 **Stroke** is primarily **vascular-related**, and **encephalitis** is **infection-related**, so they are **not classified as injury-related**.
- 💡 **Hence, option A is correct.**

35.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 PET is a **non-biodegradable plastic** that persists in the environment and can adsorb pollutants such as **heavy metals and antibiotics**.

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💡 PLA, starch-based plastics, and PHA are biodegradable or bio-based plastics, which **degrade more easily and do not accumulate pollutants** to the same extent as PET.

💡 Hence, option A is correct.

36.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 The Union government launched the beta version of **Aadi Vaani**, India's First AI-powered Translator for tribal (Adivasi) languages, to strengthen communication and capacity-building in tribal districts.

💡 **Purpose:** Translate speech and text between Hindi, English, and **six Adivasi languages:** Bhili, Mundari, Gondi, Santali, Kui, and Garo.

💡 **AI Model & Target Use:** Based on **NLLB (No Language Left Behind)** and **IndicTrans2**, adapted for low-resource languages.

✦ Tested through **Adi Karmayogi**, a nationwide capacity-building initiative in tribal districts covering 1 lakh villages and 20 lakh volunteers.

💡 Hence, option A is correct.

37.

Ans: A

Exp:

💡 Naegleria fowleri is commonly called the **"brain-eating amoeba."**

✦ **Primary Amebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM)** is a **rare, often fatal brain infection** caused by Naegleria fowleri, the **"brain-eating amoeba"**, found in **warm, contaminated freshwater**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

💡 Infection occurs when the amoeba enters through the **nose** and destroys **brain tissue**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

💡 **N. fowleri infection is non-communicable;** it does not spread from person to person. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct.**

38.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 **Vikram-32 (VIKRAM3201)** is an advanced 32-bit microprocessor designed & developed by the **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre of ISRO in collaboration with SCL, Chandigarh**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

✦ It is an advanced version of the 16-bit VIKRAM1601, used in ISRO launch vehicle avionics since 2009.

✦ It is designed for spaceflight applications, capable of withstanding extreme temperatures of -55°C to 125°C.

💡 It boasts a custom instruction set architecture that is tailored for the **Ada programming language**, which is widely used in safety-critical systems. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

✦ It is also capable of handling complex tasks like **floating-point computation**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**

💡 It enables Atma Nirbharta in navigation, guidance, and control systems for launch vehicles.

39.

Ans: B

Exp:

💡 India has developed **CEREBO**, an indigenous, hand-held **diagnostic device to detect traumatic brain injuries (TBIs)**, aiming to improve early detection and patient outcomes, particularly in rural and emergency settings.

💡 Developed by **Indian Council of Medical Research**, It uses **advanced near-infrared spectroscopy** combined with **machine learning** to detect **intracranial bleeding and edema**.

💡 It provides results **within a minute**, enabling rapid diagnosis in emergency situations.

💡 It is **non-invasive and radiation-free**, making it safe for **infants, pregnant women, and repeated use**.

💡 Hence, option B is correct.

40.

Ans: C

Exp:

💡 Launched in 2024, the suspect registry was created based on the **National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP)** and developed by the **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

💡 It contains data on **1.4 million cybercriminals** linked to financial fraud and other cybercrimes, which has been shared with all banks.

💡 The registry **helps** banks and financial institutions **verify customer credentials and monitor transactions** to suspected accounts in real time. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

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- ✦ Using data from the NCRP, it strengthens **fraud risk management** and flags potential cybercriminals.

41.

Ans: D

Exp:

- 💡 Scientists have discovered **two new species of black aspergillus (Aspergillus dhakephalkarii and Aspergillus patriciawiltshireae)**, from the **Western Ghats**, marking India's first study in this group using advanced polyphasic taxonomy. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ✦ The **Western Ghats** is a **UNESCO World Heritage site** and one of the **eight "hottest hotspots"** of biodiversity.
- 💡 It comprises a diverse group of **filamentous fungi** that are **ubiquitously distributed across various ecological niches** and are of considerable **medical, industrial, and ecological significance**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 Also known as **'workhorses of industrial application'** especially in citric acid production, food mycology, fermentation technology, and agriculture. Scientists have discovered two new species of black aspergillus (*Aspergillus dhakephalkarii* and *Aspergillus patriciawiltshireae*). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

42.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 The Passport (Entry into India) Act of 1920 and three other outdated laws have been repealed by the Immigration and Foreigners Act of 2025.
 - ✦ Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920
 - ✦ Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939
 - ✦ Foreigners Act, 1946
 - ✦ Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Act, 2000
- 💡 **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- 💡 The Act specifically requests that educational institutions and medical institutions report to authorities about foreign nationals who have been residing, enrolling, or having medical services there. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 The Act gives authorized immigration officers, including those with the rank of superintendent of police, the authority to imprison foreign nationals suspected of violating the immigration laws without a warrant. **Hence, Statement 3 is not correct.**

43.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 The WHO's World Mental Health Today reports that the age-standardized point prevalence of mental illnesses around the world is 13.6%. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 According to recent WHO data, the most frequent mental wellness conditions are depression and anxiety, which together account for more than two-thirds of all cases. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- 💡 **Statement 3 incorrect:** WHO reports that suicide is the **third** leading cause of death among individuals aged 15–29. **Hence, Statement 3 is not correct.**
- 💡 Current estimates indicate that a decrease will fail to achieve the SDG target of a one-third reduction. **Hence, Statement 4 is not correct.**

44.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 NIRF 2025 covered 7,692 institutions, the highest ever, across 17 categories including a **new Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)** category to measure **"green" practices**, highlighting the government's focus on sustainable and accountable higher education.

💡 **Hence, C is the correct answer.**

45.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 Bioproducts are not exclusively derived from food crops like sugarcane and soybeans. They can also be derived from non-food crops (e.g., switchgrass, algae) or from waste products like agricultural residues or even recycled materials. While there may be some sustainability concerns regarding food crop-based bioproducts, it's not a universal limitation. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- 💡 Bioproducts, especially biofuels and bioplastics, can reduce reliance on fossil fuels, which helps in mitigating climate change. Additionally, bioproducts can contribute to rural development by creating jobs in agriculture, manufacturing, and related industries. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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⚡ Not all bioproducts are completely biodegradable. While many bioproducts, such as certain bioplastics, are designed to be biodegradable, not all bioproducts necessarily degrade completely in all environments. Some bioproducts may be designed for durability and longevity. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

46.

Ans: B

Exp:

⚡ The Earth's atmosphere preferentially scatters shorter wavelengths of light, such as blue and violet. It is the longer wavelengths, like red and orange, that are less scattered and continue on to illuminate the Moon's surface, giving it the reddish color. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

⚡ A Blood Moon is the characteristic appearance of the Moon specifically during a **total lunar eclipse**. In this alignment, the Earth is positioned directly between the Sun and the Moon, blocking all direct sunlight. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

⚡ The process responsible for this phenomenon is **atmospheric refraction**. As sunlight grazes the Earth and passes through its atmospheric layer, the light rays are bent. This refracted light, now stripped of its blue components, is what falls upon the lunar surface. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

47.

Ans: A

Exp:

⚡ The SRS is designed as a comprehensive survey to measure various demographic indicators, including the Crude Birth Rate (CBR) and Total Fertility Rate (TFR). A key feature is its ability to provide these statistics for the entire country and for individual states and union territories. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

⚡ While the SRS does collect data on age, sex, and marital status, it is conducted by the **Office of the Registrar General of India**, not the National Statistical Office (NSO). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

48.

Ans: C

Exp:

⚡ Vishing, or voice phishing, is a fraudulent social engineering attack that uses phone calls or voice messages to trick individuals into divulging sensitive personal information, such as account numbers,

passwords, or Social Security numbers. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**

⚡ Ransomware is a type of malicious software (malware) that encrypts a victim's files or locks their system, preventing access to data and devices. The attackers then demand a ransom payment, usually in cryptocurrency, for the decryption key or to restore access. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**

⚡ A Trojan horse is malware disguised as a legitimate program. It tricks users into installing it, then steals data, damages files, or gives attackers access. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**

49.

Ans: C

Exp:

⚡ Silicon is the conventional semiconductor widely used in electronics, while **Gallium Nitride and Graphene** are emerging as advanced materials for high-performance, power-efficient, and next-generation electronic devices.

⚡ All three are thus considered semiconductor materials, with GaN and Graphene representing next-generation applications.

⚡ **Hence, option C is correct.**

50.

Ans: A

Exp:

⚡ Formulated by Edwin Hubble in 1929, Hubble constant (H_0) measures the current expansion rate of the universe in **kilometers per second per megaparsec (km/s/Mpc)**, indicating how fast galaxies move apart. H_0 helps estimate the **universe's size and age**.

⚡ Edwin Hubble observed that the farther a galaxy is, the faster it moves away. This is measured using **redshift, a shift of light toward the red end of the spectrum**, indicating the universe is expanding.

⚡ **Hence, option A is correct.**

51.

Ans: C

Exp:

⚡ **NuScale in the US and CAREM in Argentina** are both leading examples of projects developing **Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)**. Unlike traditional large-scale nuclear power plants, SMRs are advanced nuclear fission reactors with a power output typically below **300 MW(e) per unit**.

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They are designed to be built in factories, transported as modules, and installed on site. This modular approach makes them more flexible, safer, and faster to deploy than conventional nuclear plants.

Both projects are at the forefront of a global effort to provide a more scalable and distributed source of low-carbon energy.

Hence, option C is correct.

52.

Ans: B

Exp:

Astronomers have demonstrated a pioneering technique using stellar parallax to navigate spacecraft in deep space without relying on Earth-based beacons.

Stellar parallax: As the earth orbits the sun, a star's position relative to other stars might seem to shift. This is because every six months, the earth is on opposite sides of the sun, providing two different viewpoints.

The **New Horizons** spacecraft observed **Proxima Centauri** (4.2 light-years away) and **Wolf 359** (7.9 light-years away) from a distance of **7 billion km** from Earth.

Hence, option B is correct.

53.

Ans: C

Exp:

Isobutanol is a four-carbon alcohol ($C_4H_{10}O$), flammable, colorless, and traditionally used as a solvent in paints, coatings, and chemical industries. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

It is produced both from **petrochemical processes and fermentation of biomass**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Isobutanol has a **higher energy density than ethanol** (closer to diesel). It has lower **hygroscopicity** (absorbs less water than ethanol), reducing risks of corrosion in engines and pipelines, making it suitable for fuel use and **blending with conventional fuels**. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

54.

Ans: B

Exp:

Rare earths are a group of 17 elements including 15 silvery-white metals called lanthanides, or lanthanoids, plus scandium and yttrium.

In their **periodic table order**, they are: scandium, yttrium, lanthanum, cerium, praseodymium, neodymium, promethium, samarium, europium, gadolinium, terbium, dysprosium, holmium, erbium, thulium, ytterbium, and lutetium.

They are **not rare in the sense** that they are uncommon. They tend to be spread thin around the Earth's crust in small quantities and mixed together or with other minerals, so larger deposits are difficult to find and costly to extract.

Hence, option B is correct.

55.

Ans: D

Exp:

Small Modular Reactors: SMRs are next-generation nuclear reactors with a **power output of up to 300 MW(e) per unit**, roughly one-third that of conventional nuclear reactors.

Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) typically produce up to 300 MW(e) per unit, which is indeed much smaller than the output of traditional nuclear reactors, which can range between 1,000 MW(e) to 1,500 MW(e). Hence, statement 1 is correct.

SMRs are designed to be manufactured in a factory and then transported to the installation site as a complete unit. This modular approach helps reduce construction time and costs. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Like traditional nuclear reactors, SMRs use nuclear fission to produce heat, which is then converted into electrical energy. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

Environment & Ecology

56.

Ans: A

Exp:

BioE3 Policy aims to promote **high-performance biomanufacturing** across diverse sectors. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Biomanufacturing involves the production of **bio-based products** using biological systems and techniques like **fermentation, cell culture, and recombinant DNA technology**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

The policy is implemented by the **Department of Biotechnology under the Ministry of Science and Technology**, not the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

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57.

Ans: D

Exp:

- Exclusive Economic Zone - **Only the coastal state** has sovereign rights to explore, exploit, conserve, and manage living resources (fish). Foreign states **cannot fish without explicit consent or agreement**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- The coastal state is the only entity with sovereign rights over seabed and subsurface resources within the Exclusive Economic Zone. It has the power to authorize other states. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- The coastal state must authorize marine scientific research in the EEZ. Illegal research is not permitted. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

58.

Ans: D

Exp:

Great Indian Bustard (GIB):

- GIB populations persist chiefly in the Thar Desert of Rajasthan with smaller remnant groups in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The four bustard/florican species in India include GIB, Lesser Florican, Bengal Florican, and Macqueen's Bustard. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- GIB's low frontal field of view combined with tall power infrastructure makes line collisions a major mortality factor. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
- As a grassland keystone/flagship, trends in GIB reflect the broader condition of India's arid and semi-arid grassland biodiversity. Hence, **statement 4 is correct**.

59.

Ans: A

Exp:

- India's Panchamrit plan sets five key climate targets: 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity and 50% renewable energy by 2030, cut CO₂ emissions by 1 billion tons, **reduce carbon intensity by 45% by 2030, and achieve net-zero emissions by 2070**. Hence, **statement I is correct**.
- Carbon intensity is defined as the ratio of carbon dioxide emissions to the Gross Domestic Product. Hence, **statement II is correct**.

- Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I

Hence, option A is correct

60.

Ans: C

Exp:

- National Parks are constituted under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972; they offer the highest protection with only scientific research and regulated tourism permitted, while activities like mining, logging, and grazing are prohibited. Hence, **the information in row 1 is correctly matched**.
- Wildlife Sanctuaries are also notified under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972; limited activities such as grazing and collection of forest produce may be allowed if they do not harm wildlife, with management by State Forest Departments. Hence, **the information in row 2 is correctly matched**.
- Conservation Reserves are designated under the Wildlife (Protection) Act to protect corridors and buffer habitats; they allow controlled human use with community participation and are overseen by State Governments. Hence, **the information in row 3 is correctly matched**.
- Community Reserves can be established on private or community-owned lands with direct local participation; they permit livelihood-compatible activities aligned with conservation goals under State oversight. Hence, **the information in row 4 is correctly matched**.

61.

Ans: A

Exp:

India is turning to **Contracts for Difference (CfD)** as a central mechanism to mobilize nearly **USD 1 trillion in green finance for its 500 GW renewable energy target by 2030**. Hence, **statement I is correct**.

- CfD is a financial agreement between **renewable energy producers and the government to stabilize revenues**. Hence, **statement II is correct**.
- If market prices fall below an agreed strike price, the government pays the producer the difference and if prices rise above it, the producer returns the surplus. Hence, **statement III is correct**.
 - CfDs reduce risk and are widely used in Europe for renewable projects.

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- Green finance encompasses financial products and services designed to promote environmental sustainability. To meet its **Paris Agreement targets**, India needs **USD 2.5 trillion by 2030**.
- India needs **USD 10 trillion by 2070** for its **net-zero goal**, focusing on **green finance as essential for development**.
- Hence, **option A is correct because both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I**.

62.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The **Environment Audit Designated Agency (EADA)** is responsible for the certification, registration, and management of auditors.
 - The overall implementation of the rules is overseen by a **Steering Committee**, which is chaired by an Additional Secretary from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC). **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The rules introduce a **two-tiered system** of compliance verification.
 - Tier-1** involves the primary review by government regulators like the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs).
 - Tier-2** consists of third-party verification audits conducted by independent **Registered Environment Auditors (REAs)**.
 - Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- To ensure impartiality and prevent any potential conflict of interest, REAs will be assigned to projects on a **random basis**. This prevents industrial units from choosing their own auditors, thereby strengthening the integrity of the audit process. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

63.

Ans: D

Exp:

- Species richness** is defined as the total number of **different species** present at a given site or location. It is a basic measure of biodiversity. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- Alpha diversity** measures the diversity **within a particular area or ecosystem**, reflecting both species richness and evenness within that site. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Tropical regions** have greater species diversification than temperate regions due to **longer evolutionary time, stable climatic conditions, and favorable environmental factors**, which allow more species to evolve and persist. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

64.

Ans: B

Exp:

- Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** are climate action plans submitted by countries to the UNFCCC, outlining targets and policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change under the Paris Agreement.
 - India submitted its updated **Nationally Determined Contribution** to the Paris Agreement in August 2022.
 - India aims to reduce the **emissions intensity of its GDP by 45%, not 60%, by 2030**, relative to 2005 levels. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - India's targets are to create **an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent by 2030** through additional forest and tree cover. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - India aims to **meet 50% of its energy requirements from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030**. Also, achieving 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

65.

Ans: C

Exp:

- Coral reefs cover around 1% of the ocean floor but support over 25% of marine life**, making them biodiversity hotspots. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Corals host zooxanthellae algae**, which photosynthesize and provide 80–90% of the coral's nutrients, explaining why corals are typically found in shallow, sunlit waters. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Eutrophication**, caused by excess nutrients from sewage or fertilizer runoff, leads to rapid growth of filamentous algae that outcompete corals and suppress their growth. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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66.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 💡 **Bioluminescent beetles**, also known as lightning bugs or fireflies, are crucial for environmental balance.
- 💡 Bioluminescent beetles produce **cold, efficient light** in abdominal organs through a biochemical reaction involving **luciferin, luciferase, oxygen, and ATP (Adenosine Triphosphate)**, with light colors ranging from green to yellow.
 - ✖ This bioluminescence plays key roles in **mating signal** and **predator deterrence**.
- 💡 **Large-scale synchronous flashing** of fireflies are **bioindicators** of **pollution-free areas**, with population changes signaling environmental disruptions.
- 💡 Hence, option C is correct.

67.

Ans: B

Exp:

Aspect	Green Credits	Carbon Credits
Focus	It is a unit of incentive awarded for an activity that positively impacts the environment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 💡 Governed by Green Credit Programme, operating under The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Hence, statement 1 is correct. 	Primarily reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Hence, statement 2 is not correct . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 💡 Carbon credits allow the holder to emit 1 ton of CO₂ (or equivalent GHGs) per credit. 💡 It is governed by the Energy Conservation Act, 2001 in India. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
Eligibility	Open to individuals and communities.	Typically for entities reducing emissions or investing in projects. Hence, statement 3 is correct .
Incentives	Monetary rewards for eco-friendly actions	Revenue from international credit trading

68.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 Carbon markets allow trading of **carbon credits**, where one credit represents one ton of reduced, avoided, or sequestered **CO₂ or GHG emissions**. Hence, **statement I is correct**.
- 💡 These credits are **purchased by companies or countries** to offset their emissions, promoting transparency, accountability, and funding for sustainable projects while enabling international cooperation in emission reductions. Hence, **statement II is correct**.
 - While the two statements are related, **Statement II builds upon Statement I rather than explaining it**.
- 💡 Hence, option A is correct.

69.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 The strictness of protection in India's protected areas varies according to the level of human activity permitted.
 - 💡 **National Parks offer the highest degree of protection**, where all human activities, including grazing and private land rights, are prohibited to safeguard critical wildlife habitats.
 - ✖ **Wildlife Sanctuaries come next**, allowing certain regulated activities like grazing or collection of forest produce while still prioritizing wildlife conservation.
 - 💡 **Conservation Reserves are areas maintained for wildlife protection but permit controlled human use**, such as grazing or seasonal activities, often serving as buffer zones or wildlife corridors.
 - 💡 **Community Reserves provide the least stringent protection**, as they involve local communities in managing private or community-owned lands, balancing conservation with sustainable resource use and cultural preservation.
 - 💡 Hence, the correct order from most to least protected is: **National Park (2) → Wildlife Sanctuary(3) → Conservation Reserve(1) → Community Reserve (4)**.
 - 💡 Hence, option B is correct.
- 70.
- Ans: B
- Exp:
- 💡 The **Andaman and Nicobar Islands** comprise 836 islands, divided by the **Ten Degree Channel** into the **Andamans (north) and Nicobars (south)**.

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- Great Nicobar, the largest Nicobar island, hosts Indira Point, India's southernmost tip, just 90 nautical miles from Sumatra (Indonesia).
- Great Nicobar has two national parks, a biosphere reserve, small populations of the Shompen and Nicobarese tribal peoples, and a few thousand non-tribal settlers.
- Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve was included in the list of Man and Biosphere (MAB) Program of UNESCO in 2013.
- Hence, option B is correct.

History and Art & Culture

71.

Ans: B

Exp:

- Jyotiba Phule, a 19th-century activist, was the founder of the Satyashodhak Samaj. He authored Gulamgiri (1873), highlighting the plight of untouchables while acknowledging the role of Muslim rulers, Christian missionaries, and the British in promoting egalitarian ideas in society. Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.
- E.V. Ramasamy Naicker (Periyar), in the Madras Presidency, established the Self-Respect Movement, which laid the foundation for his leadership in the Justice Party from 1939 and challenged Brahminical social hierarchies. Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.
- The Mahad Satyagraha of 1927 was led by B.R. Ambedkar, who mobilised Dalits with the slogan, "We must become a ruling community," to assert their right to draw water from public tanks previously denied by upper-caste authorities.
 - Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was not a key figure directly involved in leading the Mahad Satyagraha. Hence, pair 3 is incorrectly matched.

72.

Ans: C

Exp:

- Lothal is one of the southernmost sites of the Harappan civilization, located in the Bhal region of Gujarat, between the Bhogavo and Sabarmati rivers near the Gulf of Khambhat.
- The name Lothal in Gujarati means "mound of the dead", similar to Mohenjo-daro in Sindh.

- The site was discovered in 1954 by S.R. Rao was nominated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in April 2014.
- Hence, option C is correct.

73.

Ans: B

Exp:

- Manki-Munda System is a centuries-old self-governance framework of the Ho adivasi community. The Ho or Kolha are an Austroasiatic Munda ethnic group of India, concentrated mainly in Jharkhand's Kolhan region and parts of Odisha, with smaller populations in West Bengal, Bihar, Bangladesh, and Nepal. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- In the Manki-Munda System each village is led by a hereditary Munda, responsible for resolving local disputes, while a group of 8–15 villages, called a pidh, is overseen by a Manki, handling cases unresolved at the village level. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
 - The system is decentralized and purely socio-political, with no role in revenue collection, land management, or taxation.
- During colonial rule, Captain Thomas Wilkinson (1833) codified the system in Wilkinson's Rules, formally recognising Mundas and Mankis and integrating them into colonial administration. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
 - This introduced private property and pattas, transforming collective landholding to individual ownership and led to demographic changes with influx of outsiders (dikkus).

74.

Ans: B

Exp:

- India's first bamboo-based bioethanol plant established in Golaghat, Assam not in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- After the amendment in Indian Forest Act, 1927, bamboo is no longer classified as a tree, lifting the ban on its cutting. This change supports the livelihoods of forest communities and private growers. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Bioethanol is not a hydrocarbon.
 - It is a biologically produced biofuel rather than derived from petroleum. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

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75.

Ans: B

Exp:

- Harappan (Indus Valley) Script is used by Indus Valley Civilization (2600–1900 BCE) in present-day Pakistan and north-west India. Discovered in the 1920s by **Sir John Marshall's team**.
- The script was found on seals, terracotta tablets, and metal is **still undeciphered** and features pictograms, animals, and human motifs. While scholars believe it is likely a **logosyllabic system (combining pictograms and syllables)**, this is still hypothetical. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- In Harappan Script some longer inscriptions **do follow the Boustrophedon style** (alternating lines), though the script is generally written **right to left**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

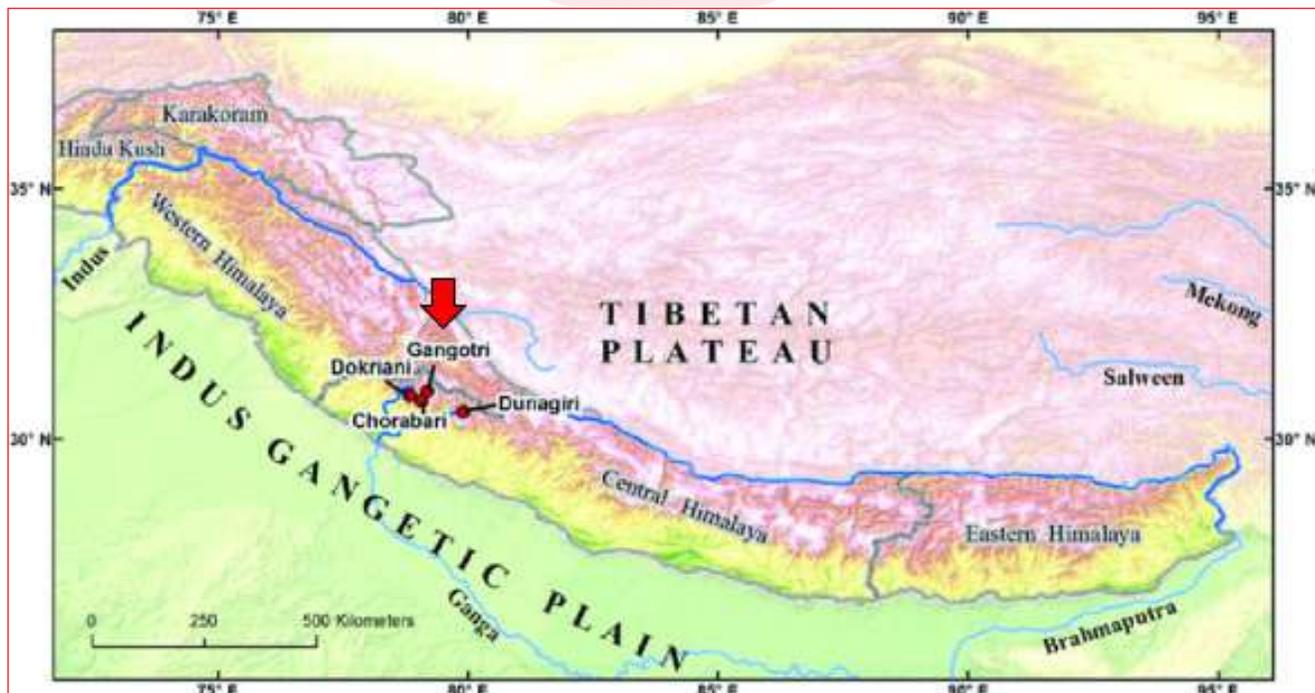
Geography

76.

Ans: B

Exp:

- Gangotri Glacier is situated in **Uttarkashi district, Uttarakhand**, and originates from the **northern slopes of the Chaukhamba range**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is a **compound valley glacier** (formed by the confluence of multiple smaller glaciers). Important tributary glaciers feeding it include **Raktvarn, Chaturangi, and Swachand**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The glacier terminates at **Gaumukh**, but the river that emerges from here is the **Bhagirathi River**, not the Alaknanda. (Later, Bhagirathi joins the Alaknanda at **Devprayag** to form the **Ganga**.) **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- Peaks such as **Shivling, Thalay Sagar, Meru, and Bhagirathi III** feed the glacier with snow and ice. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**



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77.

Ans: D

Exp:

- 💡 India is the second-largest producer and consumer of cotton in the world, after China. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- 💡 Excavations from sites like Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa confirm that cotton was grown and woven in the Indus Valley Civilization. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- 💡 Cotton is a subtropical crop requiring temperatures between 21°C–30°C, abundant sunshine, and a frost-free season of about 200 days.
 - ✦ It grows well in areas with moderate rainfall (50–100 cm) or irrigation facilities, with humidity aiding healthy growth.
 - ✦ Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- 💡 Therefore, the correct answer is D (None).

78.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 La Niña involves stronger trade winds, not weaker, which push warm water towards the western Pacific, lowering sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern Pacific.. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- 💡 La Niña brings colder-than-normal winters to northern India, especially in Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- 💡 The WMO is a UN specialized agency focused on weather, climate, and hydrological sciences. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- 💡 Therefore, the correct answer is (b) 2 and 3 only.

79.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 Fremantle, located in Western Australia and is a significant port city. Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.

💡 Lyttelton is a port town near Christchurch on the east coast of New Zealand's South Island, not in Oman. Hence, pair 2 is incorrectly matched.

💡 Cape Town is a major port city and is one of South Africa's three capitals, serving as the legislative capital where the Parliament is located. Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.

💡 Hence, option B is correct.

80.

Ans: A

Exp:

- 💡 The nickname "White Gold" commonly refers to cotton because of its fluffy white lint and high economic value.
- 💡 Agronomically, cotton is a subtropical crop needing warm, sunny, frost-free conditions with adequate humidity; it performs well on deep alluvial soils in north India but is notably vulnerable to waterlogging, which reduces yield by depriving roots of oxygen.
- 💡 Sugarcane, sorghum, and pearl millet do not match the "White Gold" moniker and are generally more tolerant of periodic soil moisture than cotton.
- 💡 Hence, the correct answer is A.

81.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 The Seychelles are located northeast of Madagascar, which is in the Indian Ocean, off the eastern coast of East Africa. Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.
- 💡 Statement 2 correct: Seychelles is the smallest African country by area (~455 sq km) and also by population (~100,000 people). Hence, Statement 2 is correct.
- 💡 The capital city of Victoria is situated on Mahé, which is the largest island in the Seychelles. Hence, Statement 3 is correct.

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82.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 💡 Phosphate rock (phosphorite) is a sedimentary rock with high phosphorus content, formed from marine accumulations over geologic time. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 💡 The vast majority of phosphate rock (over 80%) is extracted through open-pit or surface mining, not deep underground mining. This is because major commercial deposits are typically found in relatively shallow, flat-lying beds close to the Earth's surface.
 - ✦ Deep shaft mining is far more expensive and is only used when deposits are too deep to be accessed from the surface, which is not the case for most phosphate reserves. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- 💡 Morocco holds the world's largest deposits; significant reserves are distributed across Africa, North America, Kazakhstan, and the Middle East; within India, production is concentrated in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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Defence & Security

83.

Ans: A

Exp:

- ⚡ ZAPAD exercise has been held by Russia since 2009, aiming to enhance military cooperation, improve interoperability, and provide a platform for the exchange of tactics and techniques in conventional warfare and counter-terrorism. **Hence, option A is correct.**
- ⚡ The exercise involves both conventional warfare and counter-terrorism operations, not solely counter-terrorism. **Hence, option B is not correct.**
- ⚡ The exercise focuses on joint company-level operations in open and plain terrains, not mountainous terrains. **Hence, option C is not correct.**
- ⚡ The exercise is a strategic military drill led by Russia (often with Belarus) and is not primarily aimed at

promoting diplomatic relations with NATO countries. **Hence, option D is not correct.**

84.

Ans: C

Exp:

- ⚡ The Malabar Exercise is a multilateral naval drill of the Quad (India, US, Japan, and Australia) focused on interoperability and a free, open Indo-Pacific. Started as India-US in 1992, Japan joined permanently in 2015 and Australia in 2020. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- ⚡ IBSAMAR is a series of naval exercises between the navies of India, Brazil and South Africa. The name IBSAMAR is an abbreviation of India-Brazil-South Africa Maritime. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- ⚡ Surya Kiran is a joint annual military exercise between India and Nepal aimed at enhancing military cooperation in mountainous terrains. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**



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