

DAILY MCQs COMPILATION *with* **EXPLANATIONS**

NOVEMBER 2025

NEXT IAS

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HISTORY, ART & CULTURE

1. Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

Institution/Movement	Founder / Association
1. Gurukul Kangri	Swami Shraddhanand
2. Dayanand Anglo-Vedic Schools	Arya Samaj
3. Shuddhi Movement	Raja Ram Mohan Roy

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 3
- (d) 1 only

2. Arrange the following Indian cities in the chronological order of their designation as a UNESCO Creative City, starting from the earliest:

- 1. Chennai (Music)
- 2. Hyderabad (Gastronomy)
- 3. Varanasi (Music)
- 4. Lucknow (Gastronomy)

Select the correct code:

- (a) 3 - 1 - 4 - 2
- (b) 3 - 1 - 2 - 4
- (c) 3 - 2 - 1 - 4
- (d) 1 - 3 - 2 - 4

3. The famous Baliyatra festival, which commemorates ancient maritime trade links with Southeast Asia, is celebrated mainly in which of the following Indian states?

- (a) West Bengal
- (b) Odisha
- (c) Andhra Pradesh
- (d) Tamil Nadu

4. With reference to Bankim Chandra Chatterjee's contributions to Indian thought, consider the following statements:

- 1. He is often regarded as the philosophical precursor of cultural nationalism in India.
- 2. His writings sought to reconcile Western education with Indian spiritual values.

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. Durgeshnandini (1865), Kapalkundala (1866), and Devi Chaudhurani (1884) are notable works of which of the following personalities?
- Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay
 - Rabindranath Tagore
 - Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay
 - Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar
6. Consider the following pairs:
- | Crafts and products | | Related States |
|---------------------|---|-------------------|
| 1. Kannadippaya | - | Kerala |
| 2. Apatani textile | - | Arunachal Pradesh |
| 3. Lepcha Tungbuk | - | Sikkim |
- How many of the pairs are correctly matched?
- Only one
 - Only two
 - All three
 - None
7. Which of the following tribal uprisings is also known as Ulgulan (The Great Tumult)?
- Santhal Rebellion
 - Khond Rebellion
 - Munda Rebellion
 - Kol Rebellion
8. With reference to the Adi Kumbeswarar Temple, consider the following statements:
- It is dedicated to Lord Shiva, worshipped in the form of a lingam.
 - The temple was originally built during the Chola period and later renovated by the Nayak rulers.
 - It is one of the temples associated with the Mahamaham festival, held once every 12 years.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 and 2 only
 - 2 and 3 only
 - 1 and 3 only
 - 1, 2 and 3
9. The Raula and Raulane figures associated with the Raulane Festival represent:
- Ancestral spirits believed to protect mountain villages
 - A symbolic groom and bride linking humans to the divine realm
 - Mythical warriors commemorated in Kinnauri folklore
 - Mountain deities associated with harvest rituals
10. Consider the following statements regarding Guru Tegh Bahadur:
- He founded the town of Chak Nanki in Punjab, later enlarged into the city of Shri Anandpur Sahib.
 - He was the youngest son of Guru Hargobind, the sixth Sikh Guru.
 - He was given the title Hind Di Chadar for defending religious freedom.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

11. Sangai Festival, named after the rare deer, related to which of the following states?

- (a) Uttarakhand
- (b) Kerala
- (c) Odisha
- (d) Manipur

12. With reference to the Korku Tribal Communities, consider the following statements:

1. Korkus is a Munda ethnic group concentrated chiefly in Madhya Pradesh and parts of Maharashtra.
2. They belong to the Munda linguistic group, speaking the Korku language.

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

13. With reference to the Naïve painting practices of Kovačica (Serbia), consider the following statements:

1. The tradition originated in the 1930s in the town of Kovačica with a Slovak minority.
2. Practitioners are formally trained artists who mainly use watercolours to depict rural life and history.
3. It is recognised on the list of UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

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

14. With reference to Sirpur site, consider the following statements:

1. It is an archaeological site with Hindu, Jain and Buddhist monuments on the banks of the Mahanadi.
2. It was first discovered in 1882 by Alexander Cunningham.
3. It was the capital of Dakshina Kosala under the Panduvanshi and Somavamshi king.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All the three
- (d) None

15. Which of the following are the notable writings of G. V. Mavalankar?

1. Manavatana Jharna
2. Sansmarano
3. A Great Experiment
4. Discovery of India

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

EXPLANATIONS

1. (a)

Swami Shraddhanand founded Gurukul Kangri University in 1902 as part of Arya Samaj's educational reforms.

DAV Schools were established under the Arya Samaj movement to provide modern education blended with Vedic values.

Although the Shuddhi Movement was inspired by Arya Samaj's ideals, it was initiated mainly by Swami Shraddhanand to reconvert people back to Hinduism.

2. (b)

The chronological order of designation of Indian cities as UNESCO Creative Cities, with explanation is:

Varanasi (Music): Designated in 2015, Varanasi was the first Indian city to be recognized by UNESCO as a Creative City for its rich musical heritage. It is known globally for its classical and spiritual music traditions, which aligned with UNESCO's criteria for the Music category.

Chennai (Music): Following Varanasi, Chennai was designated in 2017 for its prominent Carnatic music tradition and vibrant music culture. Chennai has been a major hub for classical music and festivals, earning it a place in the Creative Cities Network under the Music category.

Hyderabad (Gastronomy): Hyderabad was recognized in 2019 under the Gastronomy category, celebrated for its culinary heritage including iconic dishes like Hyderabadi biryani and rich food traditions. This made Hyderabad the first Indian city to gain recognition in the Gastronomy domain.

Lucknow (Gastronomy): The most recent designation came in 2025, when Lucknow was acknowledged for its rich culinary legacy, particularly Awadhi cuisine, which is known for its sophisticated flavors and traditional cooking techniques. Lucknow became the second Indian Gastronomy City after Hyderabad.

3. (b)

In News: The President extends greetings on the occasion of the historic 'Baliyatra' festival to the people of Odisha.

About

- Baliyatra is an annual festival celebrated in coastal Odisha on the day of Kartika Purnima, commemorating the ancient maritime trade and cultural links between Odisha (ancient Kalinga) and Southeast Asian countries like Bali, Java, and Sumatra.
- The festival is associated with the legend of 'Taapoi' and includes rituals such as 'Bhalukuni Osha' (or 'Khudurukuni Osha') and 'Bada Osha'.
- During Baliyatra, people traditionally float miniature boats with lamps on the Mahanadi River, symbolizing the sea voyages made by their ancestors.

4. (c)

Bankim Chandra Chatterjee is often regarded as the philosophical precursor of cultural nationalism in India. His writings, including *Anandamath* and the composition of *Vande Mataram*, played a seminal role in shaping the ideology of Indian nationalism rooted in cultural pride and revivalism. He emphasized rejuvenating India's indigenous traditions and spiritual heritage, which laid the intellectual groundwork for cultural nationalism.

His writings sought to reconcile Western education with Indian spiritual values. Bankim was an advocate of modernity and believed in adopting Western advancements in science, technology, and governance while simultaneously preserving India's rich spiritual and cultural traditions. He introduced the concept of *Anushilan*, which combined knowledge with duty towards the nation.

5. (a)

In News: India commemorates the **150th anniversary of its National Song, Vande Mataram**, a powerful symbol of unity, sacrifice, and patriotism.

- Composed by **Bankim Chandra Chatterjee**, '*Vande Mataram*' was first published in the literary journal *Bangadarshan* on **7 November 1875**.

Bankim Chandra Chatterjee (1838–1894)

- Bankim Chandra Chatterjee (1838–1894), the author of *Vande Mataram*, was one of the most prominent figures of 19th-century Bengal.
- He holds a pivotal role in the intellectual and literary history of Bengal during the nineteenth century.
- As a distinguished novelist, poet, and essayist, his contributions significantly influenced the development of modern Bengali prose and the articulation of an emerging Indian nationalism.
- His notable works, including *Anandamath* (1882), *Durgeshnandini* (1865), *Kapalkundala* (1866), and *Devi Chaudhurani* (1884), reflect the social, cultural, and moral concerns of a colonised society striving for self-identity.

6. (c)

Recently, the Government announced a reduction in the **GI tag application fee** from **₹5,000 to ₹1,000**, encouraging tribal artisans to protect traditional crafts.

- GI tag certificates distributed for crafts and products like **Kannadippaya (Kerala)**, **Apatani textile (Arunachal)**, **Marthandam honey (Tamil Nadu)**, **Lepcha Tungbuk (Sikkim)**, **Bodo Aronai (Assam)**, **Ambaji Marble (Gujarat)**, and **Badri cow ghee (Uttarakhand)**.

Geographical Indications (GIs) are a form of industrial property that identify products as originating from a specific place, where their quality or reputation is linked to that origin.

- They are recognized under the Paris Convention and TRIPS Agreement (Articles 22–24).

7. (c)

In News: 15 November is observed as **Janjatiya Gaurav Divas**, commemorating the birth anniversary of **Bhagwan Birsa Munda**.

Munda Rebellion (1895–1900)

- Also known as **Ulgulan (The Great Tumult)**, was a major tribal uprising led by Birsa Munda against British colonial rule, exploitative **outsiders (called Dikus)**, and the erosion of traditional tribal systems in the **Chhotanagpur region**.
- The rebellion is seen as a landmark event in tribal resistance and eventually prompted legislative changes such as the **Chotanagpur Tenancy Act (CNT Act) of 1908** to protect tribal land rights.

8. (d)

Context: The kumbabishekam (consecration) of the Adi Kumbeswarar Temple in Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu, has brought renewed attention to the temple's unique **stone nagaswaram**, a rare wind instrument preserved here.

About the temple

- The Adi Kumbeswarar Temple in Kumbakonam (Thanjavur district, Tamil Nadu) is dedicated to **Lord Shiva**, worshipped as Adi Kumbeswarar in the form of a **lingam**.
- The temple is an **architectural landmark** showcasing the key features of **Dravidian architecture** and is believed to be over **1,300 years old**.
- The temple dates back to the **Chola period (9th century CE)** and was later renovated by the **Nayak rulers**.
- It is one of the **12 Shiva temples** associated with the **Mahamaham festival**, held once every 12 years in Kumbakonam.

9. (b)

The Raula and Raulane figures associated with the Raulane Festival represent a symbolic groom and bride linking humans to the divine realm. Both roles are traditionally played by men chosen through community consensus, who wear elaborate masks, woollen robes, and gloves to transform into ritual figures. The festival, celebrated in Kinnaur, Himachal Pradesh, honors celestial fairies known as the Saunis who protect the mountain villages during harsh winters.

10. (d)

Statement 1 is correct: Guru Tegh Bahadur was born in 1621 in Amritsar, but he was closely associated with Anandpur Sahib, where he spent a significant part of his life and where the Sikh community was strong. He founded the town of Chak Nanki in Punjab, later enlarged into the city of Shri Anandpur Sahib.

Statement 2 is correct: Guru Tegh Bahadur was indeed the youngest son of Guru Hargobind, the sixth Sikh Guru.

Statement 3 is correct: He is revered as “Hind Di Chadar” (Shield of India) because he sacrificed his life to protect religious freedom, particularly defending Hindus against Mughal persecution.

11. (d)

In News: The Sangai Festival in **Manipur** began amid a protest by internally displaced persons (IDPs) and members of NGOs who argued the government should prioritise resolving the ongoing ethnic conflict between Kuki-Zo and Meitei communities before hosting tourism events.

Sangai Festival is a grand celebration of Manipur’s rich tradition and culture

- It is held annually from 21–30 November in Manipur since 2010.
- It is the state’s grandest cultural celebration.
- It is named after the rare Sangai deer.

12. (c)

Both the statements are correct: Korkus is a Munda ethnic group concentrated chiefly in **Madhya Pradesh and parts of Maharashtra**.

- They belong to the **Munda linguistic group**, speaking the Korku language (Mon–Khmer family).

13. (c)

Statement 1 is correct: The **naïve painting** practices of **Kovačica, Serbia** refer to the tradition of painting and decorating objects with representations of the **folk life, rural environment, history and everyday lives**.

- It originated in the **town of Kovačica in the 1930s** and spread to other towns with Slovak communities in Serbia over time.

Statement 2 is not correct: Practitioners are **self-taught**, they use **oil paint in bright hues** to depict **traditional culture, objects, history and values**.

- An identifying factor, the practice is a means of transmitting the cultural heritage and history of the **Slovak community in Serbia**.

Statement 3 is correct: Last year UNESCO recognised the **Kovacica painters** on its **list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity**.

14. (c)

In News : The 5th-century Sirpur archaeological site is being upgraded with facilities like battery-operated golf carts, digital exhibits, and immersive storytelling modules as part of efforts to secure a UNESCO World Heritage tag.

All the statements are correct : Sirpur is located two hours from Raipur in Chhattisgarh's Mahasamund district.

- It is a 5th–12th century archaeological site featuring 34 Hindu, Jain, and Buddhist monuments along the Mahanadi river.
- It was First identified in 1882 by Alexander Cunningham, excavations resumed in the 1950s and later decades, uncovering 22 Shiva temples, five Vishnu temples, 10 Buddhist viharas, and three Jain viharas, with the earliest dating to the 5th century.
- Sirpur was once the capital of Dakshina Kosala under the Panduvanshi and Somavamshi kings.
- It showcases early-medieval urban planning with palace ruins, markets, residences, temples, stupas, meditation cells, and water systems.

15. (b)

In News: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla floral tributes to **Ganesh Vasudev Mavalankar**, the **first Speaker** of the Lok Sabha on his birth anniversary.

About G. V. Mavalankar

- Born in Baroda, Gujarat, he was a lawyer who abandoned his practice to join India's freedom struggle under Mahatma Gandhi's leadership. He served as President of the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) from 1946-1947.
- G.V. Mavalankar was popularly known as **Dadasaheb** and honoured by **Jawaharlal Nehru as the "Father of the Lok Sabha"**, was a pivotal figure in shaping India's parliamentary democracy.
- Mavalankar co-founded Ahmedabad Education Society and Gujarat Vidyapith, promoting national education alongside Patel and Gandhi.
- He also founded the **National Rifle Association** and the Institute for Afro-Asian Relations.
- His writings, **Manavatana Jharna**, **Sansmarano**, and **A Great Experiment** reflect his commitment to democratic values and nation-building.
 - Discovery of India was written by **Jawaharlal Nehru**, not Mavalankar.



ECONOMY

1. With reference to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), consider the following statements:
1. CPI is also known as Retail Inflation.
 2. It measures the rate at which the prices of goods and services purchased by consumers for personal use increase over time.
 3. CPI is compiled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

2. With reference to the 'Rupee-backed stablecoins', consider the following statements:
1. They are primarily backed by commodities like gold reserves.
 2. They could streamline cross-border payments.
 3. They can be issued by private entities.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

3. With reference to Coal India Limited (CIL), which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. CIL is a Maharatna Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development.
 2. It contributes to around 80% of total domestic coal production.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

4. With reference to the 'Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)', consider the following statements:
1. It was established to lead large-scale energy efficiency projects across India.
 2. It initiated projects like UJALA, Smart Metering, and National Efficient Cooking Programme (NECP).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only

- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

5. Consider the following:

Countries	Payment Initiatives
1. Russia	Cross-Border Interbank Payment System (CIPS)
2. China	System for Transfer of Financial Messages (SPFS)
3. Brazil	Pix system

How many of the above pair is / are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one pair
- (b) Only two pairs
- (c) All three pairs
- (d) None of the above

6. Consider the following statements regarding the Currency in Circulation (CIC) to GDP ratio:

1. A high CIC-to-GDP ratio indicates increased use of digital payments and formal financial systems.
2. A lower CIC-to-GDP ratio suggests greater reliance on cash-based transactions by people and businesses.

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

7. With reference to measures of money supply in India, consider the following statements:

1. M1 includes currency with the public and time deposits with commercial banks.
2. M3 includes M1 plus time deposits with commercial and cooperative banks.
3. M4 is the broadest measure of money supply that includes all post office deposits.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

8. Consider the following statements:

1. Molasses is a thick, dark brown syrup obtained as a byproduct during the process of refining sugarcane.
2. It is used as a component in cattle feed and for soil conditioning.

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

9. Consider the following statements regarding Indian Railways:

1. Indian Railways is the fourth-largest rail network in the world and employs over 12 lakh people, making it the eighth-largest commercial employer globally.
2. The Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) functions under the Ministry of Railways.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

10. With reference to Digital Gold in India, consider the following statements:

1. It refers to buying gold without physically possessing the metal.
2. Its price is linked to that of physical gold.
3. Unlike traditional gold purchases, digital gold allows investors to start investing with smaller amounts.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

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

1. SEBI was established as a statutory body through the SEBI Act, 1992.
2. The primary objective of SEBI is to promote the interests of brokers and intermediaries in the securities market.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

12. The SEBI High-Level Committee headed by Pratyush Sinha primarily examined:

- (a) Insider trading violations by listed companies
- (b) Strengthening governance and conflict-of-interest norms within SEBI itself
- (c) Market manipulation in small and mid-cap segments
- (d) Reform of mutual fund taxation rules

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

1. It is the statutory authority, established under the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.
2. It operates under the Union Ministry of Commerce, Government of India.

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

- 14.** A Goldilocks Economy is typically characterised by:
- Very high GDP growth accompanied by rising inflation.
 - Economic stagnation with deflationary pressures.
 - Moderate growth and low inflation enabling stable policy-making.
 - Sharp contraction followed by rapid recovery.
- 15.** Consider the following statements regarding the Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI):
- It is published by the Office of the Economic Adviser under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
 - It serves as a leading indicator for the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).
 - It is released on a quarterly basis.
- How many of the above statements are correct?
- Only one
 - Only two
 - All three
 - None
- 16.** The Meerut Bugle, recently granted a GI tag, is primarily associated with:
- Traditional folk performances of western Uttar Pradesh
 - Regimental bands, military academies, and ceremonial events
 - Tribal ceremonial music in the Northeast
 - Naval ship-borne musical signalling
- 17.** With reference to Government Securities, the term “Yield Curve” refers to:
- The annual increase in G-Sec issuance by the government
 - The difference between short-term and long-term repo rates
 - The graphical relationship between G-Sec yields and maturities
 - The weighted average yield on T-bills
- 18.** With reference to the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO), consider the following statements:
- It was established under the Companies Act, 2013.
 - It functions under the Ministry of Finance.
 - It is mandated to investigate only routine company law violations.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 1 and 2 only
 - 1 and 3 only
 - 2 and 3 only

EXPLANATIONS

1. (b)

Context

- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has proposed key changes to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) methodology — with a sharper focus on making the housing index more accurate and representative.

About Consumer Price Index:

- Also known as **Retail Inflation**, it measures the rate at which the prices of goods and services purchased by consumers for personal use increase over time.



2. (b)

In News: Rupee-backed stablecoins regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) could revolutionize payments, remittances, and cross-border transactions, if the regulatory framework aligns with innovation.

Statement 1 is not correct

- Most stablecoins are **backed by fiat currencies** like USD or INR, not commodities. Stablecoins are **designed to maintain a stable value**, typically pegged 1:1 to a fiat currency.

Statement 2 is correct

- Rupee-backed stablecoins could easily integrate with the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**, enhancing convenience, and could streamline **cross-border payments**, once interoperable with foreign CBDCs.

Statement 3 is correct

- The RBI has already launched its **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)**, the e-rupee, which shares some characteristics with stablecoins.
- Central banks issue CBDCs, not stablecoins. **Stablecoins are usually issued by private entities.**

3. (b)

Context

- Coal India Limited (CIL), is marking the completion of 50 years of its establishment.

About Coal India Limited

- CIL is a **Maharatna Public Sector Undertaking** under the **Ministry of Coal**.
- It was **established in November 1975**.
- Headquarters:** Kolkata.
- Products:** CIL produces coking coal, semi-coking coal, non-coking coal, washed and beneficiated coal, coal fines, and coke.
- CIL has 21 training Institutes and 76 Vocational Training Centres.
- Strategic Relevance:** It contributes to **80%** of total domestic coal production and 75% of total coal based generation.

4. (c)

In News: Recently, **Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)** has announced plans to establish **India's largest geothermal energy technology** pilot project in **Araku Valley and Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh**.

Statement 1 is correct

- The Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)** is a **joint venture** of four public sector undertakings (PSUs) like NTPC Limited, Power Finance Corporation (PFC), Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) and Power Grid Corporation of India under the **Union Ministry of Power**.

- It was established to lead large-scale energy efficiency projects across India, acting as a 'Super ESCO' (Energy Service Company).

Statement 2 is correct

- **Key Initiatives By EESL:**
 - **UJALA:** Distribution of LED bulbs and appliances;
 - **Smart Metering:** Deployment of advanced metering infrastructure;
 - **National Efficient Cooking Programme (NECP):** Promoting induction cookers to reduce cooking costs;
 - **Energy Efficient Fans Programme (EEFP):** Distribution of BLDC fans nationwide.

5. (a)

In News: For over a decade, the **BRICS** countries have been steadily working to reduce its dependence on the dollar-dominated **Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT)** global financial system.

Pair 1 is not correctly matched

- Cross-Border Interbank Payment System (CIPS) is China's cross-border payment system developed to internationalize the yuan and offer an alternative to SWIFT.

Pair 2 is not correctly matched

- The **System for Transfer of Financial Messages (SPFS)** is Russia's alternative to SWIFT, developed by the Central Bank of Russia.

Pair 3 is correctly matched

- **Pix is Brazil's instant payment system**, launched by the Central Bank of Brazil. It allows real-time payments and has become widely adopted across the country.

6. (d)

Currency with the public is arrived at after **deducting cash with banks from total currency in circulation (CIC)**.

- **CIC refers to** currency notes and coins issued by the central bank within a country that is physically used to conduct transactions between **consumers and businesses**.
- **A high CIC-to-GDP ratio indicates** that people and **businesses rely heavily on cash for transactions**, while a **lower ratio reflects a shift towards digital payments**, banking channels and formal financial systems.
- **A lower CIC-to-GDP ratio**, driven by increased digitalization and reduced reliance on cash, generally enables smoother monetary policy transmission and better inflation control.

7. (b)

Statement 1 is not correct: M1 includes currency with the public, demand deposits with the banking system (excluding inter-bank deposits), and other deposits with the RBI. It does not include time deposits.

Statement 2 is correct: M3 is broad money that consists of M1 plus time deposits of commercial and cooperative banks (excluding inter-bank deposits).

Statement 3 is correct: M4 includes M3 plus all post office deposits (both time and demand deposits) excluding National Savings Certificates.

8. (c)

Both statements are correct: Molasses is a thick, dark brown syrup obtained as a byproduct during the process of **refining sugarcane or sugar beet into sugar**.

- **Uses**
 - **Food industry:** Used in baking (e.g., gingerbread), rum production, and animal feed.

- **Industrial use:** In ethanol, citric acid, and yeast production.
- **Agriculture:** As a component in cattle feed and for soil conditioning.
- It is a key raw material for **ethanol production under India's ethanol blending programme** to reduce crude oil imports.

9. (a)

Context: India has witnessed a worrying recurrence of train accidents caused by technical failures & human error in the recent.

Do you Know?

- Indian Railways, often called the 'Lifeline of India', is the **fourth-largest rail network in the world**, spanning nearly **1,15,000 kilometres**.
- Indian Railways is the **eighth-largest commercial employer in the world**, with **over 12 lakh employees**.
- The **Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) under the Ministry of Civil Aviation** investigates accidents, but its reports are largely recommendatory, not binding.

10. (d)

All three statements are correct: Digital gold refers to **buying gold without physically possessing** the precious metal.

- **The price** of digital gold is linked to that of physical gold.
- Digital gold is created using **blockchain technology**.
- It allows investors to **buy, sell and store gold electronically**.
- **Tax:** In India, buying gold, whether physical or digital, usually attracts GST, though the exact rate for digital gold can vary depending on how the provider structures the product.
 - When you sell digital gold, any profit is treated as a capital gain, and the tax rate depends on how long you have held it.
 - Digital gold is **easy to access** and allows one to **sell it quickly** in case of an emergency.
 - Unlike traditional gold purchases, digital gold allows investors to **start investing with smaller amounts**.

11. (a)

Context

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has cautioned the general public **against** investing in **digital gold and e-gold products**.

About

- SEBI was **established in 1988** and became a **statutory body under the SEBI Act, 1992**. Its key functions include **protecting investor interests, regulating the securities market**, and **promoting its orderly development** — not prioritizing brokers' interests.

12. (b)

The SEBI High-Level Committee headed by Pratyush Sinha primarily examined strengthening governance and conflict-of-interest norms within SEBI itself.

It recommended a shift from a voluntary code of conduct to a legally enforceable framework for SEBI board members and employees, including mandatory disclosures of assets, liabilities, trading activities, and relationships. The committee proposed institutionalizing ethics oversight through an Office of Ethics and Compliance and an Oversight Committee, restricting investments and trading by top officials, banning gifts from official contacts, and establishing a whistleblower mechanism to report conflicts of interest.

13. (a)

In News: Recently, the **High-Level Committee (HLC)** of Securities and Exchange Board of India's (SEBI) has proposed a comprehensive set of reforms aimed at reinforcing transparency, ethical governance, and investor confidence.

Statement 1 is correct: It was constituted as a **non-statutory body in 1988** through a resolution of the Government of India and was **established as a statutory body** under the provisions of the **Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992**.

Statement 2 is not correct: SEBI **does not operate** under the Union Ministry of Commerce. It functions as an autonomous body under the **administrative control of the Union Ministry of Finance**.

14. (c)

Option c is correct: A Goldilocks Economy is typically characterized by moderate economic growth and low inflation, creating a stable environment for policy-making and economic activity. It is neither too hot to cause high inflation nor too cold to cause recession or economic stagnation.

15. (b)

Statement 1 is correct: The Office of the Economic Adviser, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, compiles and publishes the Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI).

Statement 2 is correct: The Eight Core Industries together constitute about 40.27% of the weight in the IIP, making ICI an important leading indicator of overall industrial performance.

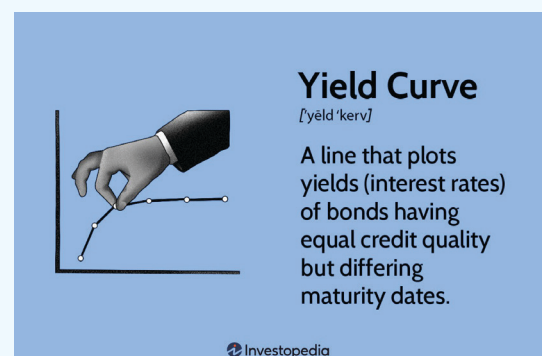
Statement 3 is not correct: The Index of Eight Core Industries is released on a monthly basis, usually at the end of the subsequent month after the reference month.

16. (b)

The Meerut Bugle is a brass wind instrument historically associated with the military and ceremonial uses. Originating from Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, its craftsmanship dates back to the late 19th century and has been integral to India's armed forces, paramilitary, and police units for military parades, drills, and signaling. The bugle has also played a significant role in India's independence movement and military traditions. It was recently granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag recognizing its cultural and historical significance. Meerut-made bugles remain the primary choice for regimental bands and ceremonial events across India's defence institutions.

17. (c)

The "Yield Curve" refers to a graph that shows the relationship between the yields (interest rates) of government securities (G-Secs) and their maturities. It plots the yield on the vertical axis against the time to maturity on the horizontal axis. The curve reflects how yields differentiate across short-term and long-term government bonds, providing insights into market expectations for future interest rates, inflation, and economic conditions. An upward sloping (normal) yield curve suggests higher yields for longer maturities, indicating economic growth expectations. Variations in the yield curve shape—such as flat or inverted—can signal changes in economic outlooks and monetary policy expectations.



18. (a)

The Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) has introduced new technical and procedural safeguards to prevent impersonation and misuse of its summons and notices.

Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO)

- Established under the **Companies Act, 2013**, SFIO functions under the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs** and is intended as a specialized body for **white-collar crime investigations** rather than routine company law violations.
- It brings together experts from accountancy, forensic audit, banking, law, IT, capital markets, taxation and company law to handle serious and complex corporate frauds.
- It investigates complex corporate frauds under **Section 212 of the Act**, while summons issued during investigations are governed by Section 217.



INDIAN POLITY & CONSTITUTION

1. With reference to the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), consider the following statements:
1. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
 2. It administers the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.
 3. Its main objective is to ensure financial security and social welfare of employees post-retirement.

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

2. With reference to the State Human Rights Commission (SHRC), consider the following statements:
1. It is a statutory body established under the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.
 2. The Chairperson and Members are appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of a committee headed by the Chief Minister.
 3. The recommendations of the Commission are legally binding on the State Government.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

3. Which of the following statements about the 97th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2011 is/are correct?
1. It made the right to form cooperative societies a Fundamental Right under Article 19.
 2. It inserted Article 43-B as a Directive Principle of State Policy for the promotion of cooperatives.
 3. It added a new Part IX-B to the Constitution, titled "The Co-operative Societies".

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

4. With reference to the Right to Vote, consider the following statements:
1. Article 326 of the Constitution grants every citizen the right to vote, without any discrimination.
 2. Right to vote is a fundamental right enforceable under Article 32 of the Constitution.

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. With reference to the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, consider the following statements:

- 1. The CAG is appointed by the President of India through a warrant under his hand and seal.
- 2. The CAG holds office for a fixed term of six years or until the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
- 3. The salary and allowances of the CAG are subject to the approval of the Cabinet.
- 4. The CAG can be removed from office in the same manner as a Supreme Court judge.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

6. Which of the following acts constitute Criminal Contempt under Section 2(c) of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971?

- 1. Scandalising or lowering the authority of the court
- 2. Wilful disobedience of a court order
- 3. Interfering with the due course of judicial proceedings
- 4. Obstructing the administration of justice

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- (a) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

7. With reference to the Right to Property in India, consider the following statements:

- 1. Originally, the Right to Property was a Fundamental Right under Article 19(1)(f) and Article 31 of the Constitution.
- 2. The 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, abolished the Right to Property as a Fundamental Right.

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

8. With reference to the 'Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987', consider the following statements:

- 1. Legal aid is available for both civil and criminal cases.
- 2. Lok Adalats under the Act function on the principle of mutual consent and they cannot impose decisions.

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

9. With reference to the 'Tribunal System in India', consider the following statements:

- 1. They follow the same procedures and hierarchy as regular courts.
- 2. Only retired judges can be appointed as members of tribunals.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

10. With reference to the 'Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India', consider the following statements:

- 1. It has the power to take disciplinary action against government officials.
- 2. It chairs the Government Accounting Standards Advisory Board (GASAB).
- 3. It is an active member of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI).

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

11. Consider the following statements regarding the Anti-Defection Law:

- 1. The Tenth Schedule was added to the Constitution by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976.
- 2. The Speaker's decision under the Anti-Defection Law is subject to judicial review.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

12. With reference to the 'National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013', consider the following statements:

- 1. It covers 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population.
- 2. It provides nutritional support for children through anganwadis and schools.

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

- 13.** With reference to the rights of third gender in India, consider the following statements:
1. NALSA v. Union of India 2014, recognised the right to self-identify gender for transgender individuals.
 2. The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 provides legal recognition of transgender identity.

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

- 14.** With reference to the 'Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015', consider the following statements:

1. Children aged 16–18 can be tried as adults only for heinous offences.
2. It prohibits capital punishment and life imprisonment.

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

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

- 15.** With reference to the Article 142 of the Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. It empowers the Supreme Court to pass any order necessary for doing complete justice in any case before it.
2. Orders issued under Article 142 are enforceable only after parliamentary approval.
3. The Supreme Court has used Article 142 to issue guidelines in the absence of legislation.

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

- 16.** Consider the following statements regarding the Geological Survey of India (GSI):

1. It functions as an attached office under the Ministry of Mines.
2. It was formally established in 1851 with Sir Thomas Oldham as its first director.
3. Its founding objective was to identify coal resources for the expansion of Indian Railways.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

- 17.** Article 200 of the Indian Constitution deals with which of the following?

- (a) Powers of the President with respect to Money Bills.
- (b) Procedure for impeachment of the President.
- (c) Assent to Bills by the Governor.
- (d) Appointment and conditions of the Advocate General of a State.

- 18.** With reference to the 'Assam Accord (1985)', consider the following statements:
1. It promises constitutional safeguards to protect the cultural and linguistic identity of the Assamese people.
 2. It has provision of sealing and fencing of the India-Bangladesh border to prevent further illegal immigration.

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

- 19.** With reference to the Chief Justice of India (CJI), consider the following statements:
1. The Constitution of India expressly lays down the procedure for the appointment of the CJI.
 2. The seniority convention is followed in appointing the CJI, although it is not legally binding.
 3. The CJI is appointed by the President of India.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

- 20.** With reference to the 'Chief Justice of India (CJI)', consider the following statements:
1. Justice Harilal Jekisundas Kania was the first CJI after the commencement of the Constitution of India.
 2. CJI can be reappointed after retirement and can practice law after retirement.

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

- 21.** With reference to Superintendence over the State Police, consider the following statements:
1. Under the Constitution, 'Police' is a State subject, and therefore the primary control over State Police forces lies with the respective State Governments.
 2. At the district level, the District Magistrate (DM) has no supervisory authority over the police administration.
 3. In urban areas, the Commissionerate system replaces the dual control structure to enable faster decision-making in complex law-and-order situations.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

- 22.** With reference to Constitution Day (Samvidhan Divas), consider the following statements:
1. It is observed on 26th November every year to mark the adoption of the Constitution of India.

2. The Government of India declared Constitution Day for the first time in 2010.
3. It commemorates Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's role as Chairman of the Drafting Committee.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

23. Article 141 primarily seeks to achieve which of the following?

- (a) Decentralization of judicial authority to High Courts
- (b) Uniform interpretation of Law across jurisdictions
- (c) Merger of Supreme Court and High Court jurisdictions
- (d) Delegation of judicial power to tribunals

24. With reference to G. V. Mavalankar, consider the following statements:

1. He is popularly known as Dadasaheb and was described by Jawaharlal Nehru as the "Father of the Lok Sabha."
2. He served as the Speaker of the Bombay Legislative Assembly before Independence.
3. He became the first Speaker of the Provisional Parliament of India.

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

25. With reference to the Central Empowered Committee (CEC), consider the following statements:

1. The CEC was formed in 2002 by the Supreme Court under the T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad vs. Union of India judgement.
2. The Committee functions under the administrative control of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

26. With reference to the constitutional basis of disaster management financing in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Finance Commission is constitutionally required to recommend principles for grants-in-aid to States, which includes reviewing arrangements for disaster management funds.
2. Public order and public health, which influence disaster response, fall under the Union List.

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

EXPLANATIONS

1. (d)

All three statements are correct: EPFO is a **statutory body** under the **Ministry of Labour and Employment**.

- It administers the **Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952**.
- **Objectives:** To ensure financial security and social welfare of employees post-retirement.
 - To promote voluntary savings among employees.
 - To regulate and supervise provident fund, pension, and insurance schemes.

2. (a)

Statement 1 is correct: The State Human Rights Commission is a statutory body created under the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 to protect and promote human rights at the state level.

Statement 2 is correct: The Chairperson and members of the SHRC are appointed by the Governor based on the recommendations of a committee consisting of the Chief Minister (as head), Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Home Minister, and Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly.

Statement 3 is not correct: The SHRC's recommendations are advisory in nature and not legally binding on the State Government or its agencies. The government may consider or reject them but should ideally provide reasons for non-compliance.

3. (d)

Context: Amul's parent company, **Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd**, is ranked as the **top co-operative in the world** in the **ICA World Cooperative Monitor 2025 rankings**.

What are Cooperatives?

- A cooperative (or co-op) is an **organization or business** that is **owned and operated by a group of individuals** who share a common interest, goal, or need.

97th Constitutional Amendment Act 2011

- It established the right to form cooperative societies as a **fundamental right (Article 19)**.
- It included a **new Directive Principle of State Policy** on the **Promotion of Cooperative Societies (Article 43-B)**.
- It added a new **Part IX-B to the Constitution** titled **"The Co-operative Societies"** (Articles 243-ZH to 243-ZT).
- It authorizes the **Parliament to establish relevant laws** in the case of **multi-state cooperative societies (MSCS)** and state legislatures in the case of other cooperative societies.

4. (a)

Statement 1 is correct: **Article 326** of the Constitution grants every citizen the right to vote, without any discrimination.

- The laws enacted by Parliament in this regard are the **Representation of the People Act, 1950 (RP Act, 1950)** and the **Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RP Act, 1951)**.

Statement 2 is not correct: The legal status of the right to vote has been a **subject matter of debate in various cases in India**.

- In the **N.P.Ponnuswami case (1952)** Supreme Court held that the right to vote is a **statutory right** and subject to limitations imposed by it.
- In the **PUCL case (2003)**, Justice P.V. Reddy observed that the right to vote, if **not a fundamental right, is certainly a 'constitutional right.'**
- In the **Anoop Baranwal case (2023)**, the majority opinion reiterated the judgment in the **Kuldip Nayar case**, that the **right to vote is only a statutory right**.
- Hence, the **current legal status of the right to vote is that it is a statutory right**.

5. (a)

The CAG is a Constitutional Authority under Article 148 and is appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal. He/she holds office for six years or till the age of 65, whichever is earlier. The removal procedure is the same as that of a Supreme Court judge, i.e., on grounds of proved misbehaviour or incapacity by a motion passed by both Houses of Parliament. The salary and service conditions are determined by Parliament, not the Cabinet, and cannot be altered to the CAG's disadvantage after appointment.

6. (a)

Context: The recent controversy over alleged remarks against the Chief Justice of India and the Supreme Court has sparked concerns about undermining the court's authority and obstructing the administration of justice, prompting calls for contempt proceedings.

Contempt of Court

- **Types:** The Parliament of India enacted the **Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 giving statutory power**, classifying the contempt into two broad categories:
 - **Civil Contempt (Section 2(b)):** Wilful disobedience of a court order or breach of an undertaking given to the court.
 - **Criminal Contempt (Section 2(c)):** Publication or act that — scandalises or lowers the authority of any court; prejudices or interferes with judicial proceedings; or obstructs the administration of justice in any other manner.

7. (a)

Statement 1 is correct: Historical Background: Originally it was a Fundamental Right under Article 19(1)(f): Right to acquire, hold, and dispose of property.

- **Article 31:** Protection from deprivation of property except by authority of law and on payment of compensation.
- Intended to protect citizens from **arbitrary state action while allowing land reforms for equitable redistribution.**

Statement 2 is not correct: The 44th Constitutional Amendment in 1978, deleted Articles 19(1)(f) and 31, and inserted **Article 300A**.

- Right to Property ceased to be a Fundamental Right; became a **Constitutional/Legal Right**.
- Property rights are now protected by law, not enforceable as a Fundamental Right.

8. (c)

In News: Every year, **November 9** is celebrated as the **National Legal Services Day** to commemorate the **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987**, which led to the establishment of organisations providing free legal aid to the needy.

- The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 is designed to provide free legal services to economically weaker sections, including those below the poverty line, women, children, SC/ST communities, and other marginalized groups.

Statement 1 is correct

- Legal aid is available for both civil and criminal cases, including family disputes, labor issues, and consumer grievances.

Statement 2 is correct

- **Lok Adalats** function on the principle of mutual consent. They cannot impose decisions; settlements must be voluntary and agreed upon by both parties. They can only pass an award if both parties agree to a settlement.

9. (d)

In News: The ongoing friction between the Supreme Court of India and the central government over the **administration and reform of tribunals** as the **Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021** has been repeatedly challenged for allegedly undermining judicial independence.

Statement 1 is not correct

- Tribunals in India are **quasi-judicial institutions** established to **adjudicate disputes in specific domains** such as taxation, environment, corporate law, and administrative matters.
- They are designed to offer specialized expertise, faster resolution, and reduce the burden on regular courts.
- Tribunals are **not bound by the Code of Civil Procedure or the Indian Evidence Act**.
 - They follow more flexible procedures, though they must adhere to principles of natural justice.

Statement 2 is not correct

- While many tribunal members are retired judges, others include technical experts, bureaucrats, or professionals with domain-specific knowledge, depending on the tribunal's mandate.

10. (b)

In News: Recently, the Vice-President of India lauded the **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)** as the '**guardian of the public purse**' during the **5th Audit Diwas** celebration, commemorating the establishment and legacy of CAG.

Statement 1 is not correct

- The CAG does not have disciplinary powers; it only audits and reports irregularities. Disciplinary action is taken by the concerned administrative authorities.

Statement 2 is correct

- The CAG chairs the **Government Accounting Standards Advisory Board (GASAB)**, which develops accounting norms for public sector entities.
 - It convenes the **Audit Advisory Board**, comprising experts from various fields to refine audit methodologies.

Statement 3 is correct

- The CAG of India is an active member of the **International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI)**, contributing to global standards in public auditing.
- It undertakes international audits and collaborates with other SAIs for capacity building.

11. (b)

Statement 1 is not correct: The Tenth Schedule, which contains the Anti-Defection Law, was added by the 52nd Constitutional Amendment Act in 1985, not the 42nd Amendment.

Statement 2 is correct: Initially, the law stated that the presiding officer's (Speaker's) decision was final and not subject to judicial review. However, in the landmark Supreme Court case *Kihoto Hollohan vs Zachillhu* (1992), the Court ruled that the Speaker's decision is subject to judicial review on limited grounds such as malafides or perversity. Since then, courts have been able to review decisions of the Speaker under this law.

12. (c)

In News: The Union Government has removed **around 2.25 crore ineligible beneficiaries** from the free monthly ration scheme under the **National Food Security Act (NFSA)** over the past four to five months.

Statement 1 is correct

- It aims to provide subsidized foodgrains to a large portion of India's population. It amounts to roughly **81.35 crore people** under the **Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)**, based on the **2011 Census** data. It covers:
 - **Up to 75% of the rural population;**
 - **Up to 50% of the urban population;**

Statement 2 is correct

- The Act provides nutritional support for children through anganwadis and schools, and maternity benefits for pregnant and lactating women.
- It leverages the existing infrastructure of the **Public Distribution System (PDS)** and integrates schemes like the **Mid-Day Meal Scheme** and **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)**.

13. (c)

Both the statements are correct: Transgender Rights: NALSA v. Union of India (2014) recognised the right to self-identify gender.

- It recognises **transgender as the "third gender"** upholding their fundamental rights.
- **Constitutional Provisions:** Article 14 – Right to equality, Article 15 – No discrimination on grounds of sex and Article 21 – Right to life and personal liberty.
- **Legislation:** The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 provides legal recognition of transgender identity.
- **Decriminalisation:** **Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India (2018)** decriminalised consensual homosexual acts (Section 377 partially struck down).

14. (d)

In News: The '*Juvenile Justice and Children in Conflict with the Law: A Study of Capacity at the Frontlines*', released by the **India Justice Report (IJR)** revealed alarming gaps in India's juvenile justice system.

Statement 1 is correct: Children aged 16–18 may be tried as adults only for heinous offences, and only after a preliminary assessment by the Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs).

Statement 2 is correct: The **Juvenile Justice Act** prohibits capital punishment and life imprisonment without the possibility of release for children.

- JJBs follow child-friendly procedures, emphasizing rehabilitation over punishment, unlike adversarial criminal courts.

15. (c)

Statement 1 is correct: Article 142 of the Indian constitution is a provision that empowers the Supreme Court to pass any decree or order necessary for doing complete justice in any case or matter pending before it.

- It also makes such decree or order enforceable throughout the territory of India.

Statement 2 is not correct: Orders issued under Article 142 are enforceable throughout India without needing parliamentary approval first.

Statement 3 is correct: The Supreme Court has used this provision to frame guidelines (e.g., Vishaka Guidelines, police reforms).

16. (c)

Statement 1 is correct: It functions as an attached office under the Ministry of Mines. The GSI is a scientific agency under the Ministry of Mines, Government of India.

Statement 2 is correct: The GSI was established in 1851 by the East India Company, with Sir Thomas Oldham as its first director.

Statement 3 is correct: The primary motivation for establishing GSI was to explore coal reserves to fuel the rapidly expanding Indian railways during the British colonial period.

17. (c)

Article 200 provides that when a Bill passed by the State Legislature, is **presented to the Governor, the Governor shall declare:**

- that he assents to the Bill;
- or that he withholds assent there from;
- or that he reserves the Bill for the President's consideration;
- or the Governor may return the Bill (other than a Money Bill) with a message for re-consideration by the State Legislature.

18. (c)

In News: Recently, the Assam government has announced that a broad consensus has been reached on most of the recommendations made under **Clause 6 of the Assam Accord, 1985.**

Statement 1 is correct: **Assam Accord, 1985** was signed between the Government of India, the All Assam Students' Union (AASU), and the All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad (AAGSP).

- **Clause 6 of the Accord** promises constitutional safeguards to protect the cultural and linguistic identity of the Assamese people.

Statement 2 is correct: The Accord called for the **sealing and fencing of the India-Bangladesh border** to prevent further illegal immigration.

19. (b)

Statement 1 is not correct: Article 124(2) empowers the President to appoint the CJI after consultation with judges, but the exact process is governed by convention and memoranda of procedure rather than explicit constitutional provisions.

Statement 2 is correct: The seniority convention is traditionally followed in appointing the CJI. The senior-most judge of the Supreme Court is usually appointed, although this is a convention and not legally binding. Concerns about the fitness of the senior-most judge can lead to consultations with other judges.

Statement 3 is correct: The CJI is appointed by the President of India under Article 124(2) of the Constitution, based on recommendations following the seniority convention and consultations.

20. (a)

In News: Recently, Justice Surya Kant was sworn in as the **53rd Chief Justice of India (CJI)**, succeeding Justice BR Gavai. The **oath of office** was administered **by the President of India** at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Statement 1 is correct

- The Constitution of India (1950) formally established the **Supreme Court of India under Article 124**, replacing the **Federal Court of India (1937–1950).**
- **Justice Harilal Jekisundas Kania** became the **first Chief Justice of India** on January 26, 1950, the day the Constitution came into effect.

Statement 2 is not correct

- **Article 124(7) of the Constitution** states that 'no person who has held office as a Judge of the Supreme Court' shall plead or act in any court or before any authority within the territory of India.
- It means a CJI cannot practise law after retirement, and re-appointment to the same office does not happen as a matter of practice or constitutional provision.

21. (c)

Statement 1 is correct: Police is a State subject in the seventh schedule to the Constitution, it is primarily the State Governments who exercises control and superintendence over the state police forces

Statement 2 is not correct: At the district level, the District Magistrate (DM) may also give directions to the SP and supervise police administration.

- This is called the **dual system of control** (as authority is vested in both the DM and SP) at the district level.

Statement 3 is correct: In urban areas, however, the dual system has been replaced by the **Commissionerate system** to allow for quicker decision-making in response to complex law and order situations.

22. (a)

26th November is being celebrated as Constitution Day to mark the adoption of the Constitution of India by the Constituent Assembly (CA).

About Constitution Day (Samvidhan Divas, National Law Day)

Overview:

- In 2015, the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** notified the GOI's decision to celebrate the 26th November as Constitution Day.
- The day was celebrated as a tribute to **Dr B R Ambedkar as Chairman** of the **Drafting Committee**.

Historical Background:

- **1934:** Demand for the Constituent Assembly was made by M.N. Roy.
- **1940:** Demand was accepted by the British government.
- **1946:** 9th December, CA conducted the first session on Draft Constitution.
- **1949:** 26th November, CA finally adopted the Constitution of India.
- **1950:** 26th January, the Constitution of India came into force.

Key Facts about Constituent Assembly

- Took **2 years, 11 months & 17 days** for drafting the Constitution of India.
- **Dr Sachchidananda Sinha** was appointed as **1st President of CA**.
- Dr Rajendra Prasad was the **chairman of the Constituent Assembly**.
- Jawaharlal Nehru (PM) made the '**Objectives Resolution**' on 13th December 1946, later adopted as **Preamble on 22nd Jan 1947**.
- **The constituent assembly** acted as the **temporary legislature** until a new one was to be constituted.

23. (b)

Option b is correct: Article 141 of the Indian Constitution mandates that the law declared by the Supreme Court shall be binding on all courts within the territory of India. This ensures uniformity and consistency in legal interpretation across various states and lower courts, reinforcing the Supreme Court's authority as the apex judicial body. It promotes coherence in the judicial system by preventing divergent interpretations of statutory and constitutional laws across jurisdictions. Article 141 does not deal with decentralisation of judicial authority, merger of court jurisdictions, or delegation of judicial powers to tribunals.

24. (d)

G. V. Mavalankar served as the Speaker of the Bombay Legislative Assembly before Independence from 1937 to 1946. He became the first Speaker of the Provisional Parliament of India after the

adoption of the Constitution in 1950, holding office till the first Lok Sabha was constituted in 1952. Although, the title of “Father of the Lok Sabha” was given to Mavalankar by Jawaharlal Nehru, but he was popularly known as “Dadasaheb”.

25. (c)

Both the statements are correct: The CEC was formed in **2002** (and reconstituted in 2008) by the Supreme Court under the **T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad vs. Union of India judgement**.

- It became a statutory body in **2023**.
- The Committee functions under the **administrative control of the Central Government in the Ministry of Environment**.
- **Composition:** A member secretary, and the remaining three expert members, who are civil servants appointed by the Union Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- **Functions:** It advises the court on writ petitions related to environment and forest matters, and assists in monitoring and compliance of its orders.
 - The CEC also deals with any application made to it by any aggrieved person.

26. (a)

Statement 1 is correct: Article 280(3)(b) requires the Finance Commission to recommend the principles governing grants-in-aid of the revenues of the States from the Consolidated Fund of India. Recent Finance Commissions (e.g., 15th, 16th) have been specifically tasked in their Terms of Reference to examine and recommend arrangements for disaster management funding, making disaster-related transfers part of their grant recommendations.

Statement 2 is not correct: Public order and public health are explicitly placed in the State List (List II) of the Seventh Schedule, not in the Union List.

GEOGRAPH

1. Georgia is located at the eastern edge of which of the following seas?
 - (a) Caspian Sea
 - (b) Adriatic Sea
 - (c) Black Sea
 - (d) Baltic Sea
2. The Torkham border, recently in news, serves as a major crossing point between:
 - (a) Afghanistan and Pakistan
 - (b) India and Afghanistan
 - (c) Pakistan and Iran
 - (d) Afghanistan and Iran
3. The Rowmari–Donduwa Wetland Complex, recently in the news, is located in which Indian state?
 - (a) West Bengal
 - (b) Assam
 - (c) Manipur
 - (d) Meghalaya
4. With reference to the India's Thorium Reserves, consider the following statements:
 1. India has been developing a three-stage nuclear program, with thorium-based reactors being a critical part of the third stage.
 2. Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh account for over 70% of India's thorium reserves.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 states is linked to Umngot River that is known for its crystal-clear waters and vital to local tourism?
 - (a) Assam
 - (b) Nagaland
 - (c) Meghalaya
 - (d) Sikkim
6. Gogabeel Lake, recently designated as India's 94th Ramsar site, is located in which of the following states?
 - (a) Assam
 - (b) Uttar Pradesh
 - (c) West Bengal
 - (d) Bihar

7. Christmas Island, recently in the news, is located in which of the following water bodies?
- Arabian Sea
 - Bay of Bengal
 - Indian Ocean
 - Coral Sea
8. Hydroelectric projects (HEPs) like Chukha, Tala, and Punatsangchhu-I and II are located in:
- Bhutan
 - Bangladesh
 - Nepal
 - Afghanistan
9. With reference to Botswana, recently in the news, consider the following statements:
- Botswana is a landlocked country located in southern Africa.
 - It shares its borders with Namibia, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and South Africa.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
10. Saranda forest, known as Asia's largest Sal (*Shorea robusta*) forest and called the "land of seven hundred hills," is located in which Indian State?
- Odisha
 - Chhattisgarh
 - Jharkhand
 - West Bengal
11. Nepal shares its border with which of the following Indian states?
- Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand
 - Sikkim, Assam, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand
 - Sikkim, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand
 - Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh
12. Consider the following statements with reference to Lake Turkana.
- It lies mainly in northern Mozambique, with its northern end stretching into Ethiopia.
 - It is the most saline lake in East Africa and the largest desert lake in the world.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
13. Which of the following statements best describes the location of the Strait of Hormuz?
- It lies between Iran and Oman, connecting the Persian Gulf with the Arabian Sea.
 - It lies between Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, connecting the Red Sea with the Arabian Sea.
 - It lies between Iraq and Kuwait, connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Aden.
 - It lies between Iran and UAE, connecting the Gulf of Oman with the Mediterranean Sea.

14. With reference to Greenland's geographical features, consider the following statements:

1. It is the world's largest island that is not a continent.
2. It contains the world's largest ice sheet.
3. It lies largely within the polar climatic zone.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 3
- (d) 2 and 3 only

15. The Siliguri Corridor, recently seen in the news, lies between which of the following rivers?

- (a) Teesta and Mahananda
- (b) Teesta and Jaldhaka
- (c) Mahananda and Subansiri
- (d) Teesta and Brahmaputra

16. The Kodaikanal Solar Observatory is located in:

- (a) Nilgiri Hills
- (b) Palani Range of Hills
- (c) Anaimalai Hills
- (d) Nallamala Hills

17. Chile is geographically located:

- (a) In the eastern part of South America, along the Atlantic Ocean
- (b) In the western part of South America, between the Andes Mountains and the Pacific Ocean
- (c) In the northern part of South America, bordering the Caribbean Sea
- (d) In the central part of South America, surrounded by land on all sides

18. Mount Semeru, recently in the news, is located in which of the following countries?

- (a) Malaysia
- (b) Japan
- (c) Philippines
- (d) Indonesia

19. Consider the following statements about Georgia:

1. It is located at the crossroads of Eastern Europe and Western Asia.
2. It is a landlocked country with no maritime boundary.
3. It is situated in the South Caucasus region.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

20. The Afar Depression, recently in news, is significant because:

1. It is one of the few places where continental breakup can be studied in real time.
2. It lies below sea level in several areas.
3. It marks the junction of Nubian, Somali and Arabian plates.

Which of the statements are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

21. Consider the following pairs:

Volcanic Feature	Region
1. Erta Ale	East African Rift
2. Bárðarbunga	Indonesia
3. Nabro	Eritrea-Ethiopia border
4. Barren Island	Andaman Sea

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

22. The Aravalli Range, the oldest mountain range in India, stretches across Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana, and Delhi. Which among the following accounts for nearly two-thirds of this mountain range?

- (a) Gujarat
- (b) Rajasthan
- (c) Haryana
- (d) Delhi

EXPLANATIONS

1. (c)

In News

- Amid the ongoing war in Ukraine, Georgia has rapidly emerged as a preferred destination for Indian medical aspirants, with education-related remittances rising to \$50.25 million in 2024–25—a fivefold increase since 2018–19.
 - Its popularity stems from affordable medical courses, simple residency laws, and proximity to Europe.



Georgia

- It is located at the eastern edge of the Black Sea and bordered by Russia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Turkey.
- It includes three ethnic enclaves—Abkhazia, Ajaria, and South Ossetia—and its capital is **Tbilisi**.
- It has a rich cultural heritage and was a powerful kingdom in the medieval period.
- It declared sovereignty in **1989** and full independence in **1991**.

2. (a)

Context: The Torkham border crossing between Afghanistan and Pakistan has reopened after nearly two weeks of closure following deadly border clashes.

About

- The **Torkham border** is a major crossing point between **Afghanistan and Pakistan**, located along the **Grand Trunk Road** on the international border.
- It connects **Nangarhar province** of Afghanistan with **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province** of Pakistan.
- It is the **busiest port of entry** between the two nations, serving as a key hub for **transport, trade, and logistics**.



3. (b)

Context

- Experts from academic institutions and conservation groups are collaborating to propose the **Rowmari and Donduwa wetlands in Assam for Ramsar site designation**.

About the Rowmari-Donduwa Wetland Complex

- The Rowmari-Donduwa wetland complex is within the **Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary**, which is a part of the **Kaziranga Tiger Reserve**.
 - Laokhowa and the adjoining **Burhachapori Wildlife Sanctuaries** function as connectivity corridors for wild animals migrating between the Kaziranga Tiger Reserve and **Orang National Park** (Kaziranga-Orang landscape).
- It hosts around **120 species** of resident and migratory birds annually, including globally threatened species such as, the **knob-billed duck, black-necked stork, and the ferruginous pochard**.
- This complex has recorded more birds than the only two Ramsar sites in the northeast, **Assam's Deepor Beel and Manipur's Loktak Lake**.

4. (a)

India has one of the largest reserves of thorium in the world.

- **Major thorium deposits** are found with large reserves in **Kerala, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh**.
 - Together, **Kerala and Odisha account for over 70%** of India's thorium.

- India has been developing a **three-stage nuclear program**, with thorium-based reactors being a critical part of the third stage.
- **Challenges:** Extracting thorium from ores requires high amounts of energy and creates significant waste.
 - While India has large thorium reserves, extracting it for nuclear energy use has faced challenges, including the need for advanced reactor technology and economic viability.

5. (c)

Meghalaya's Umngot river has turned unusually murky, sparking concern among residents and officials.

- The river flows through the West Jaintia Hills district of Meghalaya and its pristine water in the winter makes locations along it such as Dawki and Shnongpdeng among the top tourist attractions in the state.
- It is known for its crystal-clear waters and vital to local tourism.

6. (d)

In News

- Gogabeel Lake has been officially designated as **India's 94th Ramsar site**.

About Gogabeel Lake

- Gogabeel Lake is a naturally formed oxbow wetland situated in the riverine landscape of the Katihar district of Bihar.
- Its strategic location between the Ganga and Mahananda rivers makes it a critical hydrological and ecological buffer zone.
- The addition of Gogabeel Lake highlights India's commitment to the Ramsar Convention, which was signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971 to promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands worldwide.

7. (c)

In News

- Google plans to build a large artificial intelligence data centre on Australia's remote Indian Ocean outpost of Christmas Island after signing a cloud deal with the Department of Defence.

About Christmas Island

- **Location:** Christmas Island is an Australian external territory located in the Indian Ocean, about 350 km south of Java (Indonesia) and nearly 1,550 km northwest of Australia's mainland.



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- **Historical Background:** Discovered on Christmas Day in 1643 by Captain William Mynors of the British East India Company — hence the name Christmas Island.
- **Strategic Significance:** Lies close to key maritime chokepoints like Sunda Strait, Lombok Strait, and Malacca Strait, making it vital for Quadrilateral cooperation (Quad) and Indo-Pacific maritime strategy.

8. (a)

In News: The Prime Minister of India is visiting Bhutan to honour the 70th birth anniversary of Jigme Singye Wangchuck, the **Fourth King of Bhutan (K4)**, affectionately called the '**Bodhisattva King**', highlighting the **deep and enduring friendship** between the two nations and India's commitment to its '**Neighbourhood First**' policy.

- Hydropower is the **cornerstone of bilateral economic relations**. India has helped construct **four major hydroelectric projects (HEPs)** like **Chukha (336 MW)**, Kurichhu (60 MW), **Tala (1,020 MW)**, Mangdechhu (720 MW) totaling **2,136 MW**.
- Two more — **Punatsangchhu-I and II (1,020 MW each)** — are under construction, with **Punatsangchhu-II** expected to commission soon.

9. (c)

In News: India and Botswana formally announced the translocation of eight Cheetahs to India as a part of '**Project Cheetah**'.

About Botswana

- Botswana is a landlocked country in southern Africa. It shares borders with Namibia, Zimbabwe, Zambia and South Africa.
- Much of Botswana is covered by the Kalahari Desert, which contributes to its arid climate and low population density.
- The country is also home to the Okavango Delta, one of the world's largest inland deltas and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, renowned for its rich biodiversity and unique ecosystems.



10. (c)

In News: The Supreme Court directed the Jharkhand government to declare the ecologically rich **Saranda forest** as a wildlife sanctuary.

About Saranda

- Saranda Forest in Jharkhand is **Asia's largest Sal (Shorea robusta) forest**, spanning approximately 820-900 square kilometers. It is famously called the "**land of seven hundred hills**," reflecting its hilly terrain.
- The forest is part of the **Chhotanagpur bio-geographic zone** and forms a natural landscape continuum with forests of Odisha and Chhattisgarh.
- It is home to critically endangered species, including the endemic sal forest tortoise, four-horned antelope, Asian palm civet, and wild elephants.
- It has been inhabited by the **Ho, Munda, Uraon and allied Adivasi communities** whose subsistence and cultural traditions are intrinsically tied to forest produce.
- It also accounts for **26% of India's iron ore reserves**.

11. (a)

Context: India and Nepal have amended the **Treaty of Transit** to facilitate the movement of rail-based freight between Jogbani in India and Biratnagar in Nepal.

Overview of India - Nepal Relations

- **Shared Border:** The country shares a border with five Indian states - Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
 - Land-locked Nepal relies heavily on India for the transportation of goods and services and access to the sea is through India.
- **The India-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship:** Signed in 1950, it forms the **bedrock of the special relations that exist between India and Nepal.**
 - Nepalese citizens **avail facilities and opportunities on par with Indian citizens** in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty.

12. (b)

In News : Researchers from Syracuse University and the University of Auckland revealed that long-term climate-driven declines in Lake Turkana's water levels have increased earthquake and volcanic activity in the East African Rift System.

Statement 1 is not correct : Lake Turkana lies mainly in northern Kenya, with its northern end stretching into Ethiopia.

Statement 2 is correct : Lake Turkana is the most saline lake in East Africa and the **largest desert lake in the world**, surrounded by an arid, seemingly extraterrestrial landscape that is often devoid of life.

- It is **Africa's fourth largest lake**, fondly called the Jade Sea because of its breathtaking color.

13. (a)

Option a is correct: The Strait of Hormuz lies between Iran to the north and the Musandam Peninsula of Oman to the south. It connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea. This narrow but strategically vital waterway is approximately 167 km long and at its narrowest point about 33 km wide. The United Arab Emirates also borders the strait to the south along with Oman.

14. (d)

All the statements are correct: Greenland is the world's largest island that is not a continent, with an area of about 2.16 million square kilometers. It contains the world's largest ice sheet outside of Antarctica, covering about 80% of its landmass, representing the second largest ice body on Earth. Greenland lies largely within the polar climatic zone, with an Arctic climate dominating most of its area.

15. (a)

Context: Indian Army sets up **three new garrisons near the strategic Siliguri Corridor.**

About

- There are security concerns amid the **change of regime in Bangladesh** and **concerns over China's growing presence** near the vulnerable Siliguri Corridor.
- The newly operational stations are expected to **strengthen the Army's operational readiness and improve coordination** with the Border Security Force.



About Siliguri Corridor

- It is also referred to as the **Chicken's Neck**, is a narrow strip of land in West Bengal that connects the Northeastern States to the rest of the country.
- It is a very important strategic area of eastern India, located between **Mahananda and Teesta river**.

16. (b)

Option b is correct: The Kodaikanal Solar Observatory (KSO) is a historic solar physics observatory established on April 1, 1899. It is located in the Palani Hills of southern India. It is operated by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology (DST). The observatory was established as part of an effort to systematically study the Sun's activity and its influence on Indian meteorology, especially monsoon patterns. It holds one of the longest continuous solar data records in the world, spanning over a century.

17. (b)

About Chile

- **Location:**
 - **The western part of South America.**
 - The capital and largest city is **Santiago**, and its **national language is Spanish**.
 - It occupies a long, narrow strip of land between the **Andes to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west**.
 - Chile is the **southernmost country in the world**, the **closest to Antarctica**.



18. (d)

In News: Mount Semeru, located in eastern Java (Indonesia), erupted recently.

Why is Indonesia Prone to Volcanic Eruptions?

- Indonesia sits on the convergent boundary where the Indo-Australian Plate subducts under the Eurasian Plate
- This process forms a **chain of stratovolcanoes across** Java, Sumatra, and the Sunda Arc.
- It lies at the **heart of the Ring of Fire**, which accounts for 75% of the world's volcanoes and 90% of earthquakes.



19. (a)

In News

- India's strengthening of textile and sericulture cooperation with Georgia, including participation in the 11th BACSA International Conference (CULTUSERI 2025).

About Georgia (Capital: Tbilisi)

- Georgia is a Transcaucasian country** located at the crossroads of Eastern Europe and Western Asia, making it a significant geopolitical bridge between the two continents.
- It lies in the South Caucasus region at the eastern end of the Black Sea, bordered by Russia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Turkey, and the Black Sea itself.



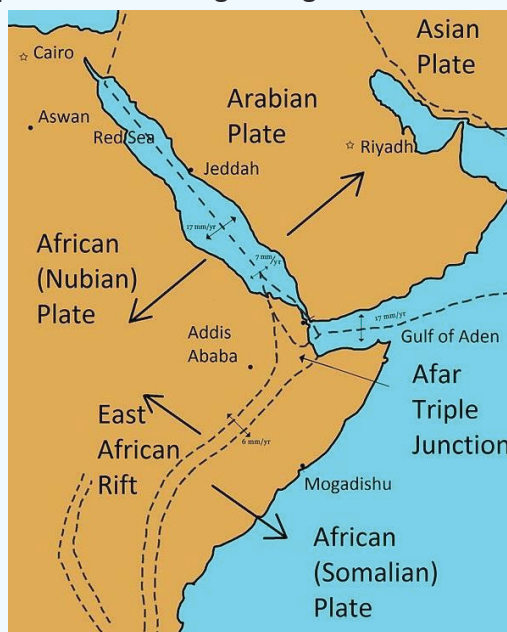
- Geographically, Georgia is dominated by mountainous terrain, including the Greater Caucasus in the north and the Lesser Caucasus in the south.
- The country's climate ranges from humid subtropical in the western regions to dry subtropical and alpine in the central and eastern parts.
- Georgia is covered by over one-third forest land, rich in biodiversity with various oak, beech, fir, and alpine vegetation types.

20. (d)

Statement 1 is correct: The Afar Depression (Afar Triangle) is indeed one of the very few places on Earth where the final stages of continental breakup and transition to a new ocean basin can be observed and studied in real time.

Statement 2 is correct: The northern Afar/Danakil Depression includes areas like the salt plains that lie below sea level (around 100–120 m below sea level in parts).

Statement 3 is correct: The Afar Depression coincides with the Afar triple junction, where the Nubian, Somali and Arabian plates meet along divergent boundaries.



21. (c)

Pair 1 is correct: Erta Ale is an active shield volcano located in the Afar Depression within the East African Rift system in Ethiopia. It is famous for having one of the few permanent lava lakes in the world.

Pair 2 is not correct: Bárðarbunga is not in Indonesia; it is located in Iceland. It is one of Iceland's largest and most active volcanoes, situated on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, a divergent tectonic boundary underwater between the North American and Eurasian Plates.

Pair 3 is correct: Nabro Volcano is located in the Afar region near the border between Eritrea and Ethiopia. It erupted explosively in 2011 after a long dormant period. This volcano lies within the East African Rift system and specifically close to the Eritrea-Ethiopia border.

Pair 4 is correct: Barren Island is the only active volcano in India. It is an island volcano in the Andaman Sea, part of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands archipelago. It is volcanic in origin and situated on the volcanic arc formed by the subduction of the Indian Plate beneath the Burmese microplate.

22. (b)

Context: The Supreme Court accepted the **recommendations of a Union Environment Ministry panel on the definition of Aravalli Hills to restrict mining.**

The Aravalli Range

- The Aravalli Range, stretching over approximately 692 kilometres (430 miles) in a **northeastern direction**, traverses the Indian states of **Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Haryana** before culminating in Delhi, is the **oldest mountain range in India**.
 - **Rajasthan** accounts for **nearly two-thirds** of the mountain range.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES/ INITIATIVES

1. Consider the following statements about the National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM):
1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
 2. It aims to promote scientific beekeeping and the production of quality honey and other beehive products.
 3. It is implemented through the National Bee Board (NBB) under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.

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

2. With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), recently in news for extremely low insurance payouts, consider the following statements:

1. The scheme was launched in 2016 and operates on the principle of “One Nation, One Crop, One Premium.”
2. The premium rates are capped at 2% for kharif crops, 1.5% for rabi crops, and 5% for horticultural 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

3. With reference to the Vaishvik Bhartiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV), consider the following statements:

1. It was launched in 2023 and is implemented by the Department of Science & Technology.
2. Only scientists working and studying in India’s Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) and Public Funded Scientific Institutions are eligible.

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. With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), consider the following statements:

1. It is implemented by the National Skill Development Corporation under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

2. PMKVY 4.0 was launched in 2022 with an emphasis on industry-linked courses and digital monitoring.
3. All training centres under the scheme are directly owned and operated by the Union Government.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

5. With reference to the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), consider the following statements:

1. The NSAP was launched on 15th August 1995 to provide financial assistance to individuals below the poverty line (BPL).
2. It is a fully funded Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development.
3. The programme is applicable only to rural areas.

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

6. With reference to the Export Promotion Mission (EPM), consider the following statements:

1. The mission aims to facilitate easy access to export credit, provide cross-border factoring support, and help MSMEs address non-tariff measures in foreign markets.
2. It will be implemented by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) through a digital platform integrated with existing trade systems.

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

7. Consider the following statements regarding the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP):

1. The UIP was launched in 1978 to protect children from life-threatening diseases through vaccination fully funded by the Central Government.
2. Under UIP, immunization is provided free of cost against 12 vaccine-preventable diseases, of which 9 are covered nationally.
3. Beneficiaries under UIP include all children and pregnant women.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

8. With reference to the 'Electronics Development Fund (EDF)', consider the following statements:
1. It directly provides grants to individual startups.
 2. It is managed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

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

9. With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), consider the following statements:
1. It covers the entire crop cycle, from pre-sowing to post-harvest, including damage during storage.
 2. It covers natural disasters which includes droughts, lightning and pests.
 3. The maximum premium payable by the farmer will be 5% for Kharif crops and 2% for horticultural crops.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

10. What is the primary objective of the 'Nayi Chetna 4.0' campaign?

- (a) Improving rural sanitation and hygiene
- (b) Strengthening community action against gender-based violence
- (c) Enhancing digital literacy among rural youth
- (d) Promoting organic farming and sustainable agriculture

11. With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK), consider the following statements:

1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the Ministry of Minority Affairs.
2. It aims to enhance basic infrastructure such as schools, health centres and sanitation facilities in Minority Concentrated Areas.
3. It restricts benefits only to individuals belonging to notified minority communities.

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

12. Consider the following statements with reference to the 'Top Class Scholarship Scheme for SC Students'.

1. It aims to promote quality higher education for Scheduled Caste students by covering full tuition fees and providing academic allowances.
2. The scholarship will be available to SC students with an annual family income of up to Rs 8 lakh who secure admission in notified institutions.

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

13. Consider the following statements regarding the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC):

1. The UPSC was first established in 1926 following the recommendations of the Lee Commission.
2. A UPSC Chairman can be reappointed after completing their term.
3. Article 317 deals with the removal and suspension of UPSC members.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

14. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnets':

1. The scheme is India's first dedicated initiative to develop integrated Rare Earth Permanent Magnet (REPM) manufacturing facilities in the country.
2. REPMs such as Neodymium-Iron-Boron (NdFeB) and Samarium Cobalt (SmCo) are among the strongest permanent magnets in the world.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

15. With reference to the 'Tex-RAMPS' scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is implemented by the Ministry of Textiles.
2. The scheme aims to promote Research and Innovation in smart textiles and sustainability.
3. It includes the establishment of a Real-time Integrated Textiles Statistical System (ITSS).

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

16. Consider the following statements regarding the Samudrayaan Mission:

1. It involves MATSYA 6000, an indigenously developed manned submersible capable of carrying three people to a depth of 6,000 km.
2. The mission is being implemented by ISRO using the research vessel Sagar Nidhi.

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

EXPLANATIONS

1. (b)

In News

- India's honey sector is undergoing a structured transformation as the **National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM)** continues to scale scientific beekeeping across the country.

About

- NBHM is a **Central Sector Scheme** (not Centrally Sponsored) implemented through the **National Bee Board (NBB)** under the **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare**, focusing on promoting scientific beekeeping and quality honey production.

2. (c)

In News: The Union Agriculture Minister has ordered on-field investigations into **extremely low insurance payouts**—some as little as Re 1—under the **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana**, calling them a “mockery” and “injustice” to farmers.

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)

- It was launched in 2016 to replace the existing National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and the Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS).
- It works on the **One Nation, One Crop, One Premium**.
 - Under the scheme, all farmers including sharecroppers and tenant farmers growing “notified crops” in the “notified areas” are eligible for coverage.
 - It was initially mandatory for loanee farmers, but was made optional for all in February 2020.
- Coverage:** It covers all non-preventable natural risks from pre-sowing to post-harvest, ensuring financial support in the event of crop failure due to natural calamities, pests, or diseases.
 - It also covers individual farms nationwide for localized disasters like hailstorms, landslides, floods, and wildfires, as well as post-harvest losses from cyclones, heavy rain, and hail.
- Premium:** Premium rates are capped at 2% for kharif crops, 1.5% for rabi crops, and 5% for horticultural crops, with the remaining subsidy initially shared equally by the Centre and states.
 - However, the Centre later capped its subsidy at 30% for unirrigated and 25% for irrigated areas. States failing to pay their share on time may be disqualified from implementing the scheme in the next season.

3. (a)

Statement 1 is correct: Minister of State for Science and Technology interacted with **Vaishvik Bhartiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV)** fellows from across the world.

- Launched:** VAIBHAV fellowship was launched in **2023** and is implemented by the **Department of Science & Technology**, Ministry of Science and Technology.

Statement 2 is not correct: Eligibility: Non-Resident Indian (NRI), Persons of Indian Origin (PIO), and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI), currently working abroad.

- Implementation: Collaboration between scientists of the Indian Diaspora** with Indian Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs), Universities and/or Public Funded Scientific Institutions.
 - The VAIBHAV Fellow would identify an Indian Institution for collaboration and may spend up to two months in a year for a maximum of 3 years.

4. (b)

Statement 1 and 2 are correct: PMKVY is implemented by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. PMKVY 4.0 was launched in 2022 and emphasizes industry-linked courses, digital monitoring, and a candidate-centric approach.

Statement 3 is not correct: However, not all training centres under PMKVY are directly owned and operated by the Union Government; the scheme works through partnerships with private training providers, industrial training institutes, state governments, and other stakeholders.

5. (a)

Statement 1 and 2 are correct: National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) was introduced on 15 August 1995.

- It is a **fully funded Centrally Sponsored Scheme** that extends financial support to individuals **living below poverty line (BPL)**.
- **Implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development.**

Statement 3 is not correct: Operation: It operates across both **rural and urban areas**.

- **Pensions Covered:** NSAP covers old age pension, widow pension, disability pension, family benefit, and food security.

6. (c)

Both statements are correct: Export Promotion Mission

- **In the Union Budget for 2025-26**, the Finance Minister announced an Export Promotion Mission.
 - It would facilitate **easy access to export credit, cross-border factoring support, and support to MSMEs to tackle non-tariff measures in overseas markets.**
- **Ministries:** Driven jointly by the Ministries of Commerce and Industry, the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises, and the Ministry of Finance.
- **Under EPM, priority support** will be extended to sectors impacted by recent global tariff escalations, such as textiles, leather, gems & jewellery, engineering goods, and marine products.
- **The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)** will act as the implementing agency, with all processes from application to disbursement.
 - It will be managed through a dedicated digital platform integrated with existing trade systems.

7. (d)

All three statements are correct: Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) was launched in **1978** for protection of children from life threatening conditions by providing **vaccination** entirely funded by the **Central Government**.

- **Beneficiaries:** All children and Pregnant women.
- Under UIP, immunization is providing free of cost **against 12 vaccine preventable diseases**:
 - **Nationally against 9 diseases:** Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Polio, Measles, Rubella, severe form of Childhood Tuberculosis, Hepatitis B and Meningitis & Pneumonia caused by Hemophilus Influenza type B.
 - **Sub-nationally against 3 diseases:** Rotavirus diarrhoea, Pneumococcal Pneumonia and Japanese Encephalitis.
- A child is said to be fully immunized if the child receives **all due vaccines within the 1st year of child**.

8. (d)

In News: Recently, the Government of India launched the **Electronics Development Fund (EDF)** aimed at catalyzing innovation, research, and entrepreneurship in the electronics and IT sectors.

Statement 1 is not correct

- EDF operates as a **Fund of Funds** and invests in **Daughter Funds**, not directly in startups.

Statement 2 is not correct

- EDF is managed by CANBANK Venture Capital Fund Ltd. under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

9. (b)

In News : The Union Agriculture Ministry has approved rules to include crop losses caused by wild animal attacks and paddy inundation under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), addressing long-standing demands from farmers' groups for compensation for these types of damage.

Statements 1 and 2 are correct: Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) was launched in 2016 and has been strengthened through measures to improve transparency, accountability, and timely claim settlement. The scheme covers natural disasters (**droughts**, floods), **pests**, and diseases. Post-harvest losses due to local risks like hailstorms and landslides are also included. The Government provides this insurance coverage for yield losses that fall under the non-preventable risks, such as natural fire and **lightning**, etc.

Statement 3 is not correct: The maximum premium payable by the farmer will be 2% for the Kharif food and oilseed crops. For rabi food and oilseeds crop, it is 1.5% and for yearly commercial or horticultural crops it will be 5%.

10. (b)

In News: Union Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched '**Nayi Chetna 4.0**' national campaign for gender equality and women's empowerment.

About

- It is a month-long campaign, organised by the **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)** under the Ministry of Rural Development.
- **Nayi Chetna 4.0** aims to strengthen community action against gender-based violence and promote women's safety, dignity and economic empowerment across rural India.
- The **campaign focuses** on enabling safe mobility, recognising women as key economic contributors, and addressing unpaid care work through shared community responsibility.

11. (a)

Statement 1 is correct: Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) implemented by the Ministry of Minority Affairs to address development deficits in identified Minority Concentration Areas (MCAs).

Statement 2 is correct: The scheme aims to create basic infrastructure like schools, health centres, skill development facilities, sanitation, roads, and drinking water in MCAs (e.g., Minority Concentration Blocks, Towns, District HQs, Clusters of Villages), identified using Census 2011 data on minority population (>25% in 15 km catchment) and backwardness parameters.

Statement 3 is not correct: PMJVK provides area-based benefits to all residents in identified MCAs, not restricted to individuals from notified minority communities (Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis, Jains). It promotes inclusive development to reduce socio-economic imbalances, benefiting all communities in these backward areas.

12. (c)

In News : The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has released updated guidelines for the '**Top Class Scholarship Scheme for SC Students**' expanding financial support and tightening institutional accountability for the 2024–25 academic year.

Statements 1 and 2 are correct : The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has released updated guidelines for the '**Top Class Scholarship Scheme for SC Students**' expanding financial support and tightening institutional accountability for the 2024–25 academic year.

- The scheme aims to promote quality higher education for Scheduled Caste (SC) students by covering full tuition fees and providing academic allowances across India's premier institutions.
- The scholarship will be available to SC students with an annual family income of up to ₹8 lakh who secure admission in notified institutions, including IITs, IIMs, AIIMS, NITs, National Law Universities, NIFT, NID, IHMs and other accredited colleges.
- The Centre will directly transfer full tuition fees and non-refundable charges to students through DBT, capped at ₹2 lakh per year for private institutions.
- Students will also receive an academic allowance of ₹86,000 in the first year and ₹41,000 in subsequent years to cover living expenses, books and laptops.

13. (a)

Context: At the UPSC's 'Shatabdi Sammelan' (Centenary Conclave), the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Personnel praised UPSC as the **"Guardian of India's Steel Frame."**

About the UPSC

- Subsequent to the provisions of the **Government of India Act, 1919**, and the recommendations of the **Lee Commission (1924)**, the Public Service Commission was established in India on 1st October 1926.
- Later named the **Federal Public Service Commission (1937)**, it was renamed the Union Public Service Commission with the adoption of India's Constitution on **26th January 1950**.
- It conducts civil services examinations to select officers for the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Forest Service (IFS) and the Indian Police Service (IPS), among others.
- **Members:** Besides the chairman, it can have a **maximum of 10 members**.
 - A UPSC chairman is appointed for a **term of six years** or until attaining **65 years of age**, all members have the same term.
- **Reappointment:** The UPSC Chairman is **not eligible for reappointment** after completing their term.
- **Removal (Article 317):** Deals with the removal and suspension of a member of a Public Service Commission by the President.

14. (c)

Context

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the "Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnets" with a financial outlay of ₹7,280 crore.

About the Scheme

- This **first-of-its-kind initiative** aims to establish 6,000 Metric Tons per Annum (MTPA) of integrated **Rare Earth Permanent Magnet (REPM)** manufacturing capacity in India.
 - REPMs—such as **Neodymium-Iron-Boron (NdFeB)** and **Samarium Cobalt (SmCo)**—are among the strongest permanent magnets in the world.
 - Capacity will be allocated to **five beneficiaries** through a global competitive bidding process, each receiving up to **1,200 MTPA**.
- The Scheme will support the creation of integrated REPM manufacturing facilities, involving conversion of rare earth oxides to metals, metals to alloys, and alloys to finished REPMs.
- Duration of scheme: **7 years**
 - **2 years:** Gestation period
 - **5 years:** Incentive disbursement.

15. (d)

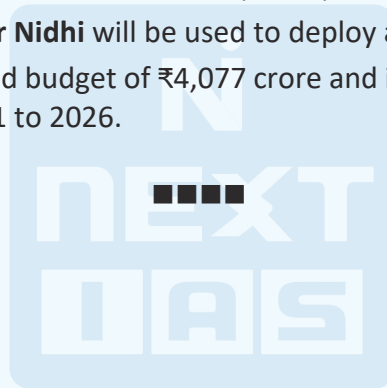
All statements are correct: The Tex-RAMPS (Textiles Focused Research, Assessment, Monitoring, Planning and Start-up) scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Textiles as a Central Sector Scheme with ₹305 crore outlay from FY 2025-26 to 2030-31. It promotes advanced research and innovation in smart textiles, sustainability, process efficiency, and emerging technologies to enhance global competitiveness. The scheme includes the Integrated Textiles Statistical System (ITSS), a real-time data and analytics platform for monitoring, diagnostics, and evidence-based decision-making.

16. (d)

Context: A crucial set of tests on the **Samudrayaan**, India's first manned-submersible mission, has been pushed to **mid-next year** due to delays in procuring **syntactic foam cladding from France**.

About Samudrayaan Mission

- The Samudrayaan Mission is a key component of India's **Deep Ocean Mission**. It involves the development of **MATSYA 6000**, an indigenously designed, fourth-generation manned submersible capable of carrying three people to a depth of 6,000 metres.
 - MATSYA 6000 is designed to operate for **12 hours**, with an emergency endurance of up to **96 hours**.
- It is being developed by **National Institute of Ocean Technology** (Chennai), an autonomous institute under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences** (MoES).
- India's research vessel **Sagar Nidhi** will be used to deploy and recover the MATSYA 6000.
- The mission has an estimated budget of ₹4,077 crore and is being implemented in phases over a five-year period from 2021 to 2026.



DEFENSE/ INTERNAL SECURITY

1. Yudh Abhyas, recently seen in the news, is a Joint Military Exercise between India and which one of the following countries?
 - (a) France
 - (b) Russia
 - (c) USA
 - (d) Australia
2. Consider the following statements about INS Ikshak:
 1. It is the third vessel of the Survey Vessel (Large) class.
 2. The ship has been built by Cochin Shipyard Limited.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
3. The recently commissioned aircraft carrier Fujian belongs to which country?
 - (a) Japan
 - (b) China
 - (c) South Korea
 - (d) Russia
4. Ayni airbase was shut down by India recently, it is situated in which of the following countries?
 - (a) Mauritius
 - (b) Japan
 - (c) Tajikistan
 - (d) Israel
5. SURYA KIRAN is a Joint Military Exercise between India and which one of the following countries?
 - (a) Sri Lanka
 - (b) Nepal
 - (c) Bangladesh
 - (d) Bhutan
6. Which of the following statements regarding Mudh-Nyoma Airbase is not correct?
 - (a) It will enhance India's ability to deploy fighter aircraft close to the LAC.
 - (b) It is being developed at one of the world's highest airfield locations.
 - (c) It replaces Thoise Airbase as India's primary base in Ladakh.
 - (d) It is expected to improve logistical support to the forward areas of Eastern Ladakh.

7. Exercise Zair-Al-Bahr, is a bilateral naval exercise between India and:

- (a) Oman
- (b) UAE
- (c) Qatar
- (d) Bahrain

8. Consider the following pairs:

Exercise	Partner Country
1. AJEYA WARRIOR	United Kingdom
2. KONKAN	France
3. Indradhanush	United States

Which of the above pair(s) is/are correctly matched with reference to India's defence exercises?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

9. Yudh Abhyas is a joint military exercise between India and which one of the following countries?

- (a) France
- (b) Russia
- (c) Australia
- (d) United States of America

10. With reference to The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Consider the following statements:

- 1. It was formed in 1995 and it guards critical infrastructure including airports, nuclear, and space installations.
- 2. It is the only Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) that possesses a full-fledged Fire Wing.
- 3. It holds the distinction of having the largest number of women personnel among the Central Armed Police Forces.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

11. Consider the following statements about Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas:

- 1. Tejas is a 5th-generation fighter aircraft, developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- 2. LCA Mk-1A is the most advanced version and will replace the IAF's MiG-21 fleet.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

- 12.** Consider the following statements regarding the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP):
1. The ITBP was established after the 1962 India-China war.
 2. The Ministry of Defence has administrative control over the ITBP.
- 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
- 13.** Suryakiran is a joint military exercise between India and which one of the following countries?
- (a) Bhutan
 - (b) Sri Lanka
 - (c) Nepal
 - (d) Bangladesh
- 14.** Exercises 'Shakti' and 'Varuna' are conducted between India and which of the following countries?
- (a) United States
 - (b) Russia
 - (c) Australia
 - (d) France
- 15.** Consider the following statements about INS Mahe:
1. It is designed for anti-submarine warfare in shallow waters.
 2. It is named after the historic coastal town of Mahe on the Malabar Coast.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
- 16.** With reference to the Agnipath Scheme, consider the following statements:
1. It is a short-term recruitment scheme for the Indian Armed Forces introduced in 2022.
 2. Under the scheme, all Agniveers are retained after four years of service.
- 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
- 17.** Operation Pawan (1987–1990) was primarily associated with which of the following?
- (a) India's peacekeeping mission in Cambodia
 - (b) Deployment of the Indian Peace Keeping Force in Sri Lanka
 - (c) India's counter-insurgency operations in Mizoram
 - (d) The evacuation of Indians from the Gulf region

18. Consider the following statements with reference to MH-60R Seahawk helicopters:
1. It is an all-weather helicopter designed to support multiple missions with state of the art avionics and sensors.
 2. It is being manufactured by a French aerospace company in collaboration with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- 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
19. The air exercise 'Cope India' is conducted between India and which of the following countries?
- (a) Russia
 - (b) France
 - (c) United States
 - (d) United Kingdom

EXPLANATIONS

1. (c)

In News: India and the U.S. signed a landmark **10-year road map** to guide strategic collaboration and cooperation between the two countries across the defence spectrum.

India-US Defence Cooperation

- The United States declared India a **Major Defence Partner (MDP)** in 2016.
- Between **2016 and 2020**, the two sides signed four more agreements, including the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) in 2016, the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) in 2018, and the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) in 2020.
- In 2024, both countries signed a **Security of Supply Arrangement (SOSA)** and **Memorandum of Agreement** regarding the Assignment of Liaison Officers, among other bilateral military agreements that have enhanced defence and security cooperation.
- In **2025**, **Indian and American** troops participated in a two-week military exercise **Yudh Abhyas** at Fort Wainwright in **Alaska**.
 - India's defence inventory includes US- origin ware such as Super Hercules, Globemaster, Poseidon aircraft; Chinooks, Seahawks and Apaches; Harpoons; and M777 howitzers.

2. (a)

Context

- The Indian Navy has **commissioned INS Ikshak**, the third vessel of the **Survey Vessel Large** class, into active service during a ceremony held at the **Naval Base in Kochi**.

About INS Ikshak

- **Meaning:** Ikshak means "**Guide**" in Sanskrit — symbolizing its role in hydrographic precision.
- **Built by:** Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.
- **Indigenous Content:** Over **80%**, showcasing India's **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** initiative and MSME collaboration.
- **Purpose:**
 - Conducts **coastal and deep-water hydrographic surveys** of ports, harbours, and sea routes.
 - Supports **coastal defence, disaster relief, and medical missions**.

3. (b)

In News

- China has commissioned its first indigenously designed aircraft carrier, Fujian.

Aircraft carrier Fujian

- It is China's third aircraft carrier and the first to be indigenously designed, named after the province opposite Taiwan.
- Unlike its **Russian-designed predecessors**, Liaoning and Shandong, it features a flat deck and electromagnetic catapults, enabling it to launch heavier and more advanced aircraft.
- Sea trials have included the J-35 stealth fighter, KJ-600 early-warning aircraft, and a variant of the J-15, marking a significant upgrade in China's naval aviation capabilities.

4. (c)

In News : India has shut down its operations at the Ayni airbase in Tajikistan, a key overseas facility that had provided its strategic influence in Central Asia.

- The airbase, originally built during the Soviet era, was in poor condition following the split of the Soviet Union.
 - India invested around \$80 million since 2002 to upgrade it with a 3,200-metre runway, hangars, fuel depots, and air traffic control, largely executed by the Border Roads Organisation
- It is situated in **Tajikistan around 20 km from Afghanistan's Wakhan Corridor**, which shares a boundary with the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and with China's Xinjiang province.

5. (b)

Context: India and Nepal have amended the **Treaty of Transit** to facilitate the movement of rail-based freight between Jogbani in India and Biratnagar in Nepal.

Overview of India - Nepal Relations

- Shared Border:** The country shares a border with five Indian states - Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
 - Land-locked Nepal relies heavily on India for the transportation of goods and services and access to the sea is through India.
- Defence Cooperation:** India has been assisting the Nepal Army (NA) in its **modernisation by supplying equipment and providing training**.
 - Both countries conduct **Joint Military Exercise SURYA KIRAN** alternately in India and in Nepal.
 - Since 1950, India and Nepal have been awarding each other's Army Chief with the **honorary rank of General**.
 - The Gorkha regiments** of the Indian Army are raised partly by recruitment from **hill districts of Nepal**.

6. (c)

Mudh-Nyoma Airbase is India's fourth airbase in Ladakh and does not replace Thoise Airbase; rather, it complements the existing bases including Leh, Kargil, and Thoise, each having distinct operational roles. Thoise serves the Siachen sector while Mudh-Nyoma enhances capabilities in Eastern Ladakh. Mudh-Nyoma is located at about 13,700 feet, making it one of the world's highest airfields. It is about 23 km from the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China, enhancing India's ability to deploy fighter aircraft close to the LAC.

7. (c)

Context: The External Affairs Minister met **Qatar's top leadership** and discussed major aspects of the bilateral relationship, including energy and trade, as well as regional and global issues.

Brief on India-Qatar Relations

- Strategic Partnership:** In 2025 India and Qatar have signed an agreement to elevate their ties to the level of a **strategic partnership**.

- **Defence:** India participates in the biennial Doha International Maritime Defence Exhibition and Conference (DIMDEX).
- **Exercise Zair-Al-Bahr** is a joint naval exercise between the Indian Navy and the Qatar Emiri Naval Force (QENF).
- The India-Qatar Defence Cooperation Agreement was signed in **2008 and extended for five years in 2018**, it is managed through the **Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC)**.

8. (a)

Context: The **8th edition** of the India–United Kingdom (UK) Joint Military Exercise “AJEYA WARRIOR-25” commenced in **Rajasthan**.

About the Exercise

- Conducted under a **United Nations mandate**, the exercise focuses on counter-terrorism operations in semi-urban environments.
- Held **biennially since 2011**, AJEYA WARRIOR has evolved into a flagship engagement between the **Indian Army and the British Army**.

Do you Know?

- **KONKAN** is a bilateral **naval exercise** conducted between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy (UK).
- **Indradhanush** is a bilateral **air exercise** conducted between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Royal Air Force of UK.

9. (d)

Context

- The US State Department has approved the **sale of the FGM-148 Javelin anti-tank missile system** and the **M982A1 Excalibur precision-guided artillery munitions** worth \$93 million to India.

India - US Defence Ties

- Defence ties have transformed from transactional to a Major Defense Partnership (2016).
- **Military Exercises:** Among India’s most extensive set of exercises with any country.
 - **Yudh Abhyas:** Land forces.
 - **Malabar:** Naval quadrilateral with US, India, Japan, Australia.
 - **Cope India:** Air exercise.
 - **Tiger Triumph:** Tri-service HADR exercise.
 - **Vajra Prahar:** Special forces.

10. (b)

In News : The Centre has designated the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) as the new safety regulator for around 250 Indian seaports, marking a major reform in port security.

Statement 1 is not correct : Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) was formed in **1968**, has grown from 3,129 personnel to 2.2 lakh, making it a multi-faceted Central Armed Police Force deployed nationwide.

- It secures 361 critical installations, including 70 airports, nuclear and space facilities, seaports, power plants, Delhi Metro, Parliament House, government buildings, monuments, and VIPs.

Statements 2 and 3 are correct : **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)** is the **only CAPF with a dedicated Fire Wing**, equipped for advanced firefighting and rescue, and also provides consultancy services to institutions like SBI Data Centres, AIIMS, IIM Indore, and Kashi Vishwanath Temple.

- It is Known as the “Shield of Security” and has the **largest number of women personnel among CAPFs, reflecting inclusivity**.

11. (b)

Context: An Indian Air Force **Tejas** crashed during a flight demonstration at the **Dubai Airshow**.

About Tejas

- Tejas is a **4.5 generation**, single-engine, multi-role Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) — India's indigenous fighter jet, though powered by a foreign engine.
- It is jointly developed by the **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** & **Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA)**.
- Conceptualised in **1984**, Tejas made its maiden flight in 2001. It is the **smallest and lightest supersonic combat aircraft** in its class.
- It has **two variants**: Mk-1 and Mk-1A. **LCA Mk-1A** is the most advanced version and will replace the **IAF's MiG-21** fleet.
- **Name**: "Tejas" (meaning Radiance in Sanskrit), officially adopted in 2003.

12. (a)

Context: The Indo-Tibetan Border Police force is establishing **10 all-woman Border Outposts** along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), marking a significant step toward gender inclusion in border security.

About the ITBP

- **Raised**: 24 October 1962, after the India-China war.
- **Status**: A Central Armed Police Force under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- **Motto**: "Shaurya-Dridhata-Karma Nishtha"
- **Operational Roles**: Guarding the **3,488 km-long India-China border** from the **Karakoram Pass (Ladakh)** to **Jachep La (Arunachal Pradesh)**.
 - Counter-insurgency operations (e.g., in **Chhattisgarh**).
- **Legal Framework**: In 1992, the ITBPF Act was enacted; in 2004, the entire India-China border was assigned to ITBP for border guarding duties.

13. (c)

Context: India and Nepal have commenced the 19th edition of the joint military Exercise Suryakiran in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand.

About

- Started in **2011**, Exercise Suryakiran is conducted **annually** between the Indian Army and the Nepal Army on a **reciprocal basis** in both countries.
 - The **18th edition** was held in **Saljhandi, Nepal**.
- This joint military exercise focuses on counterterrorism and operations in challenging terrains, with troops engaging in rigorous drills such as jungle survival, combat first aid, ambush tactics, and heliborne operations.

14. (d)

Context: Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and France's Safran Electronics & Defence (SED) have signed a **joint venture agreement to manufacture the HAMMER** precision-guided air-to-ground weapon system in India.

Major Highlights of the India-France Relations

- **India–France Strategic Partnership**: It was launched on 26 January 1998 and is India's first-ever Strategic Partnership.
- **Defence Cooperation**: It is reviewed via the Annual Defence Dialogue (Minister-level) and High Committee on Defence Cooperation (HCDC) (Secretary-level).
 - **Joint Exercises**: Shakti, Varuna, FRINJEX-23.

15. (c)

Context: INS Mahe, India's **first Mahe-class anti-submarine warfare** shallow watercraft, was commissioned at the Naval Dockyard by the Chief of Army Staff.

About

- INS Mahe is named after the historic coastal town of Mahe on the Malabar Coast. The ship has over 80% indigenous components.
- **Features:** It has a twin-shaft diesel propulsion generating over 6 MW of power and this gives it a top speed of 25 knots, a range of 1,800 nautical miles at 14 knots, and an endurance of 14 days.
 - **The key indigenous elements in Mahi include** propulsion and power management systems, integrated combat management suite, medium-frequency hull-mounted sonar, multi-function surveillance radar, torpedo and ASW rocket systems.

16. (a)

Statement 1 is correct: It was introduced in **2022**, and is also called the **Tour of Duty scheme**.

- It is a **short-term recruitment scheme for the Indian Army**.

Statement 2 is not correct: Under the policy, soldiers — called '**Agniveers**' — are recruited for **four years**, at the end of which **only 25%** of recruits from a batch are retained for regular service for 15 years.

17. (b)

Context: The Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), General Upendra Dwivedi, has paid homage to soldiers who laid down their lives during **Operation Pawan (1987 – 1990) in Sri Lanka**.

About

- Operation Pawan was launched by the **Rajiv Gandhi government** in 1987 after the signing of the **Indo–Sri Lanka Accord**.
- India deployed the **Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF)** to Sri Lanka during the country's civil war between the **minority Tamil population**, and the **Sinhalese-majority government**.
- India was deeply concerned due to:
 - Ethnic and cultural ties with Tamil Nadu
 - Escalating violence
 - Rising **refugee inflow** into India.

18. (a)

In News : India has finalized a ₹7,995-crore follow-on support deal with the U.S. for its fleet of 24 MH-60R Seahawk helicopters, ensuring five years of sustained maintenance and supply.

Statement 1 is correct but statement 2 is incorrect : **MH-60R Seahawk helicopters** manufactured by Lockheed Martin Corporation, is an all-weather helicopter designed to support multiple missions with state of the art avionics and sensors.

- The MH-60R Seahawk is a maritime variant of the Blackhawk helicopter.
- India had signed an agreement with the U.S. for procurement of 24 MH-60Rs in February 2020.

19. (c)

In News: India has finalized a ₹7,995-crore follow-on support deal with the U.S. for its fleet of 24 MH-60R Seahawk helicopters, ensuring five years of sustained maintenance and supply.

India–US Defence Partnership

- Military-to-military ties are robust, with India conducting the largest number of exercises with the US—including Yudh Abhyas, Vajra Prahar, Malabar, **Cope India**, and Tiger Triumph—alongside participation in multilateral drills like RIMPAC and Red Flag.



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1. The 'Gyeongju Declaration', sometimes appeared in the news, primarily in the context of:
- (a) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
 - (b) Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)
 - (c) International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
 - (d) World Trade Organization (WTO)

2. Consider the following:

- 1. Hong Kong
- 2. China
- 3. The Russian Federation
- 4. United States of America
- 5. Viet Nam

Which of the above economies are part of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)?

- (a) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
- (b) 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
- (c) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

3. With reference to the United Nations (UN), consider the following statements:

- 1. All six principal organs of the UN were established under the UN Charter in 1945.
- 2. The UN Security Council has 15 members, of which 10 are non-permanent.
- 3. The Secretary-General is appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council for a renewable six-year term.

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

4. The term "Abraham Accords" sometimes seen in the news refers to:

- (a) A peace initiative between Israel and Palestine mediated by the United Nations.
- (b) An agreement aimed at establishing defence cooperation between Israel, the U.S., and NATO members.
- (c) A U.S.-brokered framework for normalisation of relations between Israel and some Arab states.
- (d) An accord signed among Middle Eastern countries to jointly manage oil production quotas.

5. Recently, which one of the following countries agreed on 'Mutual Submarine Search and Rescue Support' with India?
 - (a) South Korea
 - (b) Viet Nam
 - (c) Russia
 - (d) Mauritius
6. Recently, the World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organization (WAICO) was proposed by which of the following countries?
 - (a) United States
 - (b) Japan
 - (c) India
 - (d) China
7. With reference to the 'Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)', consider the following statements:
 1. It was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 1996.
 2. It prohibits all nuclear explosions with the exception of nuclear testing for peaceful purposes.

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
8. Operation SOUTHERN SPEAR, recently in the news, is launched by which country?
 - (a) Russia
 - (b) China
 - (c) India
 - (d) United States

9. Which of the following countries is NOT a member of the Colombo Security Conclave?
 - (a) Mauritius
 - (b) Seychelles
 - (c) Bangladesh
 - (d) Sri Lanka

10. With reference to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), consider the following statements:
 1. It is a political and economic alliance of all Gulf countries bordering the Persian Gulf.
 2. Its Secretariat is located in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
 3. Yemen is a full member of the GCC.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 2 only
 - (b) 1 and 2 only
 - (c) 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3

- 11.** With reference to the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), consider the following statements:
1. It was established by a treaty signed in 2014.
 2. It aims to allow free movement of goods, services, capital, and labour among member states.
 3. All members of the EAEU are also members of the European Union (EU).
- How many of the above statements are correct?
- (a) Only one
 - (b) Only two
 - (c) All three
 - (d) None
- 12.** Which of the following countries is NOT a member of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)?
- (a) Armenia
 - (b) Kazakhstan
 - (c) Uzbekistan
 - (d) Belarus
- 13.** 'Hanoi Convention' recently seen in the news, is related to which of the following?
- (a) Establishing a regional framework for the protection of climate refugees in Southeast Asia.
 - (b) A legislative framework to boost international cooperation for combating cybercrime.
 - (c) Creating standards for the safe handling and movement of hazardous wastes in the Indo-Pacific.
 - (d) Strengthening regional collaboration to prevent and respond to infectious disease outbreaks.
- 14.** The theme of the 2025 G20 Summit held in Johannesburg, South Africa is:
- (a) One Earth, One Family, One Future
 - (b) Stronger Together for a Better World
 - (c) Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability
 - (d) Peace, Prosperity, and Planet
- 15.** Consider the following statements regarding the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA):
1. It is an inter-governmental organisation established in 1995 to strengthen democratic institutions and electoral processes worldwide.
 2. India is not a member of International IDEA but participates as an observer.
 3. The organisation currently has 35 member countries, while the United States and Japan hold observer status.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 1 and 3 only
 - (c) 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
- 16.** With reference to the International Maritime Organization (IMO), consider the following statements:
1. It was originally established as the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO).

2. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations.
3. Its headquarters is located in Geneva, Switzerland.

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

EXPLANATIONS

1. (b)

In News: Recently, the **Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit (2025)**, held in **Gyeongju, South Korea**, concluded with the adoption of **APEC Leaders' Gyeongju Declaration (2025)**, the **APEC Artificial Intelligence Initiative**, and the APEC Framework for Cooperation on Population Structure Changes.

- The Gyeongju Declaration, adopted at the **2025 APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Gyeongju, South Korea**, marks a significant commitment by the **21 member economies of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)** to deepen regional cooperation amid global uncertainty.

2. (d)

In News: Recently, the **Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit (2025)**, held in **Gyeongju, South Korea**, concluded with the adoption of **APEC Leaders' Gyeongju Declaration (2025)**, the **APEC Artificial Intelligence Initiative**, and the APEC Framework for Cooperation on Population Structure Changes.

- **Member Economies (21 Members):** Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; Chile; **People's Republic of China; Hong Kong, China;** Indonesia; Japan; Republic of Korea; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Peru; The Philippines; **The Russian Federation;** Singapore (APEC Secretariat & Headquarter); Chinese Taipei; Thailand; **United States of America; and Viet Nam.**

3. (a)

Statement 1 is correct: The United Nations is an international organization founded in **1945**.

- **The main bodies of the United Nations are** the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice, and the UN Secretariat.
 - All were established under the **UN Charter when the Organization was founded in 1945.**

Statement 2 is correct: The Security Council is the UN's premier decision-making body.

- **It has 15 Members** (5 permanent and 10 non-permanent members).
- It has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Statement 3 is not correct: The Secretary-General is Chief Administrative Officer of the UN.

- The Secretary-General is appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council for a **5-year, renewable term.**

4. (c)

The Abraham Accords marked a historic diplomatic breakthrough where UAE, Bahrain, later Sudan and Morocco agreed to normalise relations with Israel, with the U.S. as mediator. The accords focus on economic cooperation, tourism, investment, and regional security.

5. (b)

In News: Recently, **India and Vietnam** convened the **15th Defence Policy Dialogue** in Hanoi, reaffirming their commitment to deepening defence cooperation across traditional and emerging domains.

- A **Memorandum of Agreement on Mutual Submarine Search, Rescue Support and Cooperation**, marking a new phase of operational coordination in maritime safety.
- A **Letter of Intent on Defence Industry Cooperation**, aimed at expanding collaboration in defence manufacturing, research, and technology exchange.
- **Reinforcing the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership:** Both nations underscored that their **defence partnership remains a cornerstone of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** between India and Vietnam.
 - They reaffirmed shared commitment to regional stability, maritime security, and a free, open, and **rules-based Indo-Pacific region**.

6. (d)

In News: At the APEC Summit in Busan (2025), President Xi Jinping proposed forming the World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organization (WAICO).

About

- It is a new global **AI governance initiative** proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping, with the headquarters **proposed in Shanghai, China**.
- WAICO intends to address the **current fragmented governance of AI** by fostering international cooperation, aligning AI strategies and technical standards, and promoting inclusive innovation ecosystems, especially for developing countries.

7. (a)

In News: The recent **US President's renewed 'nuclear testing on an equal basis' with Russia and China** signaled a return to nuclear weapons testing, challenging decades of international restraint and global arms control dynamics.

Statement 1 is correct

- The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) was adopted by the UNGA on **10 September 1996**.

Statement 2 is not correct

- The CTBT **bans all nuclear explosions—without any exception**, including the 'peaceful nuclear explosions'. It is one of its defining features compared to the earlier Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTBT), which had loopholes.

8. (d)

Context: The United States has launched *Operation SOUTHERN SPEAR* in Latin America, aimed at "removing narco-terrorists."

About the Operation

- **SOUTHCOM** stands for the **U.S. Southern Command**, whose area of responsibility includes **31 countries across South America, Central America and the Caribbean**.
- According to the U.S., the mission aims to:
 - Defend the U.S. homeland
 - Remove narco-terrorist threats from the Western Hemisphere
 - Prevent drug flows that the U.S. says are harming its population.

9. (b)

About Colombo Security Conclave

- **Overview:** The Colombo Security Conclave was established in 2020, when India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives agreed to expand the scope of their trilateral meeting on maritime cooperation.
- **Objective:** To promote regional security by jointly addressing transnational threats and challenges of common concern.
- **Members:** India, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Mauritius & Bangladesh
 - Seychelles is an observer nation.
- **Pillars of Cooperation:** Maritime security, counterterrorism, combating transnational organised crime, cyber security & humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

10. (a)

About Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

- **Overview:** The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is a regional political and economic grouping of six Arab countries in the Persian Gulf.
- **Established:** 1981 (Riyadh)
- **Members:** Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE
- **Economic significance:** The GCC accounts for ~30% of global oil reserves and around 20% of global gas reserves.

11. (b)

Statement 1 is correct: The Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union was signed on May 29, 2014, by Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Russia, and the union came into force on January 1, 2015. Armenia and Kyrgyzstan signed accession treaties in late 2014, joining shortly after.

Statement 2 is correct: The EAEU's fundamental objective includes enabling the free movement of goods, services, capital, and labor, supported by harmonized economic policies.

Statement 3 is not correct: None of the EAEU member states—Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Russia—are members of the European Union. These are post-Soviet states outside the EU.

12. (c)

In News: India and Russia reiterated their resolve to achieve \$100 billion bilateral trade by 2030 in Moscow and reviewed steps for the India-Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) free trade agreement in goods.

About Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)

- The EAEU is an **international economic union and free trade zone** comprising Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Russia, established by the Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union in 2014 and effective since January 2015.
- The Union pursues the **free movement of goods, services, capital, and labour, coordination** of economic policies, elimination of non-tariff trade barriers, and harmonization of regulations among members.
- The **EAEU covers a market of nearly 200 million people**, with a combined **GDP of \$6.5 trillion**, and is managed by its Supreme Eurasian Economic Council and Eurasian Economic Commission.

13. (b)

72 nations have signed a **landmark United Nations Convention against Cybercrime treaty** in **Hanoi** aimed at tackling **cybercrime**.

- **Aim:** It proposes a legislative framework to boost international cooperation among law enforcement agencies and offer technical assistance to countries that lack adequate infrastructure for combating cybercrime.
- **First Universal Convention:** The Convention establishes the first universal framework for investigating and prosecuting offences against Cybercrime.
- **Legally Binding:** The UN Cybercrime Convention is a powerful, legally binding instrument.
- **Adoption:** It was adopted by the General Assembly in 2024 after five years of negotiation.
 - The signing process is expected to remain open till next year.

14. (c)

In News: The 2025 G20 Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa is the **first-ever G20 summit** held on African soil under the **theme “Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability.”**

About the G20

- The G20, or Group of Twenty, is an intergovernmental forum comprising 19 individual countries (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the UK, the USA), the European Union, and since 2023, the African Union—a total of 21 members.
- These members represent the world’s major economies, accounting for about 85% of global GDP, 75% of international trade, and two-thirds of the global population.
- The G20 was founded in 1999 after the Asian financial crisis to improve global economic governance.
- The annual G20 Summit is held under a rotating presidency supported by a troika of previous, current, and next presidencies to ensure continuity.

15. (b)

In News: Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar is going to assume the Chairship of the **International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA)** for the year 2026.

About International IDEA

- It was **founded in 1995**, is an **inter-governmental organisation**.
- It works to strengthen democratic institutions and electoral processes worldwide.
- It currently has **35 member countries**, with the United States and Japan as observers.
- India is a **founding member of International IDEA** and has played an active role in its governance and initiatives.

16. (a)

Statement 1 is correct: The International Maritime Organization was originally established as the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO) following a UN conference in Geneva in 1948. It officially came into force in 1958, and later, in 1982, it was renamed as the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

Statement 2 is correct: IMO is a specialized agency of the United Nations focused on regulating maritime safety, environmental concerns, and shipping practices internationally.

Statement 3 is not correct: The headquarters of the IMO is located in London, United Kingdom, not Geneva, Switzerland.



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

1. With reference to GSAT-7R Satellite, which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. It is India's heaviest communication satellite launched from Indian soil.
 2. It was launched aboard ISRO's LVM3 rocket.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

2. With reference to Nipah virus, which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. Nipah virus is a zoonotic pathogen belonging to the Paramyxoviridae family.
 2. The animal host reservoir of the virus is the fruit bat, commonly known as flying fox.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

3. Which one of the following is the most abundant source of Thorium (a key resource for India's nuclear program) found in India?

- (a) Monazite sands
- (b) Bauxite deposits
- (c) Ilmenite sands
- (d) Haematite deposits

4. With reference to the Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine (TCV), consider the following statements:
1. It is a single-dose injectable vaccine that protects against typhoid fever caused by the Salmonella Typhi bacterium.
 2. It works by triggering the immune system to produce antibodies against the bacterium.
 3. The vaccine requires multiple booster doses for long-term protection.

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

5. Recently, the death of Delhi Zoo's lone African elephant was attributed to the rare Encephalomyocarditis Virus (EMCV). Which of the following statements about EMCV is/are correct?

1. It is a rodent-borne, single-stranded RNA virus that can infect several mammalian species.
2. It has been reported in regions including South America, China, and Australia.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

6. With reference to NexCAR19, recently in the news, consider the following statements:

1. It is India's first indigenously developed gene therapy for cancer.
2. It was jointly developed by IIT Bombay and Tata Memorial Hospital with support from DBT and BIRAC.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

7. With reference to Aditya L1 spacecraft, consider the following statements:

1. It is the first space based observatory class Indian solar mission to study the Sun.
2. It is launched by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in collaboration with Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).

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

8. With reference to Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA), consider the following statements.

1. It is a double helix formed by base pairs attached to a sugar-phosphate backbone.
2. It carries genetic information for the development and functioning of an organism.
3. Most DNA is located in the cell nucleus, with a small portion also present in the mitochondria.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All the three
- (d) None

9. With reference to Ricin, consider the following statements:

1. It is a naturally occurring toxin obtained from the castor plant.
2. It is listed under Schedule-1 of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

- 10.** Rift Valley Fever (RVF), recently seen in the news, is caused by which of the following?
- Bacterium
 - Fungus
 - Virus
 - Protozoa
- 11.** With reference to the Fungal Infections, consider the following statements:
- Fungal infections also called mycoses are diseases caused by fungi.
 - People with weakened immune systems are at higher risk for most fungal infections.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
- 12.** With reference to Gaganyaan Mission, consider the following statements.
- It aims to send Indian astronauts to 400 km Low Earth Orbit (LEO) for three days.
 - It is India's first indigenous human spaceflight initiative.
 - The Human Rated LVM3 is identified as the launch vehicle for the mission.
- How many of the statements given above are correct?
- Only one
 - Only two
 - All the three
 - None
- 13.** Which of the following best describes Odd Radio Circles (ORCs) recently observed by astronomers?
- Newly formed neutron stars emitting periodic radio pulses.
 - Expanding shells of gas created by dying stars within our solar neighbourhood.
 - Vast, faint, circular radio structures located millions of light-years away, possibly remnants of energetic galactic events.
 - Artificial radio emissions from spacecraft orbiting distant exoplanets.
- 14.** With reference to the 'DNA profiling', consider the following statements:
- It focuses on diagnosing diseases or revealing medical conditions.
 - DNA databases store complete genomes of individuals.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
- 15.** Consider the following statements regarding auroras:
- They occur when charged particles from the Sun interact with atoms in the Earth's lower atmosphere.
 - Oxygen emissions are responsible for green and red colours in auroras.
 - Aurora australis occurs in the Southern Hemisphere.

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

16. With reference to Diabetes, consider the following statements:

1. Type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune disease in which the body's immune system destroys insulin-producing cells.
2. Insulin is a hormone produced by the liver that helps glucose enter into cells for energy.
3. Gestational diabetes occurs during pregnancy and usually increases the risk of developing type 2 diabetes later in life.

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

17. Consider the following pairs:

Critical minerals	Applications
1. Zirconium	- Aerospace
2. Caesium	- GPS system
3. Rubidium	- Fibre optics

How many of the pairs are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

18. Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells (iPSCs) are best described as:

- (a) Stem cells obtained directly from human embryos.
- (b) Adult somatic cells reprogrammed to behave like pluripotent stem cells.
- (c) Stem cells derived from umbilical cord blood.
- (d) Totipotent cells capable of forming both embryo and placenta.

19. Hepatitis A differs from Hepatitis B and C because:

- (a) It is the only type transmitted through blood transfusion.
- (b) It does not cause chronic liver disease.
- (c) It has no vaccine available.
- (d) It has the highest mortality among viral hepatitis types.

20. With reference to Precision Biotherapeutics, consider the following statements:

1. Precision biotherapeutics involve tailoring medical interventions based on an individual's genetic or molecular profile.
2. Gene editing technologies such as CRISPR form a part of precision biotherapeutics.
3. Monoclonal antibodies are not considered precision biotherapeutics as they act on broad biological pathways rather than specific targets.

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

21. The primary objective of the ESCAPE mission is to study:

- (a) Subsurface water reservoirs on Moon
- (b) The loss of Mars' atmosphere to space
- (c) The Coronal Mass Ejection Pattern of Sun
- (d) The chemical composition of Venus

22. Sentinel-6B Satellite, recently in the news, is primarily associated with which of the following functions?

- (a) Monitoring forest degradation
- (b) Tracking global sea-level rise
- (c) Mapping mineral resources
- (d) Studying solar flares

23. Consider the following statements regarding Cryogenic Engines:

1. They use liquid hydrogen as fuel and liquid oxygen as oxidiser.
2. They operate at temperatures generally below -150°C .
3. They provide higher specific impulse compared to earth-storable liquid propellants.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

24. Which of the following statements is correct regarding pharmacogenomics?

- (a) It studies how environmental toxins change the chemical structure of drugs.
- (b) It focuses on how genetic variation influences individual drug responses.
- (c) It aims to eliminate all medication side effects in every patient.
- (d) It replaces the need for clinical drug trials.

25. With reference to Acanthosis Nigricans (AN), consider the following statements:

1. It is a skin condition characterised by dark, velvety patches.
2. It is strongly associated with insulin resistance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

26. Consider the following statements regarding Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS):

1. ORS works primarily through the sodium–glucose co-transport mechanism in the intestine.
2. ORS is regulated under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.
3. WHO-recommended ORS has an osmolarity of 245 mOsm/L.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

27. With reference to *Naegleria fowleri*, sometimes seen in the news, consider the following statements:

1. It causes Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM), a rare but almost always fatal infection.
2. It commonly infects humans through contaminated drinking water.
3. It cannot spread from person to person.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

28. Auramine O is primarily used in which of the following applications?

- (a) Food colouring and culinary decoration
- (b) Textile and leather processing, printing inks, and microbiological staining
- (c) Pharmaceuticals and medical drug coatings
- (d) Food packaging and edible films

29. Which of the following statements is correct regarding the SOLARAS S2 mission?

- (a) It aims to perform Earth observation for climate studies.
- (b) It aims to demonstrate nanosatellite technology
- (c) It aims to deploy a constellation of communications satellites
- (d) It aims to test a lunar lander system.

30. Malaria, often mentioned in public health programmes in India, is correctly described as:

- (a) A viral disease transmitted through the bite of *Aedes* mosquitoes.
- (b) A bacterial disease transmitted through contaminated water.
- (c) A vector-borne infectious disease transmitted through the bite of infected female *Anopheles* mosquitoes.
- (d) A fungal disease spread through air and respiratory droplets.

31. With reference to the International Astronomical Union (IAU) and planetary nomenclature, consider the following statements:

1. The IAU has been responsible for maintaining the official list of names for planetary surface features since 1919.
2. Names of smaller craters must have some historical or cultural relevance and should be easy to pronounce.

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

32. With reference to the planet Mars, consider the following statements:

1. Mars has two natural satellites, both of which orbit the planet at distances greater than 20,000 km.
2. The Martian atmosphere consists of more than 95% carbon dioxide and less than 1% oxygen.
3. A day on Mars is longer than an Earth day, but a Martian year is shorter than an Earth year.

Which of the statements given above are not correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

33. Consider the following statements with reference to Vikram-I

1. It is India's first privately developed orbital launch vehicle capable of placing satellites into orbit.
2. It can deploy up to 350 kg into low Earth orbit (LEO) and 260 kg into a sun-synchronous orbit (SSO).

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

EXPLANATIONS

1. (c)

Context

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched the Indian Navy's advanced communication satellite GSAT-7R (CMS-03) from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

About the GSAT-7R Satellite

- Gsat-7R an **indigenously** developed satellite, weighing approximately **4,400 kg**, is India's **heaviest communication satellite** to be launched from the country to date.
 - It is designed to replace Gsat-7 (Rukmini), which was launched in 2013 and is primarily dedicated to the Indian Navy.
- ISRO launched the rocket aboard its most powerful launch vehicle, the **LVM3**, on its **M5 mission**.
 - The satellite had been successfully inserted into a **geosynchronous transfer orbit (GTO)**.
- The satellite carries advanced payloads in multiple frequency bands, **UHF, S-band, C-band and Ku-band**, and includes several indigenous technologies such as a **1,200-litre propulsion tank** and collapsible antenna systems.
- **Its payload includes** transponders capable of supporting voice, data, and video links over multiple communication bands.
- **Significance:** With state-of-the-art indigenous components, the GSAT-7R will provide robust and secure telecommunication coverage across the **Indian Ocean Region**.

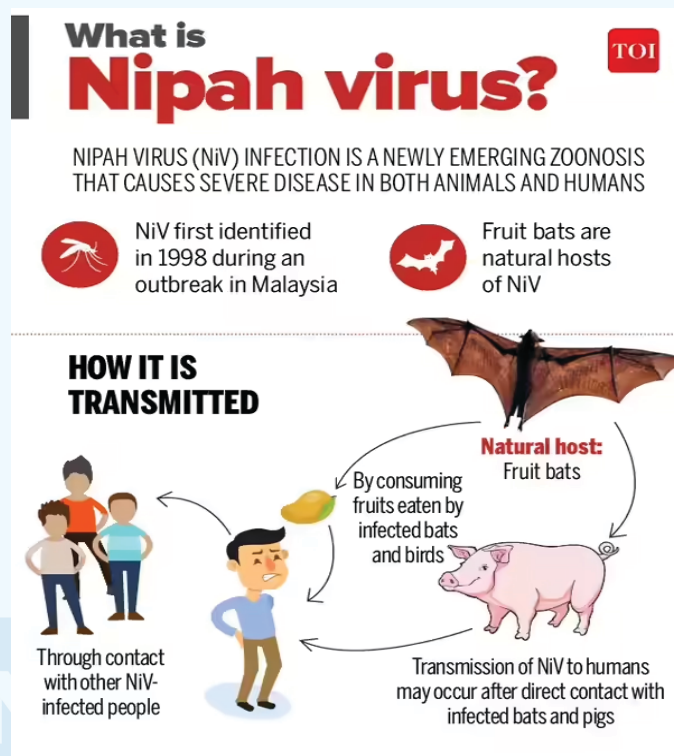
2. (c)

Context

- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has invited Expressions of Interest (Eoi) from eligible organisations and manufacturers for the development and production of **monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) against Nipah viral disease**.

Nipah Virus

- Nipah virus is a zoonotic pathogen belonging to the **Paramyxoviridae family**.
- In India and Bangladesh, the Bangladesh clade (NiV-B) predominates, known for its high virulence and frequent person-to-person spread.
- The **fatality rate** varies between **40% and 75%**, depending on clinical care and outbreak management.
- The animal host reservoir of the **virus is the fruit bat**, commonly known as **flying fox**.
 - Fruit bats are known to transmit this virus to other animals like pigs, and also dogs, cats, goats, horses and sheep.
- Fever, headache, cough, sore throat, difficulty in breathing, and vomiting are the common symptoms.



3. (a)

India's thorium reserves are primarily found in monazite, a thorium-bearing mineral present in the beach sands of states like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Odisha. The Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD) has established about 11.93 million tonnes of in situ monazite resources in India containing approximately 1.07 million tonnes of thorium. Monazite sands are rich in thorium oxide, which makes them the principal source for thorium crucial to India's nuclear program. Other sources like bauxite, ilmenite sands, and haematite deposits are not significant sources of thorium in comparison.

4. (a)

Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine (TCV) is a single-dose, injectable vaccine that provides long-term immunity against Salmonella Typhi.

It induces antibody production through conjugation with a carrier protein, improving immune memory even in young children.

Example: Typbar-TCV, developed by Bharat Biotech.

The vaccine does not require multiple booster doses, hence **statement 3 is not correct**.

5. (c)

In News

- Delhi zoo's lone African elephant died from the **rare rodent-borne encephalomyocarditis virus (EMCV)** — the first such case reported in any Indian zoo.

Encephalomyocarditis Virus (EMCV)

- It is a small, non-enveloped single-stranded RNA virus that causes myocarditis, encephalitis, neurological disorders, reproductive issues, and diabetes across various mammalian species.

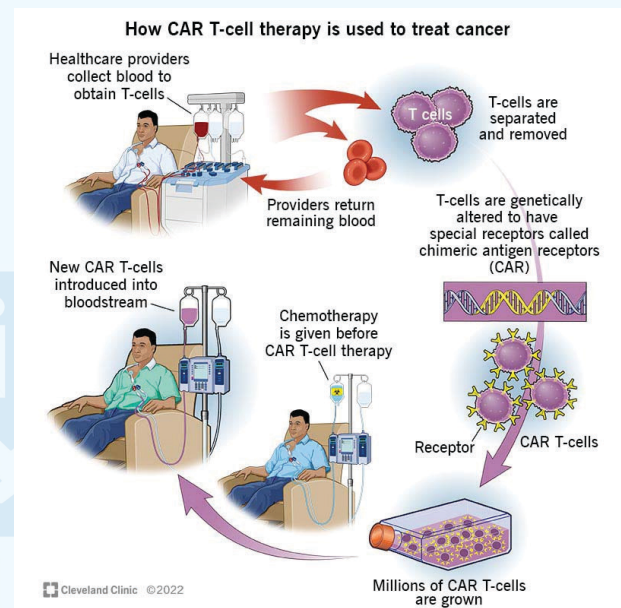
- Its pathogenesis is both strain- and host-specific, necessitating deeper research into its virulence factors.
- **Transmission** : Consumption of food and water contaminated with rodent urine or feces
 - Ingestion of rats or mice infected with EMCV
 - Transplacental (vertical) transmission in swine
 - Direct transmission between pigs has not been documented
- **Occurrence** : EMCV was first identified in 1945 from a gibbon in Florida, with the first pig case reported in Panama in 1958. It is now widespread globally, especially in South America, Australia, China, Europe, Canada, and the US.

6. (c)

In News: Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched **NexCAR19 for cancer care.**

NexCAR19

- NexCAR19 is **India's first indigenous CAR T-cell therapy**, developed collaboratively by ImmunoACT (incubated under IIT Bombay and Tata Memorial Hospital), with support from **DBT and BIRAC**.
- **CAR (Chimeric Antigen Receptor) T-cell therapy** works by genetically modifying a patient's T-cells—a type of white blood cell with cytotoxic functions—into CAR T-cells that can specifically target and destroy cancer cells.
- NexCAR19 is designed for **treating B-cell blood cancers, particularly leukemia and lymphoma**, especially in patients whose cancer has relapsed or not responded to first-line therapies.



7. (a)

In News : Scientists from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics and NASA have made the first-ever spectroscopic observations of a coronal mass ejection (CME) in the visible wavelength range, close to the Sun's surface using the VELC payload on Aditya-L1.

Statement 1 is correct : Aditya-L1 is India's first space-based solar observatory, designed to study the Sun from Lagrange Point 1, located about 1.5 million km from Earth

- This position allows uninterrupted observation of solar phenomena without eclipses or occultation.
- It was launched to enhance understanding of solar dynamics, including coronal mass ejections (CMEs), solar flares, and their impact on space weather — crucial for satellite operations, communications, and power grids on Earth.

Statement 2 is not correct : The Aditya L1 spacecraft was launched by ISRO'S PSLV-P57 on September 2, 2023.

- It is placed in a halo orbit around the Lagrangian point 1 (L1) of the Sun-Earth system, which is about 1.5 million km from the Earth.

8. (c)

In News : James Dewey Watson, the Nobel Prize-winning biologist renowned for co-discovering the **double-helix structure of DNA**, died in New York.

Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct : DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) is the molecule that stores genetic instructions essential for an organism's growth and function.

- It is a double helix formed by base pairs attached to a sugar-phosphate backbone.
- It consists of two strands twisted into a double helix, with each strand made of a sugar-phosphate backbone and four nitrogen bases — adenine (A), thymine (T), cytosine (C), and guanine (G). **Most DNA is located in the cell nucleus** (where it is called nuclear DNA), but a small amount of DNA can also be found in the **mitochondria**.

9. (c)

The Gujarat Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) foiled an alleged terror plot and arrested men with suspected links to terrorism who were reportedly attempting to produce **Ricin chemical**

About Ricin

- Ricin is a highly toxic protein extracted from the castor bean plant (*Ricinus communis*).
- It blocks protein synthesis in cells, causing multiple organ failure and death within hours of exposure. Even a few milligrams can be fatal.
- It is listed under **Schedule-1 of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)**, supervised by the **Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)**, as it has no legitimate civilian use.
- There is **no known antidote for Ricin poisoning**.

10. (c)

In News: The World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed an outbreak of **Rift Valley Fever (RVF)** affecting Mauritania and Senegal in Western Africa.

About Rift Valley Fever (RVF)

- RVF derives its name from Kenya's Rift Valley, where the disease was first recognised in the early 1930s.
- It is caused by a **Phlebovirus** belonging to the **Phenuiviridae family**.
- It primarily affects animals such as sheep, goats, cattle, and camels.
- Humans become infected through close contact with infected animals or by the bite of infected mosquitoes.
- There is **no evidence of human-to-human transmission**.
- Currently, there is **no specific antiviral treatment**.

11. (c)

Both statements are correct: Fungal infections also called mycoses are diseases caused by **fungi**.

- Fungi are **eukaryotic organisms (cells with nuclei)** that differ from bacteria and viruses.
- They thrive in warm, moist environments and can live on skin, mucous membranes, or inside the body.
- **Fungal infections** range from mild to life-threatening.
- **People with weakened immune systems** are at higher risk for most fungal infections.

12. (c)

In News : ISRO successfully conducted a critical parachute test for its upcoming human spaceflight mission, Gaganyaan.

Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct : The Gaganyaan Programme was approved in December 2018.

- It is a mission of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and was approved with a financial outlay of approximately ₹20,193 crore.

- It is India's **first indigenous human spaceflight initiative**.
- It aims to demonstrate **India's human spaceflight capability** by sending a **crew to 400 km low-Earth orbit for three days**, with a safe return and sea landing in Indian waters.
- The Human Rated LVM3, a modified version of **ISRO's reliable LVM3 rocket**, is **identified** as the launch vehicle for Gaganyaan mission.

13. (c)

ORCs are large, highly circular structures detected only at radio wavelengths. They are typically about a million light years in diameter and surround galaxies located billions of light-years away. They appear as shell-like or ring structures, thought to be created by shock waves from energetic events such as galaxy mergers or black hole activity. ORCs are not related to neutron stars, local gas shells, or artificial radio emissions.

14. (d)

In News: Investigators are using **DNA profiling** to determine the suspect of the recent deadly **car explosion outside the Red Fort in New Delhi**, highlighting how **genetic analysis** plays a crucial role in forensic investigations.

Statement 1 is not correct

- DNA profiling focuses on specific regions of DNA (**like Short Tandem Repeats, STRs**) used for identification, **not for diagnosing diseases or revealing medical conditions**.

Statement 2 is not correct

- Most forensic DNA databases **store only selected markers** (like STRs), **not full genomic sequences**, to protect privacy and focus on identification.

15. (b)

Statement 1 is not correct: The auroras occur when charged particles from the Sun interact with atoms in the Earth's upper atmosphere (thermosphere/exosphere), not the lower atmosphere.

Statement 2 is correct: oxygen emissions cause the characteristic green and red colors in auroras.

Statement 3 is correct: Aurora australis refers to auroras occurring in the Southern Hemisphere.

16. (c)

Statement 1 is correct: Type 1 Diabetes: It is an **autoimmune disease** where the body's immune system destroys insulin-producing cells. The body produces little or no insulin.

- It usually begins in childhood or adolescence.
- It requires lifelong insulin injections.

Statement 2 is not correct: Insulin: Insulin is a hormone produced by the **pancreas**.

- It helps glucose (from food) enter cells, where it is used for energy.
- When insulin is absent or not working properly, glucose stays in the bloodstream leading to **high blood sugar**.

Statement 3 is correct: Gestational Diabetes occurs during pregnancy and usually disappears after delivery, but increases the risk of type 2 diabetes later in life.

17. (c)

Recently, The Union Cabinet has approved to specify/revise the royalty rate of caesium, Graphite, Rubidium and Zirconium.

- **Graphite** is a crucial component in **electric vehicle (EV) batteries**, primarily serving as the anode material, which enables high conductivity and charge capacity. However, India imports 60% of its requirement of Graphite.

- **Zirconium** is a versatile metal used in various industries, including nuclear energy, **aerospace**, healthcare and manufacturing, due to exceptional corrosion resistance and high temperature stability.
- **Caesium** is mainly used in the high-tech electronic sector, particularly in atomic clocks, **GPS systems**, other high precision instruments, medical instruments including in cancer therapy, etc.
- **Rubidium** is used in making specialty glasses used in **fibre optics**, telecommunication systems, night vision devices etc.

18. (b)

Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells (iPSCs) are best described as adult somatic cells that have been reprogrammed to behave like pluripotent stem cells. This means that these cells, originally specialized (e.g., skin or blood cells), are genetically reprogrammed to acquire the ability to differentiate into almost any cell type in the body, similar to embryonic stem cells, without being derived from embryos.

19. (b)

What is Hepatitis?

- Hepatitis is an **inflammation of the liver**, there are **five main strains of the hepatitis virus**, referred to as types **A, B, C, D and E**.
 - **Types B and C** lead to chronic disease and together are the **most common cause of liver cirrhosis, liver cancer and viral hepatitis-related deaths**.
- **Hepatitis A:** It is caused by the Hepatitis A Virus (HAV). It does not cause chronic infection and is usually self-limiting.
 - It spread through contaminated food and water (fecal–oral route).
 - It is entirely preventable where vaccines offer protection rates exceeding 90 to 95%.
- **Hepatitis B:** Hepatitis B is known to cause acute infection, liver failure happens in severe cases.
 - **Spread:** Spread through blood and body fluids, sexual contact, mother-to-child transmission.
 - **Treatment:** Hepatitis B can be prevented with a vaccine, providing nearly 100% protection against the virus. The vaccine is usually given soon after birth with boosters a few weeks later.
- **Hepatitis C:** The severity from a mild illness to a serious, lifelong illness including liver cirrhosis and cancer.
 - **Spread:** The hepatitis C virus is a **bloodborne virus** and most infections occur through exposure to blood from unsafe injection practices.
 - **Treatment:** Direct-acting antiviral medicines (DAAs) can cure more than 95% of persons, there is currently **no effective vaccine** against hepatitis C.
- **Hepatitis D:** It **only** affects people who are **already infected with hepatitis B**, as it needs the hepatitis B virus to be able to survive in the body.
 - It is usually spread through blood-to-blood contact or sexual contact.
 - There's no vaccine specifically for hepatitis D, but the hepatitis B vaccine can prevent it.

20. (a)

Statement 1 and 2 are correct: Precision biotherapeutics refers to **medical interventions** that are designed and optimised **based on a patient's unique genetic, molecular, or cellular profile**. The field draws on **multiple technologies such as:**

- **Genomic and Proteomic Analysis:** Decoding a person's genetic and protein signatures to identify mutations or dysfunctions causing the disease.

- **Gene Editing Therapies:** Directly modifying genes to correct underlying problems (for example, CRISPR-based treatments for blood disorders).
- **mRNA and nucleic acid therapeutics:** Using RNA molecules to instruct cells to produce specific proteins or suppress harmful ones.
- **Monoclonal Antibodies and biologics:** Laboratory-engineered molecules that bind to precise disease targets, such as cancer cells or viral protein.
- **AI-driven drug discovery:** It involves leveraging big data and machine learning to predict how molecules interact within the body.

Statement 3 is not correct: Monoclonal antibodies are precision biotherapeutics because they bind to highly specific disease targets.

21. (b)

Option b is correct: The primary objective of the ESCAPE mission is to study the loss of Mars' atmosphere to space. Specifically, ESCAPE consists of two identical spacecraft that will orbit Mars to investigate how the solar wind interacts with Mars' unique "hybrid" magnetosphere and how this interaction causes atmospheric particles to escape into space. This helps to understand how Mars lost its once-thick atmosphere, which is crucial for insights into the planet's climate history and habitability prospects.

22. (b)

Context: Sentinel-6B has been successfully launched from the **Vandenberg Space Force Base** in California, USA.

About Sentinel-6B

- It is an ocean-tracking satellite with **six** onboard science instruments that will measure the **rising sea levels** and its impacts on the planet.
- It will orbit Earth at a speed of **7.2 km per second**, completing one revolution every 112 minutes.
- The mission is a **joint collaboration** between **NASA, NOAA**, and the **European Space Agency (ESA)**.
- Along with its twin satellite, **Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich** (launched in 2020), it will provide **high-precision sea-level data**—accurate to **around 1 inch**—covering **over 90% of global oceans**.

23. (d)

All Statements are Correct: Cryogenic engines use liquid hydrogen as fuel and liquid oxygen as oxidiser. They operate at very low temperatures, generally below -150°C (liquid oxygen boils at -183°C , liquid hydrogen at -253°C). They provide a higher specific impulse (efficiency) compared to earth-storable liquid propellants and solid propellants, giving more thrust and payload advantage per kilogram of propellant burned.

24. (b)

In News : Pharmacogenomics is transforming medicine by tailoring drug prescriptions to a patient's genetic makeup.

Pharmacogenomics is the study of how a person's genes influence their response to medications.

- It combines pharmacology and genomics to create safer and more effective, genetically tailored treatments.

25. (c)

Statement 1 is correct: **Acanthosis Nigricans (AN)** is a skin condition characterised by dark, velvety patches on skin folds.

- The skin changes associated with AN do not appear overnight, **but develop gradually over the course several months**.

Statement 2 is correct: It is strongly linked to **insulin resistance**, which makes it an important early warning sign for **prediabetes and diabetes**.

- In children and young adults, the presence of AN is often considered a **clinical marker of rising diabetes risk**.

26. (c)

All statements are correct: ORS works primarily through the sodium–glucose co-transport mechanism in the intestine, where glucose facilitates absorption of sodium and water to treat dehydration. ORS is regulated in India under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, which governs the safety and standards of food products including pharmaceutical oral rehydration salts. The WHO-recommended ORS formulation has a low osmolarity of about 245 mOsm/L, which improves efficacy and reduces risks compared to earlier higher osmolarity solutions.

27. (b)

In News

- Karnataka has issued guidelines for Sabarimala pilgrims following cases of amoebic meningoencephalitis or brain fever.

About

- The “brain-eating amoeba” refers to **Naegleria fowleri**, a free-living, thermophilic amoeba found in **warm freshwater**.
- It causes a rare but almost always fatal infection called **Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM)**.
- It enters the human body typically through the nose, often during activities such as swimming, diving, or water sports in contaminated water.
- It travels via the **olfactory nerve** to the brain and destroys brain tissue.
- It **cannot infect** through drinking water and cannot spread **person-to-person**.

28. (b)

In News

- India continues to face recurring episodes of chemical adulteration in food, particularly through the use of **non-permitted synthetic dyes like auramine O**.

About

- Auramine O is a **synthetic, odorless yellow dye** extensively used in industry, including textile and leather processing, printing inks, paper manufacturing, and certain microbiological staining procedures.
- Auramine O is **not approved for use as a food colour** in India, the European Union, the United States, or most other regulatory jurisdictions.
 - Other dyes such as **metanil yellow, rhodamine B, and malachite green** appear in certain samples of sweets that are also not approved.
- It has a **range of health risks**, including liver and kidney damage, enlargement of the spleen, mutagenic effects that can alter genetic material, and potential carcinogenic outcomes.

29. (b)

Grahaa Space has obtained authorisation from Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) to launch its maiden nano satellite mission called Solaras S2, as technology demonstration by the end of November.

Solaras S2 mission is the first nanosatellite of Grahaa Space (Bangalore-based space technology startup).

- It will be launched from the Alcântara Space Center in Brazil through the Hanbit-Nano launch vehicle developed by South Korea-based Innospace.
- It will validate nanosatellite bus and platform, marking readiness for the next phase.

30. (c)

Malaria is a **vector-borne infectious disease** caused by **Plasmodium parasites** and transmitted to humans through the bite of an **infected female Anopheles mosquito**.

31. (c)

Both the statements are correct: Planetary nomenclature is like **naming places on Earth**.

- This list, created by the **International Astronomical Union (IAU)**, includes all the names given to different spots on planets, moons, and even some ring systems since **1919**.
- **IAU guidelines allow** large, significant Martian craters to be named after deceased scientists who have made foundational contributions to planetary science.
- **Smaller craters** can be named after towns or villages with populations under 1,00,000, provided the names are easy to pronounce and have historical or cultural relevance.

32. (c)

Statement 1 is not correct: Mars is the **fourth planet** from the sun and has a **distinct rusty red appearance and two unusual moons**.

- Phobos: ~6000 km above Mars; Deimos: ~20 000 km above Mars.

Statement 2 is correct: Atmosphere: The temperature on Mars ranges between **20 degrees Celsius and -153 degrees Celsius**.

- The planet has a rocky surface with **canyons, volcanoes, dry lake beds, and craters, all covered in red dust**.
- It has about **one-third the gravity of Earth** and the atmosphere is much thinner than Earth's, containing more than **95% carbon dioxide and less than 1% oxygen**.

Statement 3 is not correct: The planet turns on its axis **more slowly than Earth**, and being farther from the Sun, takes longer to revolve around the Sun.

- A day on Mars is 24.6 hours and a year is 687 Earth days long.
 - A day on Mars is slightly longer than Earth's, but a **Martian year (687 days) is longer, not shorter, than an Earth year**.

33. (c)

In News :

Statements 1 and 2 are correct : Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Indian space startup Skyroot's Infinity Campus and Skyroot's first orbital rocket, Vikram-I, with the capability to launch satellites to orbit.

Vikram-I is built by Skyroot Aerospace and is named after Vikram Sarabhai, the father of India's space programme.

- It is India's first private orbital-class launch vehicle designed to serve the small satellite market with rapid, cost-effective launches.
- It is a four-stage, 20-metre rocket which produces 1,200 kN thrust with an all-carbon composite structure.
- It combines solid-fuelled stages with a hypergolic liquid upper stage for precise manoeuvres.
- It can deploy up to 350 kg into low Earth orbit (LEO) and 260 kg into a sun-synchronous orbit (SSO), with specific payload capacities based on mission profiles, such as 290 kg for a 500 km SSO and 480 kg for a 500 km LEO at a 45-degree inclination.



ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

1. With reference to India's updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement, which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. It aims to reduce emissions intensity of its GDP by 45% by 2030 compared to 2005 levels.
 2. At least 60% of installed electricity capacity will come from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030.
 3. India aims to create a carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through increased forest and tree cover.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 1 and 3 only
 - (c) 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
2. With reference to the 'heavy metal contamination in water', consider the following statements:
1. Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy (AAS) is commonly used to detect heavy metals in water.
 2. Kidney damage is associated with long-term exposure to cadmium in water.

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
3. With reference to the Biosphere Reserves in India, consider the following statements:
1. Biosphere reserves are areas identified by national governments for conserving biodiversity and promoting sustainable development.
 2. India has 18 Biosphere Reserves covering about 91,425 sq. km, with only 8 recognized by UNESCO as of 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
4. With reference to Khangchendzonga National Park, consider the following statements.
1. It is located in the Himalayan range in the state of Arunachal Pradesh.
 2. It is India's first "mixed" UNESCO World Heritage Site, recognised in 2016 for its combination of natural beauty and cultural importance.

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. With reference to Rhesus Macaque (*Macaca mulatta*), often mentioned in news, consider the following statements:

- 1. It inhabits a diverse ecosystem and is found only in China and India.
- 2. The IUCN Red List of Threatened species classifies it as Vulnerable.

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

6. The Tropical Forests Forever Facility (TFFF), recently seen in the news, differs from REDD+ primarily because it—

- (a) focuses solely on reforestation and afforestation projects.
- (b) aims to create a permanent investment-fund model to finance annual conservation payments.
- (c) operates under the UNFCCC compliance carbon-market mechanism.
- (d) restricts participation to Amazon Basin countries only.

7. With reference to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), consider the following:

Conference of the Parties	Hosts
1. COP15	- Durban, South Africa
2. COP17	- Copenhagen, Denmark
3. COP28	- Dubai, UAE
4. COP29	- Baku, Azerbaijan

How many of the above is / are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

8. With reference to the Montreal Protocol, consider the following statements:

- 1. It was signed in 1987 to phase out substances that deplete the ozone layer.
- 2. It is a legally binding agreement implemented under the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer.
- 3. The Kigali Amendment to this Protocol aims to phase out ozone-depleting substances (ODS).

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

9. Which of the following statements correctly differentiates the territorial sea from the Exclusive Economic Zone?
- The coastal state enjoys full sovereignty over both zones.
 - Territorial sea extends up to 24 nautical miles, while EEZ extends up to 200 nautical miles.
 - Territorial sea extends up to 12 nautical miles with complete sovereignty, whereas EEZ extends up to 200 nautical miles with only resource rights.
 - Both zones are part of the high seas under international law.

10. With reference to the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), consider the following statements:
- GRAP is a statutory framework notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
 - It mandates pre-defined actions based on real-time AQI levels in the Delhi-NCR region.
 - The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) is responsible for implementing GRAP.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
 - 2 and 3 only
 - 1 and 3 only
 - 1, 2 and 3
11. With reference to the cheetah species recently in the news, consider the following statements:
- The cheetah is the only large carnivore to have gone extinct in India.
 - Unlike other big cats, cheetahs are known for their loud roar.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
12. With reference to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), consider the following statements:
- It was established under the Kyoto Protocol of the UNFCCC in 1997 to support developing countries.
 - The Fund is mandated to allocate its resources equally between mitigation and adaptation.
 - Its headquarters is located in Songdo, South Korea.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
 - 2 and 3 only
 - 1 and 3 only
 - 1, 2 and 3
13. Consider the following statements
- The Indian Ocean humpback dolphin family inhabits southern Africa and Indo-china coastal regions.
 - The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species classifies Indian Ocean Humpback Dolphin as an Endangered species.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only

- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

14. With reference to Rhesus Macaque (*Macaca mulatta*), consider the following statements:

1. They are found in Bangladesh, China and India.
2. They are protected species under Schedule II of the Wildlife (Protection) Act.
3. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species classifies them as Vulnerable.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All the three
- (d) None

15. Why does Delhi experience severe air quality deterioration during winter months?

1. Temperature inversion traps pollutants near the surface, preventing their vertical dispersion.
2. Winter months witness stronger winds that bring desert dust from Rajasthan into Delhi.
3. Post-harvest crop residue burning in neighbouring states significantly increases particulate matter load.

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

16. The Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) is a specialised UN climate financing mechanism jointly established by which of the following?

1. World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
2. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
3. World Bank
4. UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
5. International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3
- (b) 1, 3 and 5
- (c) 2, 3, 4 and 5
- (d) 1, 2 and 4

17. With reference to Dugongs (*Dugong dugon*), consider the following statements:

1. They are gentle marine mammals which are exclusively herbivorous.
2. They live in shallow, warm coastal waters such as bays, lagoons, and estuaries.
3. In India, they are listed under Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All the three
- (d) None

- 18.** With reference to the Ginkgo-toothed Beaked Whale (*Mesoplodon ginkgodens*), consider the following statements:
1. It is known to be the deepest-diving mammal on Earth.
 2. It is commonly found in shallow coastal waters of the eastern Atlantic Ocean.
- 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
- 19.** Consider the following statements regarding the Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT):
1. It was launched by India and Sweden with support from the World Economic Forum.
 2. It focuses on decarbonising sectors such as steel, cement, and heavy transport.
 3. It aims to achieve global net-zero emissions by 2030.
- Which of the above statements are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
- 20.** With reference to the 'natural farming', consider the following statements:
1. It strictly avoids all external inputs, including store-bought organic products.
 2. It allows natural minerals like rock phosphate for soil amendments.
- 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
- 21.** With reference to *Psittacus erithacus* (African Grey Parrot), consider the following statements:
1. They are often nicknamed the "Einsteins of the Bird World" due to their exceptional intelligence and mimicry skills.
 2. They are listed as 'critically endangered' by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
- 22.** Consider the following statements regarding the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA):
1. It is a statutory body established under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
 2. The Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change is the Chairperson of NTCA.
 3. NTCA is responsible for notifying tiger reserves in India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

23. With reference to Manjuarí (*Atractosteus tristoechus*), consider the following statements:

- 1. It is endemic to Cuba, limited to the island's river systems and the Isle of Youth.
- 2. The IUCN Red List of threatened species classifies it as Vulnerable.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

24. With reference to Tiger Reserves in India, consider the following statements:

- 1. A Tiger Reserve is notified by the State Government based on the recommendations of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).
- 2. The core area of a Tiger Reserve is designated as a Critical Tiger Habitat (CTH).
- 3. Buffer areas of Tiger Reserves are under the exclusive control of the Central Government.

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

25. Finn's Weaver, recently in news for its declining population, is primarily found in which of the following regions?

- (a) Western Ghats
- (b) Ganges–Brahmaputra grasslands
- (c) Thar Desert
- (d) Eastern Himalayas

26. Consider the following statements about Bamboo:

- 1. It is classified as a tree under the Indian Forest Act, 1927.
- 2. It has significant applications because of its high compressive strength.
- 3. It is one of the fastest-growing plants in the world.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

EXPLANATIONS

1. (b)

Context

- Ocean-based carbon capture can help India reach net-zero by 2070, turning its seas into engines of carbon removal and blue growth.

India's Emission Reductions Commitments

- India has launched the **LiFE mission (Lifestyle for Environment)** and **updated its NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions)** under the Paris Agreement.
- Under its updated NDC 2022, India pledges:
- **45% reduction in emissions intensity** (amount of CO₂ per unit of GDP) by 2030, compared to 2005 levels.
- **50% of installed electricity capacity** will come from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030.
 - Creating a **carbon sink** of **2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent (GtCO₂e)** by increasing forests and tree cover.

2. (c)

In News: A recent study, published in Environmental Earth Sciences, reveals alarming levels of **heavy metal contamination** in fish species of Cauvery River, posing serious risks to ecosystems and public health.

Statement 1 is correct

- Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy (AAS) is indeed a widely used analytical technique for detecting and quantifying trace levels of heavy metals like lead, cadmium, arsenic, and mercury in water samples. It is known for its precision and sensitivity.

Statement 2 is correct

- Cadmium exposure through contaminated water is well-documented to cause kidney damage, particularly affecting the renal tubules. Long-term exposure can lead to chronic kidney disease and bone demineralization.

3. (a)

Statement 1 is correct: The **International Day for Biosphere Reserves** was observed on 3rd November.

- **Biosphere reserves** are areas identified by national governments for conserving biodiversity and promoting sustainable development.
 - It includes terrestrial, marine and coastal ecosystems.
- They are nominated by **national governments and remain under the sovereign jurisdiction** of the states where they are located.

Statement 2 is not correct: India has **18 Biosphere Reserves** covering 91,425 sq. km, with **13 recognized by UNESCO**.

- The programme operates under a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** with a 60:40 funding pattern, and 90:10 for North Eastern and Himalayan states.

4. (b)

In News: The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) recently rated Khangchendzonga National Park as "good" in its latest global review of natural World Heritage sites.

Statement 1 is not correct: **Khangchendzonga National Park** is located at the heart of the Himalayan range in northern India (State of Sikkim).

- It is a part of Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve .
- It is the only Indian park to receive a “good” rating, while other important areas like the Western Ghats and Sundarbans are facing serious concerns.

Statement 2 is correct: Khangchendzonga National Park is India’s first “mixed” UNESCO World Heritage Site, recognised in 2016 for its combination of natural beauty and cultural importance.

5. (d)

In News : The National Board of Wildlife has reinstated Schedule II protection for the Rhesus Macaque, strengthening legal safeguards against its hunting, trade, and mistreatment.

Statements 1 and 2 are not correct : Rhesus Macaque(Macaca mulatta) is a diurnal, omnivorous primate that alternates between tree-dwelling and ground movement.

- It inhabits diverse ecosystems, including various forest types, mangroves, scrublands, rainforests, and areas near human settlements.
- **Distribution :** It is found throughout most of southern Asia, in eastern **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China and India.**
- **Protection status :** It is listed as **Least Concern.**

6. (b)

The Tropical Forests Forever Facility (TFFF) differs from REDD+ primarily because it aims to create a permanent investment-fund model to finance annual conservation payments based on forest area rather than measurable greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

- While REDD+ provides payments for emissions reductions from deforestation and degradation and carbon removals (a carbon flow-based mechanism), TFFF focuses on long-term, continuous payments for the conservation of standing tropical forests (forest stock-based), regardless of immediate threat levels or emissions reductions.
- TFFF is designed to reward forest conservation over the long term and is especially suited for countries with low deforestation rates. It does not operate under the UNFCCC compliance carbon-market mechanism and does not restrict participation to Amazon Basin countries alone. This unique area-based, endowment-style financing distinguishes TFFF from the results-based, emission-focused REDD+ programs.

7. (b)

In News: As the **30th Conference of Parties (COP30)** to the **UNFCCC** begins in **Belém, Brazil**, absence of the **United States** and **China**, along with **lower-level delegation sent by India** casts a long shadow over proceedings.

Pair 1 is not correctly matched

- **COP15 – Copenhagen, Denmark (2009):** It aims to establish a global climate agreement post-Kyoto Protocol.
- The **Copenhagen Accord** was drafted, recognizing the need to limit global warming to below 2°C.
- However, it was not legally binding and lacked concrete emission reduction targets.

Pair 2 is not correctly matched

- **COP17 – Durban, South Africa (2011):** It aims to **build on the Cancun Agreements** and chart a path forward post-Kyoto.
- The **Durban Platform for Enhanced Action** was adopted, launching negotiations for a new universal climate agreement (which would **become the Paris Agreement**).

Pair 3 is correctly matched

- COP28 – Dubai, UAE (2023): It aims to conduct the **first Global Stocktake** of the **Paris Agreement**, and calls for a ‘transition away’ from fossil fuels — a historic first in COP language.
- Operationalized the **Loss and Damage Fund** to support vulnerable nations.

Pair 4 is correctly matched

- **COP29 – Baku, Azerbaijan (2024)**: It sets a new climate finance goal beyond the \$100 billion pledge, and agrees on a **New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG)**, at least \$300 billion per year by 2035 for developing countries.

8. (a)

Statement 1 is correct: The Montreal Protocol was signed in 1987 to phase out substances that deplete the ozone layer.

Statement 2 is correct: It is a legally binding international treaty implemented under the framework of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (1985).

Statement 3 is incorrect: The Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, agreed in 2016, aims specifically to phase down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), which are powerful greenhouse gases though not themselves ozone-depleting substances. This amendment extends the Protocol’s climate impact.

9. (c)

Territorial sea extends up to 12 nautical miles (nm) from the baseline of the coastal state. The coastal state enjoys full sovereignty over the territorial sea, including the water column, seabed, subsoil, and airspace above. Foreign vessels have the right of innocent passage but the coastal state controls regulations, security, and law enforcement within this zone.

Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) extends up to 200 nautical miles from the baseline. In the EEZ, the coastal state does not have full sovereignty but exclusive sovereign rights over the exploration, exploitation, conservation, and management of natural resources (living and non-living) in the waters, seabed, and subsoil. Surface waters remain international waters, allowing freedom of navigation and overflight for other states.

The territorial sea is part of the sovereign territory; EEZ is a special maritime zone with sovereign rights limited to economic activities.

10. (b)

Statement 1 is not correct: GRAP is not a statutory framework notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Instead, it is an emergency response mechanism.

Statement 2 is correct: GRAP mandates predefined actions based on real-time Air Quality Index (AQI) levels in the Delhi-NCR region to combat air pollution.

Statement 3 is correct: The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) is responsible for implementing and overseeing GRAP in the Delhi-NCR area.

11. (a)

In News: India and Botswana formally announced the translocation of eight Cheetahs to India as a part of ‘**Project Cheetah**’.

About the Cheetah

- The **cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*)** is the world’s fastest mammal and the only large carnivore to have gone extinct in India (1952).
- Unlike other big cats, cheetahs do not roar.
- There are **two main species**: the **African cheetah (Vulnerable)** and the **Asiatic cheetah (Critically Endangered)**, found only in eastern Iran and parts of Africa.

12. (b)

Statement 1 is not correct: The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is the **world's largest dedicated climate fund**.

- It was **established in 2010** under the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**.

Statement 2 and 3 are correct: Aims to support developing countries in:

- Limiting or reducing greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation).
- Adapting to the impacts of climate change (adaptation).
- **GCF is mandated to invest 50% of its resources to mitigation and 50% to adaptation in grant equivalent.**
- **Headquarters:** Songdo, Incheon, South Korea.

13. (c)

In News : In Kerala's Ashtamudi Lake, artisanal fishers and **Indo-Pacific humpback dolphins** engage in a rare inter-species collaboration where dolphins drive fish to shallow waters and signal fishers to cast nets, benefiting both.

Statements 1 and 2 are correct : The Indian Ocean humpback dolphin (*Sousa plumbea*) family inhabits southern Africa and Western Indo-china coastal regions. Formerly thought to belong to the same species, the Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin (*Sousa chinensis*) was discovered to be a different species in 2014. Indian Ocean humpback dolphins (*Sousa plumbea*) are listed as **Endangered** on the **IUCN Red List**, making them a species of high global conservation concern.

14. (b)

Statements 1 and 2 correct : The National Board for Wildlife has recommended reinstating Rhesus Macaques under **Schedule II of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, restoring statutory protection to enable scientific management, prevent trafficking and cruelty, and empower forest departments in conflict resolution. It is found throughout most of southern Asia, in eastern Afghanistan, **Bangladesh, Bhutan, China and India**.

Statement 3 is not correct : Rhesus Macaque is listed as **Least Concern** by the IUCN.

- It is listed on **CITES Appendix II**.

15. (c)

Statement 1 is correct: Temperature Inversion: During winter, the air near the ground becomes cooler than the air above it.

- This **inversion layer** traps pollutants (such as particulate matter and gases) close to the surface, preventing their vertical dispersion into the upper atmosphere.

Statement 2 is not correct: Low Wind Speeds: Winds are generally weaker in winter, which reduces horizontal dispersion of pollutants, allowing them to accumulate in the lower atmosphere.

Statement 3 is correct: Crop Residue Burning: Each year, post-harvest stubble burning in neighbouring states like Punjab, Haryana, and western Uttar Pradesh releases large amounts of smoke and particulate matter.

- Prevailing wind patterns carry this pollution towards Delhi, worsening air quality.

16. (d)

About Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF)

- The Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) is a specialised **UN climate fund** established by the **World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)**, the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**, and the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**.

- SOFF works with nations who have the most severe observation gaps, with a focus on **Least Developed nations and Small Island Developing States**. SOFF contributes to the worldwide public good by offering long-term financial and technical help.
- SOFF intends to promote and accelerate the ongoing collection and international exchange of the most important surface-based weather and climate observations in accordance with the globally agreed-upon Global Observing Basic Network.

17. (c)

In News : A recent report released at the IUCN Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi warns of the growing threat to India's dugong population.

Statements 1,2 and 3 are correct : The dugong (*Dugong dugon*) is a gentle marine mammal, thought to have inspired mermaid legends. Dugongs live in shallow, warm coastal waters, typically grazing in sheltered bays, lagoons, and estuaries under 10 meters deep. The IUCN, which compiles the official Red List of endangered species, lists sea cows as a species vulnerable to extinction.

- In India, they are listed under Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, which grants the species the highest legal protection against hunting and trade.

18. (a)

In News: A team of scientists has spotted the **rare ginkgo-toothed beaked whales** for the first time in the wild along the coast of Baja California in Mexico.

Ginkgo-toothed beaked whales (*Mesoplodon ginkgodens*)

- They are one of **24 species of beaked whales**, which are the second most diverse group of cetaceans after dolphins.
- Beaked whales are the **deepest-diving mammals on Earth**. They spend most of their lives in the oceans, only coming to the surface for air for a few minutes at a time, usually far away from coastlines.
- Males are typically **dark blue-black with white spots** and blotches on the belly, while females are mid-grey with paler bellies.
- They are found in the **tropical and warm-temperate waters** of the western Pacific and are thought to occur primarily in deep, offshore waters.
- They are **elusive and little-studied**, most knowledge comes from rare stranding records.
- It is listed as **Data Deficient** at IUCN Red classification.

19. (a)

At COP30 in Belém, Brazil, India's Union Environment Minister addressed the LeadIT Industry Leaders' Roundtable, reaffirming India's role in driving low-carbon industrial transitions.

About LeadIT

- **Launch:** 2019, jointly by India and Sweden, with support from the World Economic Forum at the UN Climate Action Summit.
- **Purpose:** To accelerate the transition of hard-to-abate, high-emitting industries—such as steel, cement, aluminium, chemicals, and heavy transport—towards net-zero by 2050.
 - It was among the first global high-level initiatives focused specifically on industrial decarbonisation.
- **LeadIT 2.0 (2024–2026)**, adopted during the LeadIT Summit at COP28 (Dubai). LeadIT 2.0 aims to move from dialogue to implementation.

20. (a)

Statement 1 is correct: In natural farming, the core principle is complete self-reliance on on-farm resources. It strictly avoids all external inputs — even if they are organic or naturally sourced —

because the idea is to keep farming cost-free, local, and regenerative. Inputs like cow dung, cow urine, mulching, and microbial preparations are made on the farm itself.

- **Statement 2 is not correct:** Natural minerals such as rock phosphate, lime, or gypsum — which are commonly allowed in organic farming — are not permitted in natural farming, because they still count as external inputs.

21. (a)

In News : According to state forest departments, There are no officially registered breeders or authorized pet shops for African grey parrots in India, despite their widespread availability in markets.

African Grey Parrot

- The African grey parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*) is a **medium-sized, highly intelligent parrot** regarded as the best mimic among bird species, often **nicknamed “The Einsteins of the Bird World.”**
- It is native to West and Central Africa, inhabiting savannas, coastal mangroves, woodland edges, and forest clearings.
- There are **two main subspecies**: the Congo African Grey (CAG), known for its bright red tail, and the Timneh African Grey (TAG), with a darker maroon tail.
- African greys are notable for their exceptional talking and comprehension abilities, capable of large vocabularies and contextual speech.
- The species is **classified as Endangered by the IUCN**, mainly due to habitat loss and heavy international pet trade capture.

22. (d)

The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) is indeed a statutory body established under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, via an amendment in 2006, to strengthen tiger conservation efforts in India. The Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change serves as the Chairperson of the NTCA. The NTCA is responsible for notifying tiger reserves in India and overseeing their protection and management.

23. (a)

In News: In Cuba’s Zapata Swamp, biologist Andres Hurtado leads a restoration effort to save the Cuban gar.

Statement 1 is correct : Cuban gar (*Atractosteus tristoechus*) is also known as Manjuarí and is endemic to Cuba, where it is restricted to western mainland drainages and possibly the Isle of Youth

- It occurs in coastal rivers, bayous, swamps, tidelands, channels and lagoons characterized by abundant aquatic vegetation, feeding primarily on fishes.

Statement 2 is not correct : Cuban gar It is listed as **Critically Endangered** on the IUCN Red List.

24. (a)

Statement 1 is correct: A Tiger Reserve is notified by the State Government based on the recommendation of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). The NTCA is a statutory body established under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, to oversee tiger conservation.

Statement 2 is correct: The core area of a Tiger Reserve is designated as Critical Tiger Habitat (CTH), which is protected with strict conservation measures to maintain tiger populations and their prey.

Statement 3 is not correct: Buffer areas of Tiger Reserves are not under the exclusive control of the Central Government. Instead, they are managed by the State Government to regulate activities to minimize disturbance while also supporting local communities.

25. (b)

In News

- The Finn's Weaver is silently disappearing from the marshy lowlands of the Terai.

About About Finn's Weaver

- Finn's Weaver (*Ploceus megarhynchus*), also known as **Finn's Baya or Yellow Weaver**, is a **vulnerable weaver bird species native** to the grasslands of the **Ganges and Brahmaputra valleys in India and Nepal**.
- **Primary threats** include habitat loss from agricultural expansion, grassland reclamation, overgrazing, industrialization, and nest predation by crows on exposed nests.

26. (b)

Statement 1 is not correct: Bamboo is no longer classified as a tree under the Indian Forest Act, 1927. It was historically classified as a tree (and hence timber), but an amendment in 2017 removed bamboo from the definition of a tree, recognizing it taxonomically as a grass and allowing easier cultivation, harvesting, and transportation outside forests.

Statement 2 is correct: Bamboo has significant applications due to its high compressive strength, which is considerably higher than many commercial wood species. This property makes it useful in construction, furniture, and structural materials.

Statement 3 is correct: Bamboo is one of the fastest-growing plants in the world, with some species growing up to about 91 cm (nearly 1 meter) per day under optimal conditions.



MISCELLANEOUS

1. Museum of Royal Kingdoms of India is being established in which of the following States in India?
 - (a) Rajasthan
 - (b) Punjab
 - (c) Hyderabad
 - (d) Gujarat
2. Which of the following areas of contribution are recognised under the Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak?
 1. Special Operations
 2. Investigation
 3. Intelligence
 4. Forensic Science

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

 - (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
 - (b) 1 and 3 only
 - (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
 - (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
3. The term “Enshittification”, recently seen in news, refers to:
 - (a) The rapid degradation of online platforms due to overuse of artificial intelligence.
 - (b) The process by which digital services are deliberately worsened over time for profit.
 - (c) The replacement of human workers with automation in digital economies.
 - (d) The creation of internet content that promotes misinformation.
4. Which country has become the first in the world to implement a generational ban on tobacco and vaping, permanently prohibiting sales to individuals born after a specific year?
 - (a) New Zealand
 - (b) Australia
 - (c) United Kingdom
 - (d) Maldives
5. The orders of which authority are NOT appealable before National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)?
 - (a) Competition Commission of India (CCI)
 - (b) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
 - (c) National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA)
 - (d) National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)

6. Which among the following states is the first Indian state to formally collaborate with Starlink to deliver satellite-based internet connectivity?
- Gujarat
 - Kerala
 - Tamil Nadu
 - Maharashtra
7. Which company is behind Project Suncatcher and expects to launch prototype satellites by early 2027?
- SpaceX
 - Blue Origin
 - Google LLC
 - Amazon Web Services
8. Consider the following pairs:
- | Corruption Indices | Publishers |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Corruption Perceptions Index | Transparency International |
| 2. Rule of Law Index | World Bank |
| 3. Control of Corruption Index | World Justice Project |
| 4. Index of Public Integrity | United Nations |
- How many of the above pair(s) is / are correctly matched?
- Only one pair
 - Only two pairs
 - Only three pairs
 - All four pairs
9. Which Indian State has become the first in the country to grant paid menstrual leave to all women employees in both government and private sectors?
- Odisha
 - Bihar
 - Kerala
 - Karnataka
10. Consider the following statements:
- The World Inequality Database is maintained by the World Bank.
 - The World Happiness Index is released by the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UNSDSN).
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
11. The BRAIN Initiative Cell Atlas Network (BICAN), recently in news, is primarily concerned with:
- Mapping genetic mutations linked to neurodegenerative diseases
 - Creating a cell-by-cell atlas of the developing and adult human brain
 - Developing artificial intelligence-based diagnostic tools for brain tumours
 - Establishing a global database of mental health cases

- 12.** The 'Concept of Mutirão' sometimes appeared in the news, primarily refers to:
- Enhancing Soil Organic Carbon Content
 - Carbon Sequestration Method
 - Deep-Tech Agri Transformation
 - Collective Effort or Community Driven Action
- 13.** The Global Peace Prayer Festival is being hosted by which of the following countries?
- Nepal
 - India
 - Japan
 - Bhutan
- 14.** The proposed India Development and Strategic Fund (IDSF) has been suggested for which of the following purposes?
- To mobilise domestic and global savings for long-term national development.
 - To finance long-gestation domestic projects such as infrastructure and clean energy.
 - To acquire and secure overseas assets critical for India's economic and security interests.
- 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
- 15.** Which of the following is correct regarding the Vaidyeswaran Rajaraman?
- He is globally celebrated for discovering the double-helix structure of DNA in 1953.
 - He is credited with establishing the first professional course in computer science in India at IIT Kanpur in 1979.
 - He became the first Asian scientist to be awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics for discovering the scattering of light in 1930.
 - He served as the President of the first United Nations Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy in 1955.
- 16.** With reference to the Booker Prize, consider the following statements:
- It is awarded annually for the best single work of sustained fiction written in the English language.
 - It was first awarded in 1969 to promote reading and literature, with PH Newby being its inaugural winner.
 - The selection committee for the Booker Prize is appointed by the Government of the United Kingdom.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- 1 and 2 only
 - 2 and 3 only
 - 1 and 3 only
 - 1, 2 and 3
- 17.** Which of the following best describes the purpose of WAICO?
- A platform for trade negotiation on AI hardware.
 - A global body to harmonize AI governance standards and technology-sharing mechanisms.

- (c) A regional organisation under APEC to manage digital trade.
- (d) A bilateral forum between China and the U.S. on AI policy.

18. Consider the following pairs:

Organisation / Initiative	Associated with
1. FAO	<i>Global One Health Joint Plan of Action</i>
2. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)	<i>Establishment of National Institute for One Health (NIOH) at Nagpur</i>
3. WHO	<i>Launched the "Quadripartite Alliance" on One Health</i>

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

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 3
- (d) 1 only

19. With reference to the National Water Awards, consider the following statements:

1. The awards are instituted by the Department of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
2. The National Water Awards were first introduced in 2018 to promote sustainable water management.

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

20. Committees like Varde and Madhavdas are primarily related to:

- (a) Urban Cooperative Banks
- (b) Agricultural Reforms
- (c) Insurance Regulation
- (d) Digital Payment Systems

21. With reference to the Climate Risk Index (CRI) 2026, consider the following statements:

1. The index analyses both rapid and slow onset events.
2. India was ninth on the list of countries most affected by extreme weather events between 1995 and 2024.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

22. The Global Cooling Watch 2025 report, recently in the news, was published by which organisation?

- (a) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- (b) UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
- (c) World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- (d) International Energy Agency (IEA)

23. Consider the following statements

1. Ambaji's marble mines date back 1,200–1,500 years, around the time the Dilwara Jain Temple in Mount Abu was constructed.
2. The marble of Ambaji is found in Banaskantha district of Madhya Pradesh and known for its milky white colour and durability.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

24. The Justice B.N. Srikrishna Committee, often seen in the news, is primarily associated with which of the following?

- (a) Reforms in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) structure
- (b) Drafting India's data protection framework
- (c) Reviewing Centre–State financial relations
- (d) Recommending judicial reforms and fast-track courts

25. With reference to the National Gopal Ratna Awards (NGRA) 2025, consider the following statements:

1. The NGRA is among the highest national honours in the livestock and dairy sector.
2. Since 2021, the Department of Animal husbandry and Dairying has been conferring the NGRA annually.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

26. With reference to the Earth System Science Consortium (ESSC), consider the following statements:

1. The ESSC integrates all autonomous institutes of the Ministry of Earth Sciences under a coordinated governance framework without altering their individual mandates.
2. The Prime Minister of India chairs the ESSC to ensure a whole-of-government approach and reduce institutional silos.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

27. With reference to the newly formed Earth System Sciences Council (ESSC), consider the following statements:

1. ESSC was created by merging five autonomous institutes under the Ministry of Earth Sciences into a single umbrella organisation.
2. The ESSC aims to streamline governance and collectively address issues such as climate change, erratic monsoons, and changes in the polar regions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

28. The 'Red Line Campaign' is primarily related to:

- (a) Marking counterfeit medicines to prevent their circulation in the market
- (b) Labelling prescription-only antibiotics to discourage their misuse
- (c) Identifying essential medicines in government health programmes
- (d) Warning labels on hazardous chemical products

29. In the context of international food standards, the Codex Alimentarius Commission is:

- (a) A subsidiary organization of the WTO dealing with SPS measures
- (b) A global intergovernmental body under UNESCO
- (c) A joint FAO–WHO body that develops harmonised food standards
- (d) A private certification agency for organic products

30. White-collar terrorism primarily refers to:

- (a) Financial crimes committed to support extremist organisations
- (b) Foreign corporate entities supporting terror activities financially
- (c) Terror activities carried out by highly educated professionals
- (d) Cyberattacks targeting critical infrastructure of the country

31. The books "The Years of Challenge (1966–69)" and "The Years of Endeavour (1969–72)" are associated with which Indian Prime Minister?

- (a) Lal Bahadur Shastri
- (b) Jawaharlal Nehru
- (c) Indira Gandhi
- (d) Morarji Desai

32. With reference to the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development, consider the following statements:

1. It is an annual award established by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust in 1986.
2. It is awarded in three categories — Peace, Disarmament and Development.
3. The award ceremony is held on the death anniversary of Indira Gandhi.

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

33. The Global Methane Status Report recently in the news was released by which organisation?

- (a) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- (b) World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- (c) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- (d) UN Environment Programme (UNEP)

34. Which of the following statements about the India International Trade Fair (IITF) is/are correct?
1. It is organised by the Ministry of Culture.
 2. It is recognised as one of the largest integrated trade fairs in South Asia.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
35. 'Dark patterns' refer to which of the following?
- (a) Design techniques used to improve user accessibility
 - (b) Deceptive UI/UX practices that mislead consumers into unintended decisions
 - (c) Cybersecurity protocols to protect consumer data
 - (d) Algorithms used for fraud detection in e-commerce
36. It stands as one of India's largest and most culturally immersive exhibitions, organised by the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. It was first held in 1980 and its theme for the current edition is 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'.
- Which of the following events is being described above?
- (a) India International Trade Fair (IITF)
 - (b) Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit
 - (c) Bharat Mandapam International Expo
 - (d) World Food India
37. The Hicklin and Community Standard Tests, sometimes appeared in the news, primarily relate to which of the following contexts?
- (a) Environmental impact assessments
 - (b) Regulation of obscene content and freedom of expression
 - (c) Standards for food safety and hygiene
 - (d) Evaluation of educational curriculum quality
38. What was the main purpose of 'Op Drishti' conducted by the Indian Army recently?
- (a) It is a counter-insurgency operation in Kashmir.
 - (b) It is a large-scale surgical eye camp to restore vision.
 - (c) It is a drone surveillance exercise across Line of Control.
 - (d) It is the most sophisticated surface-to-air defence system in the world.
39. With reference to the Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat NCAP), consider the following statements:
1. It was launched to provide crashworthiness ratings for vehicles sold in India.
 2. The programme is mandatory for all passenger vehicles manufactured after 2024.
 3. The Central Institute of Road Transport (CIRT), Pune is the designated agency for issuing the ratings.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

- 40.** With reference to the 'personality rights', consider the following statements:
1. These are the same as copyright for protecting individuals identity from unauthorized use.
 2. The United Nations (UN) officially recognizes personality rights as an essential part of intellectual property law.
- 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.** Dr. Verghese Kurien's contribution to the edible oil sector is best reflected in:
- (a) Establishment of the National Oilseeds Development Board
 - (b) Launch of the Operation Golden Flow programme
 - (c) Introduction of the 'Dhara' brand under cooperative marketing
 - (d) Creation of the Edible Oil Marketing Federation of India
- 42.** The Chicago and Montreal Conventions are primarily related to which of the following?
- (a) International civil aviation
 - (b) Maritime boundary disputes
 - (c) Trade-related intellectual property rights
 - (d) Global climate change negotiations
- 43.** With reference to the Euthanasia in India, consider the following statements:
1. Active euthanasia is permitted in India under strict medical supervision.
 2. Passive euthanasia was legalised by the Supreme Court in 2018, subject to the presence of a living will.
 3. Goa is the first state to formally implement the Supreme Court's directives on living will.
- 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
- 44.** JUNO, recently seen in the news, is associated with which of the following?
- (a) Detecting gravitational waves
 - (b) Underground neutrino observation
 - (c) Lunar regolith sample analysis
 - (d) Quantum communication experiments
- 45.** Consider the following statements about the Commonwealth Games (CWG):
1. India will host the 2030 Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad.
 2. The CWG began in 1930 as the British Empire Games.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

46. With reference to the International Astronomical Union (IAU), consider the following statements:
1. It is the globally recognized authority for assigning designations to celestial bodies.
 2. It is an agency of the United Nations.
 3. Its headquarters are located in Paris, France.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
 - (b) 1 and 2 only
 - (c) 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
47. Operation Sagar Bandhu, recently in the news, refers to:
- (a) India's military support to Bangladesh during cross-border tensions
 - (b) India's disaster relief and humanitarian assistance in Sri Lanka
 - (c) India's bilateral infrastructure and developmental projects in Maldives
 - (d) India's operations against drug traffickers in the Indian Ocean
48. Which of the following statements best describes the term "femicide"?
- (a) It is any crime committed by women
 - (b) It is violence against women in the workplace
 - (c) It is gender-based murder of women
 - (d) It is accidental deaths involving women
49. Consider the following statements regarding the classification of a "calamity of severe nature" under the Disaster Management Act, 2005:
1. The Act provides a clear quantitative definition based on loss-to-GSDP ratios.
 2. The classification allows a State to access the NDRF beyond the SDRF.

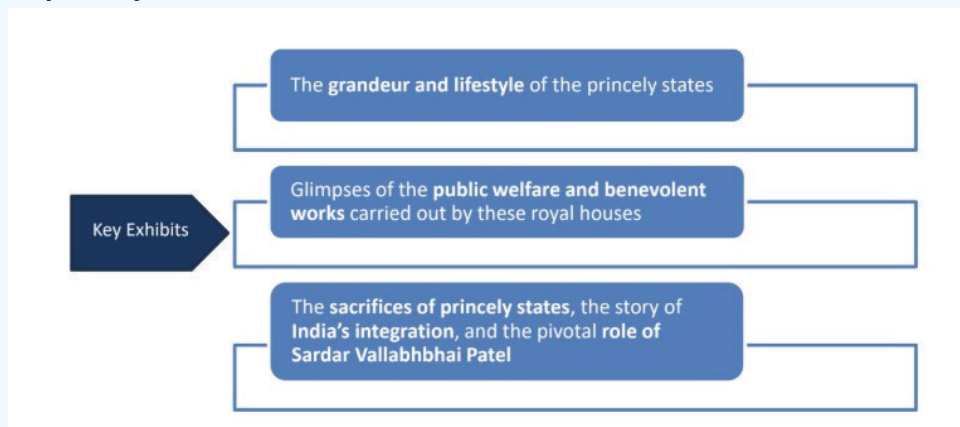
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

EXPLANATIONS

1. (d)

The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for the **Museum of Royal Kingdoms of India** near the **Statue of Unity in Gujarat**.



- **Aim:** To preserve the memory of the past while inspiring future generations with the timeless spirit of unity and sacrifice.
- This museum, costing ₹367 crore, will have four thematic galleries.
- This museum will be built on **five acres of land near the Statue of Unity in Ekta Nagar.**

2. (d)

Context

- The **Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak** has been awarded to 1,466 personnel for the year 2025.

About

- The Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak was instituted by the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).**
- It **recognises excellence** in operations, exceptional investigative service, intelligence work marked by courage and determination, and meritorious contributions in forensic science by serving government scientists.
- It is conferred annually on **October 31**, marking the birth anniversary of **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**, India's first Home Minister and the architect of national integration.
- **Key Areas of Recognition:** Special Operations, Investigation, Intelligence, and Forensic Science.
- The medal is conferred on members of the **Police Forces, Security Organisations, Intelligence Wings/Branches, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), Central Police Organisations (CPOs),** and Forensic Science units at the Central, State, and Union Territory levels.

3. (b)

What is Enshittification?

- In 2022, the Canada-born author and activist **Cory Doctorow** coined the term “enshittification.”
- It refers to the **systematic decline in quality and fairness** of digital platforms due to **profit-maximizing behaviour by tech companies.**
- It occurs when platforms:
 - Start by prioritizing users to attract a large base.
 - Shift focus to business customers (advertisers, sellers, partners) to maximize revenue.
 - Finally exploit both users and business clients to extract maximum profit — leading to decline or collapse.

4. (d)

In News: The Maldives has become the first country worldwide to impose a historic generational ban on tobacco and vaping.

What is Generational Ban?

- A generational ban on tobacco refers to a progressive legal prohibition designed to create a tobacco-free generation by banning tobacco sales and usage for all individuals born after a specified date.
- Under such a policy, people born beyond that cut-off year are permanently barred from buying, possessing, or using tobacco products throughout their lives, effectively phasing out tobacco use over time.

5. (b)

Context

- The Supreme Court refused to intervene with an order of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) which had allowed Aakash Educational Services Ltd, a subsidiary of Byju's, to proceed with its proposed rights issue.

About National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)

- The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) was constituted under **Section 410** of the **Companies Act, 2013**, with effect from **2016**.
- It functions as a **quasi-judicial body** to hear appeals against orders of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and several other regulatory authorities.
- It also serves as the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against orders passed by the
 - **National Company Law Tribunal** (under Section 61 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016),
 - **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India** (under Sections 202 and 211 of the IBC),
 - **Competition Commission of India (CCI)**, and
 - **National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA)**.

6. (d)

Maharashtra has become the **first Indian state** to **formally collaborate** with **Starlink** to **deliver satellite-based internet connectivity** across remote and underserved regions.

- Under the partnership, satellite internet will be **deployed in government institutions, public infrastructure and underserved districts**.
- The move is part of the **state's Digital Maharashtra mission** and aims to strengthen **digital connectivity** in areas with limited network access.
- Starlink, owned by Elon Musk's **SpaceX**, provides internet through a **constellation of low-Earth orbit (LEO) satellites** that beam **signals directly to users on the ground**.

7. (c)

Option c is correct: Google launches Project Suncatcher to test AI data centres in space. The initiative envisions a constellation of compact satellites, each carrying Google's custom-built Tensor Processing Unit (TPU) chips (processors designed specifically for machine learning and AI applications). Each satellite will feature high-efficiency solar panels for power and will be connected through free-space optical communication beams, enabling them to relay data between satellites and back to Earth. In its initial phase, Google intends to launch two prototype satellites by early 2027 to test TPU operations in orbit.

8. (a)

In News: A clean, transparent, and accountable system needed for economic growth and national development, as India aspires to become Viksit Bharat (developed nation) by 2047.

Pair 1 is correctly matched

- **Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)** is published annually by **Transparency International**.

Pair 2 is not correctly matched

- The Rule of Law Index is published by the **World Justice Project (WJP)**, not the World Bank.

Pair 3 is not correctly matched

- The Control of Corruption Index is one of the **Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI)** published by the **World Bank**.

Pair 4 is not correctly matched

- The Index of Public Integrity is published by the **European Research Centre for Anti-Corruption and State-Building (ERCAS)**, not the UN.

9. (d)

Karnataka has become the **first State in the country** to approve one day of paid menstrual leave per month for all women employees, covering both government and private sectors.

- **Odisha and Bihar** have similar policies for **government employees**, while **Kerala** has implemented this in **universities**.

10. (b)

In News: The idea of a **Universal Basic Income (UBI)** is now emerging as a pragmatic policy imperative, as India grapples with widening inequality, technological disruption, and persistent welfare inefficiencies.

Statement 1 is not correct

- The World Inequality Database is **maintained by the World Inequality Lab**, an academic consortium based at the Paris School of Economics—**not the World Bank**.

Statement 2 is correct

- The **World Happiness Report**, which includes the **World Happiness Index**, is published by the **UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UNSDSN)** in partnership with Gallup and other institutions.

11. (b)

In News: Scientists working under the U.S. NIH's BRAIN Initiative Cell Atlas Network (BICAN) have developed the first draft of comprehensive atlases charting the development of the human.

About BRAIN Initiative Cell Atlas Network (BICAN)

- It was launched in 2013 by the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) to revolutionize understanding of the human brain's structure and function by mapping every cell and its connections.

12. (d)

In News: As the **30th Conference of Parties (COP30)** to the **UNFCCC** begins in **Belém, Brazil**, absence of the **United States** and **China**, along with **lower-level delegation sent by India** casts a long shadow over proceedings.

- Brazil introduced the **concept of Mutirão**, meaning collective effort, to inspire global unity in climate action.
 - Greater inclusion of Indigenous communities and local stakeholders in climate governance.

13. (d)

The Global Peace Prayer Festival (GPPF) was inaugurated at Thimphu, by the Royal Government of Bhutan.

- The 16-day festival is a global initiative **dedicated to prayers for world peace and healing of humanity amid ongoing global conflicts**.
- This was the **first-ever** Global Peace Prayer Festival (GPPF) where religious leaders and scholars from **three main branches of Buddhism** — Mahayana, Theravada, and Vajrayana were present.

14. (d)

The **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** has suggested setting up an **India Development and Strategic Fund (IDSF)** to support long-term growth and global economic security.

- **Aim:** To create a **"twin-arm"** national fund to mobilise domestic and global savings and recycle capital from mature assets into new productive capacity.
 - It will build an enduring financial engine for **long-term national development beyond annual budgets**.

CII suggested that IDSF will have two arms:

- **Development Investment Arm:** It will focus on Long-term domestic priorities.

- **Sectors:** Infrastructure, Clean energy, Logistics and industrial corridors, MSME scale-up, Education & skilling, Healthcare, Urban infrastructure.
- **Role:** Acts as anchor investor, attracting pension funds, sovereign wealth funds, and institutional investors (both domestic and foreign).
- **Strategic Investment Arm:** It will focus on securing critical overseas assets vital for India's economic and security interests.
- **Targets:** Energy assets, Critical minerals, Frontier technologies (AI, semiconductors).

15. (b)

In News: Prof. Vaidyeswaran Rajaraman, a pioneering engineer and academic who helped establish computer science education in India, passed away.

- He was instrumental in launching **India's first BTech in computer science** at IIT-Kanpur in 1979 and later helped design the **MCA programme to meet industry needs**.

16. (a)

Statement 1 and 2 are correct: The Booker Prize, is a **prestigious literary award conferred each year** for the **best single work of sustained fiction** written in the **English language**, which was published in the United Kingdom and/or Ireland.

- **Launch:** It was first awarded in **1969** to promote reading and literature.
 - The inaugural Booker Prize was awarded to **PH Newby for Something to Answer For**.

Statement 3 is not correct: **The Booker Prize Foundation** has an in-house team who select a multicultural group of creative artistes, experts and critics.

17. (b)

Option b is correct: The World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organization (WAICO) is a proposed multilateral initiative by China, announced at the 2025 World AI Conference in Shanghai, aimed at fostering inclusive global AI governance. It seeks to coordinate development policies, establish shared standards and norms, and facilitate technology sharing to bridge digital divides, particularly for the Global South, while ensuring AI advances human civilization. This contrasts with narrower or exclusionary efforts like the G7 Hiroshima Process, positioning WAICO as a complementary platform for extensive consultation and joint contribution.

18. (c)

FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) is part of the Quadripartite alliance which developed the Global One Health Joint Plan of Action (OH JPA) for coordinated sustainable health interventions across human, animal, and environmental health sectors.

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), together with Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), decided to establish the National Institute for One Health (NIOH) at Nagpur, Maharashtra, focusing on integrated research and management of zoonotic and other diseases that connect human and animal health.

WHO, along with FAO, UNEP, and WOAHA, launched the "Quadripartite Alliance" (formerly Tripartite) to foster collaborative One Health global initiatives and developed the One Health Joint Plan of Action.

19. (c)

Context: Maharashtra has secured the first position in the Best State category of the 6th National Water Awards for 2024.

- Gujarat and Haryana have been placed second and third respectively.

About

- Instituted in 2018 by the **Department of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation** (DoWR, RD &GR), the National Water Awards aim to encourage sustainable water management and support the government's 'Jal Samridh Bharat' vision.
- This year, 46 winners have been selected across **ten categories**, including Best District, Best Village Panchayat, Best Urban Local Body, and Best Institution.

20. (a)

Context: Recently, the **Union Home and Cooperation Minister**, at the '**Co-op Kumbh 2025**', called on **Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs)** to play a transformative role in **empowering India's youth and underprivileged communities**.

- The **Varde Committee (1963)** recommended establishing UCBs in **all urban centers with populations over 1 lakh**.
 - Stressed that banks should not be **community- or caste-based**.
 - Introduced the **concept of minimum capital requirement**.
 - Defined **population criteria** for identifying urban centers suitable for UCB incorporation.
- **Madhavdas Committee (1979)** conducted a detailed **evaluation of UCBs' role and performance**. It recommended:
 - **Support from RBI and Government** for setting up UCBs in **backward regions**.
 - **Viability standards** for sustainable growth.

21. (b)

Statement 1 is not correct: The **CRI** is calculated based on the **economic and human effects of extreme weather events**.

- **Higher the rank, the worse a country** has been affected by extreme weather events.
- The index, however, **only analyses rapid onset events** like floods, storms, extreme temperatures, wildfires, glacial lake outbursts, and floods.
- **It does not include slow onset events** like rising mean temperatures, sea level rise, ocean acidification, glacial retreat, etc.

Statement 2 is correct: India was ninth on the list of countries most affected by **extreme weather events between 1995 and 2024**.

- In the last three decades, India faced around 430 extreme weather events which resulted in inflation-adjusted losses of around \$170 billion.
- **Most People Affected:** India ranked third behind Bangladesh and the Philippines.

22. (b)

Context

- The **Global Cooling Watch 2025**, released at the **30th Conference of the Parties (COP30)** to the UNFCCC in **Belém, Brazil**, warns that **global cooling demand is set to triple by 2050**.

About the Report

- Published by the **UN Environment Programme's (UNEP)-led Cool Coalition**, the report highlights that rising **population, income levels, and extreme heat events** are driving a surge in cooling demand—particularly in developing nations where access to efficient cooling remains limited.
- Without intervention, **cooling-related greenhouse gas emissions** could nearly **double from 2022 levels**, reaching **7.2 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent by 2050**, despite ongoing efficiency and refrigerant phase-down efforts.

23. (a)

In News : The Ambaji Marble has received a **Geographical Indication Tag (GI Tag)** by the Union government.

- The certificate is being given by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) of the Union government.

Statement 1 is correct : Ambaji's marble mines date back **1,200–1,500 years**, around the time the Dilwara Jain Temple in Mount Abu was constructed.

- It is known for its milky white colour, durability, high calcium content and natural beauty.

Statement 2 is not correct : Ambaji Marble is found in Banaskantha district of **north Gujarat**.

- It is believed to have been used in the construction of the **Ram Temple in Ayodhya**.
- The marble has also been used in temple construction abroad, including in Miami, Los Angeles, Boston, New Zealand and England
- It is known for its milky white colour, durability, high calcium content and natural beauty.

24. (b)

Context

- The Government of India has notified the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Rules, 2025, marking the full operationalisation of the **Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023**.

Timeline of the DPDP Act, 2023

- **2011:** Group of experts on digital privacy law formed; report submitted in 2012.
- **2017:** IT ministry forms panel; report submitted in 2018.
 - The Supreme Court of India recognizes the **right to privacy as a fundamental right** in **Justice KS Puttaswamy vs GOI**.
 - **Justice BN Srikrishna Committee** is formed to draft data protection laws.
- **2018-2021:** Multiple drafts of the **Personal Data Protection (PDP) Bill** are introduced and revised, with the **Joint Parliamentary Committee** submitting a report in December 2021.
- **2022:** Bill withdrawn, fresh consultations proposed.
- **2023:** Digital Personal Data Protection Bill tabled, gets Parliament nod; to ensure data protection through rights-based governance.
- **2025:** Government introduces draft rules in January, releases final rules in November, 2025.

25. (c)

Both the statements are correct: The Department of Animal husbandry and Dairying has announced the winners of the **National Gopal Ratna Awards (NGRA) 2025**.

- These awards will be presented on **26th November 2025** as part of the **National Milk Day celebrations**.
- **Launched in 2014**, the **Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM)** focuses on the **scientific conservation and development of indigenous bovine breeds**.
- **Since 2021**, the Department has been conferring the **National Gopal Ratna Awards (NGRA) annually** to encourage milk-producing farmers, **dairy cooperative societies/MPCs/FPOs**, and **Artificial Insemination Technicians (AITs)**.
- **The awardees will get** a certificate of merit and a memento and cash price of ₹5,00,000, ₹3,00,000 and ₹2,00,000 for the first, second and third categories respectively.

26. (a)

Statement 1 is correct: The ESSC integrates all autonomous institutes of the Ministry of Earth Sciences under a coordinated governance framework without altering their individual mandates.

This means institutes retain their identity and mandate but work under a unified governance structure for better coordination and efficiency.

Statement 2 is not correct: The ESSC President is the Union Minister for Earth Sciences, reflecting leadership to coordinate all institutions under this umbrella.

27. (c)

Both Statement 1 and 2 are correct: 5 institutes of the Ministry of Earth Sciences have been formally brought under a **single umbrella** by merging five separate Societies into one single called **“Earth System Sciences Council” (ESSC)**.

- **Aim:** To **streamline governance** and collectively address the scientific and humanitarian problems posed by the changing climate, erratic monsoons and melting polar regions.
- **Institutes Merged:** Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) in Pune, the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) in Goa, the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) in Chennai, the National Centre for Earth Science Studies (NCESS) in Thiruvananthapuram, and the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information and Services (INCOIS) based in Hyderabad.
- **Earth System Science Organisation comprises two sub-ordinate offices:** the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF).
- **ESSC** formally registered as a body in **2023**, MoES Secretary will head the ESSC and the minister for Earth Sciences will act as the ESSC president.
- It is intended to support the government’s broader approach of **“minimum government, maximum governance.”**

28. (b)

Context: Recently, the Union Health Minister launched the **second version** of the **National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (NAP-AMR) (2025–29)**.

About NAP-AMR 2.0 (2025–29)

- It addresses gaps from **NAP-AMR 1.0 (2017–2021)**, including strengthening surveillance, expanding public awareness, enhancing private-sector engagement, and improving regulatory and laboratory capacity.
- It adopts a **strong One Health approach**, involving coordination across human health, animal health, agriculture, food systems, and the environment.
- It involves over **20 ministries** with clear timelines and dedicated budgets.

Related Efforts & Steps

- **2010:** National Task Force on AMR Containment constituted.
- **2011:** National Policy on AMR Containment released.
- **2017:** First **National Action Plan on AMR (2017–21)** launched, aligned with **WHO’s Global Action Plan (GAP)**.
- **Red Line Campaign:** Prescription-only antibiotics marked with a red line to discourage misuse.
- **ICMR initiatives:** Promotion of **Antibiotic Stewardship Programs (ASPs)** in hospitals.

29. (c)

The Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) is an international food standards-setting body established jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). It develops harmonized food standards, guidelines, and codes of practice to protect consumer health and ensure fair practices in the food trade globally. It is not a subsidiary of the WTO, nor is it affiliated with UNESCO, and it is not a private certificate.

30. (c)

In News: The term “white-collar terrorism” has gained sudden popularity in mainstream media and public discourse after the Delhi Red Fort blast by radicalised doctors linked to Jaish-e-Mohammad.

What is White-collar Terrorism?

- White-collar terrorism refers to **terrorist activities carried out by highly educated professionals** — such as doctors, engineers, professors, IT experts who use their expertise, social networks, and trusted societal positions to plan, support, and execute terror operations.
- Unlike conventional militants, these individuals may **operate covertly within professional or academic environments**, facilitating logistics, procurement of materials, radicalization, recruitment, and even operational execution with lower suspicion due to their legitimate professions.

31. (c)

News: Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on her birth anniversary.

About

- Born on November 19, 1917, she is the first woman Prime Minister of India.
- Her famous publications include –
 - ‘The Years of Challenge’ (1966-69)
 - ‘The Years of Endeavour’ (1969-72)
 - ‘India’ (London) in 1975
 - ‘Inde’ (Lausanne) in 1979 etc.

32. (a)

Statement 1 and 2 are correct: It is an **annual award** established by the **Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust in India**.

- The prize is named in honor of the **late Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi**, and it was instituted in **1986**.
- The award is presented to individuals or organizations that have made **significant contributions** to the promotion of international understanding and peace, the development of new international economic order, and the strengthening of democracy.
- **Categories:** The award is presented in three categories:
 - **Peace:** Recognizes efforts to promote and maintain international peace and security.
 - **Disarmament:** Acknowledges contributions to the reduction and elimination of weapons of mass destruction.
 - **Development:** Honors work in promoting economic and social development.
- **Statement 3 is not correct:** The award ceremony typically takes place on **November 19th**, the birth anniversary of Indira Gandhi.

33. (d)

In News: The **Global Methane Status Report** released by the **UN Environment Programme (UNEP)** at COP30 in Belem.

Key Points of the Report

- **Methane Emissions Rising:** Despite stronger waste regulations and improved monitoring, global trends remain far short of the target to cut methane by 30% by 2030.
- **Potency and Impact:** Methane is around 80 times more powerful than CO₂ over a 20-year timescale, accounting for approximately one-third of current warming.

- **Methane Emissions:** India emitted about 31 million tonnes of methane in 2020, accounting for 9% of global emissions. It contributes 12% of global agricultural methane—the highest share worldwide.
- **Agriculture Profile:** Livestock (enteric fermentation) is the largest source, followed by rice cultivation, which is projected to increase by 8% in emissions by 2030. Crop residue burning is rising, making India a global hotspot.

34. (b)

Context: The India International Trade Fair (IITF), held at Bharat Mandapam, stands as one of India's largest and most culturally immersive exhibitions.

About

- It is organised by the **India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO)**, under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
- This annual event provides a common platform for the **manufacturers, traders, exporters and importers**.
- It is held every year at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- It is recognised as one of the largest integrated trade fairs in South Asia.
- It was first held in **1980**.
- **Theme:** 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'.
- Each pavilion carries the distinct identity of its state — from handlooms and tribal art in Jharkhand, to the intricate metalwork displayed by Uttar Pradesh, to the vibrant block-prints of Rajasthan.

35. (b)

In News: The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) announced that 26 digital storefronts, including Flipkart, Meesho, Blinkit, Zomato, BigBasket, and Reliance Retail, declared compliance with the 2023 guidelines against "dark patterns"

"Dark patterns"

- Dark patterns are deceptive UI/UX (user interface/user experience) design practices that mislead users into actions they did not intend, undermining consumer autonomy, choice, and decision-making.
- They are treated as misleading advertisements, unfair trade practices, or violations of consumer rights.

36. (a)

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- Each pavilion carries the distinct identity of its state — from handlooms and tribal art in Jharkhand, to the intricate metalwork displayed by Uttar Pradesh, to the vibrant block-prints of Rajasthan.

37. (b)

In News: Recently, the Union government has submitted a **proposal to the Supreme Court of India** seeking to **formally define 'obscenity'** content under the **Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021**

- The Supreme Court of India used the **Hicklin Test** to ban DH Lawrence's Lady Chatterley's Lover in the case of Ranjit D Udeshi vs State Of Maharashtra (1964).
 - It was **established in English Law** after the case of **Regina vs Hicklin (1868)**.
- The proposal refers to the '**Community Standard Test**' from the Supreme Court's ruling in 2014. Under this test, material is not considered obscene if:
 - A reasonable person, applying **contemporary community standards**, does not find it to appeal to **lustful or voyeuristic interests**, and;
 - The content, as a whole, possesses **literary, scientific, artistic, or political value**.

38. (b)

In News : The 'Op Drishti' was held at Command Hospital, Northern Command, Udhampur with Army Hospital (R&R), New Delhi.

'Op Drishti' is an advanced surgical eye camp.

- Over 2,000 people were screened and 400+ surgeries performed for cataracts, glaucoma, and retinal ailments.
- It is benefitting personnel, dependents, Veer Naris, and civilians from remote areas of J&K.
- It exemplified the Armed Forces' commitment to clinical excellence, service, and societal welfare.

39. (b)

In News

- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has released a revised draft of **Bharat New Car Assessment Program (Bharat NCAP 2.0)**.
- Under Bharat NCAP 2.0, the overall rating of the vehicle will be composed of **five assessment areas**: Safe Driving (10%), Accident Avoidance (10%), Crash Protection (55%), Vulnerable Road User Protection (20%) and Post-Crash Safety (5%).

Bharat NCAP

- Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat NCAP) provides safety ratings for vehicles based on crash testing and evaluation criteria.
- The programme was first implemented in October 2023, which laid down the detailed procedure for vehicle manufacturers or importers to get their vehicles tested as per Automotive Industry Standard (AIS)-197.
- The programme is **voluntary** in nature.
- Central Institute of Road Transport (CIRT) in Pune is the designated agency for issuing the Bharat NCAP ratings.

40. (d)

In News: Recently, a lawsuit was filed in the **Delhi High Court** related to **AI-generated deepfake videos** infringing upon **personality rights** underscores how **AI blurs the line between authenticity and deception**, compelling societies to rethink the **legal and ethical boundaries of human identity** in the digital era.

Statement 1 is not correct

- **Personality rights** protect personal identity, whereas **copyright protects** original creative works. They are distinct legal concepts, though they may intersect in media and entertainment.

- India **currently lacks a comprehensive statute** defining personality rights. Enforcement **relies on fragmented judicial precedents**, leaving individuals vulnerable to digital impersonation and exploitation.
- However, the **Copyright Act, 1957** grants performers rights over their work, ensuring that their image and voice are not used without permission.

Statement 2 is not correct: WIPO, a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN), acknowledges the growing relevance of personality rights in the digital economy, especially regarding image, likeness, and voice. However, it does not formally classify personality rights as a core category of intellectual property rights under existing WIPO treaties.

41. (c)

26th November commemorates the birth anniversary of **Dr. Verghese Kurien**.

About Dr. Verghese Kurien (1921-2012)

- He was the **architect of India's White Revolution** and is celebrated as the **"Father of the White Revolution."**
- Born in Kozhikode, Kerala, he spearheaded **Operation Flood in 1970**, which transformed India from a milk-deficient country into the world's largest milk producer.
- He was instrumental in establishing the **Anand cooperative model, exemplified by Amul**, which became a blueprint for dairy development across India.
- His efforts also led to the creation of institutions such as the **National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and the Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA)**.
- Dr. Kurien revolutionized the edible oil industry by launching the **brand 'Dhara' in 1979**.
- Dr. Kurien's contributions earned him national and international recognition, including the **Padma Vibhushan, Ramon Magsaysay Award, and the World Food Prize**.

42. (a)

Context

- The ministry of external affairs (MEA) said that **Arunachal Pradesh is an integral and inalienable part of India**.

About

- Recently, Chinese immigration officials at the Shanghai airport **detained an Indian Citizen for 18 hours** on the ground that her **passport was "invalid"** as her birthplace was **Arunachal Pradesh**.
 - The immigration officers declared her passport "invalid," saying Arunachal is not part of India.
 - MEA strongly criticised China over the "arbitrary detention" calling it a violation of **International civil aviation norms**, including the **Chicago and Montreal Conventions**.

43. (b)

Statement 1 is not correct: Euthanasia is the **act of deliberately ending a person's life** to eliminate pain or suffering

- Ethicists differentiate between **active and passive euthanasia**.
- **Active Euthanasia** is the intentional act of killing a terminally ill patient on voluntary request, by the direct intervention of a doctor for the purpose of the good of the patient. **It is illegal in India**.

Statement 2 and 3 are correct: **Passive euthanasia** entails the deliberate **decision to withhold or withdraw medical interventions**, like life support, with the aim of permitting a person's natural death.

- The Supreme Court had in **2018 legalised passive euthanasia**, contingent upon the person having a “living will”.
- **Goa is the first state that has formalised**, to some extent, the implementation of directives issued by the Supreme Court.

44. (b)

China has finished building its **Jiangmen Underground Neutrino Observatory (JUNO)**.

About

- It is the **world’s largest underground neutrino detector**, operational since August 2025, designed to study elusive “ghost particles” called **neutrinos** with unprecedented precision.
- Located 700 meters underground in **Kaiping City, Guangdong Province**.

45. (c)

Context: India has been officially awarded the **2030 Commonwealth Games (CWG)**, with Amdavad (Ahmedabad) declared the host city.

- India last hosted the CWG in Delhi in 2010.

About the Commonwealth Games (CWG)

- Started in **1930** (inaugural event in Hamilton, Canada) as the British Empire Games, the present-day Commonwealth Games is a **multi-sport international event, modeled on the Olympics**, involving athletes from the Commonwealth of Nations and their associated territories.
- The Commonwealth of Nations, or simply the Commonwealth, is a voluntary association of **54 sovereign countries**, most of which were former colonies of the British Empire.
- The membership has evolved over time due to political changes and voluntary withdrawals or additions.
- Today, the Commonwealth Games is the **world’s second-largest multi-sport event** and the **fourth most-watched global broadcast sports event**, featuring athletes from **71 nations and territories**.

46. (a)

Statement 1 is correct: The International Astronomical Union (IAU) is the globally recognized authority for assigning designations to celestial bodies. This is one of its primary functions.

Statement 2 is not correct: It is not an agency of the United Nations; rather, it is an international non-governmental organization (INGO).

Statement 3 is correct: The headquarters of the IAU are located in Paris, France.

47. (b)

Context: In the aftermath of **Cyclone Ditwah**, which caused widespread devastation across Sri Lanka, India swiftly launched **Operation Sagar Bandhu** to support relief and rescue efforts.

About Operation Sagar Bandhu

- It is a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operation launched by India to provide emergency aid to Sri Lanka. Under the operation, India dispatched:
 - Relief material
 - Medical supplies
 - Emergency equipment
 - Critical HADR assets
- The operation reflects India’s commitment to its **Neighbourhood First Policy** and the broader maritime vision of **MAHASAGAR**.

48. (c)

In News : Italy has passed a new law formally recognising femicide as a distinct crime, with life imprisonment as punishment.

- The move places Italy among a few nations like Mexico and Chile that specifically criminalise femicide, aiming to strengthen protections against gender-based violence.
- **Femicide** is the killing of a woman for reasons related to her gender.
- It is considered among the most severe manifestations of crimes targeting women.

49. (b)

Statement 1 is not correct: The Disaster Management Act, 2005 does not provide a clear quantitative definition, such as loss-to-GSDP ratios, for classifying a “calamity of severe nature”. Guidelines for SDRF/NDRF similarly lack specific numerical criteria, relying instead on qualitative assessments like intensity of losses, exceedance of SDRF capacity, and Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) recommendations

Statement 2 is correct: A calamity classified as of “severe nature” qualifies a state for immediate relief assistance from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) when expenditures exceed available balances in its State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). This is explicitly outlined in SDRF/NDRF guidelines for notified calamities like cyclones, floods, and earthquakes.

