

DAILY MCQs COMPILATION *with* **EXPLANATIONS**

AUGUST 2025

NEXT IAS

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HISTORY, ART & CULTURE

1. He was hanged on July 31, 1940, for assassinating Michael O'Dwyer in London, avenging the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre. He was also associated with the Ghadar Party and inspired patriotism among Indians abroad.

Which of the following personalities has been described above?

- (a) Bhagat Singh
- (b) Udham Singh
- (c) Sardar Ajit Singh
- (d) Ram Prasad Bismil

2. With reference to the Arya Samaj, consider the following statements:

- 1. Arya Samaj was founded by Swami Dayanand Saraswati in 1875 as a Hindu reformist movement.
- 2. It promoted inter-caste and interfaith marriages and allowed conversions through a "shuddhi" (purification) ritual.

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

3. With reference to the Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. It is the site where Gautama Buddha delivered his first sermon after attaining enlightenment.
- 2. The Lion Capital of Ashoka found at Sarnath is now the National Emblem of India.

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. Consider the following pairs

State

Handloom Style

- 1. Madhya Pradesh
- 2. Odisha
- 3. Maharashtra

Chanderi
Bomkai
Paithani

How many of the pairs are correctly matched?

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

5. The social practice known by regional names such as Natis in Assam, Maharis in Kerala, and Basavi/Jogati in Karnataka is referred to as:

- (a) Devadasi System
- (b) Jajmani System
- (c) Sati System
- (d) Bonded Labour System

6. The Kodali Karuppur silk sari is handcrafted in which of the following Indian States?

- (a) Kerala
- (b) Karnataka
- (c) Tamil Nadu
- (d) Maharashtra

7. With reference to the Kakori Train Action (1925), consider the following statements:

1. It was carried out to loot government funds from a train to finance revolutionary activities of the Hindustan Republican Association (HRA).
2. The Kakori Train Action marked the first collaboration between moderates and revolutionaries in the Indian freedom struggle.

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. Which language, spoken daily by residents of Mattur village in Karnataka, is one of India's 22 scheduled languages and was declared the second official language of Uttarakhand in 2010?

- (a) Kannada
- (b) Hindi
- (c) Telugu
- (d) Sanskrit

9. He was posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1991, and Sadbhavana Diwas (Harmony Day) is observed every year on his birth anniversary.

Which of the following personalities has been described above?

- (a) Mahatma Gandhi
- (b) Lal Bahadur Shastri
- (c) Rajiv Gandhi
- (d) Jawaharlal Nehru

- 10.** Who became the first Indian to be appointed as the President of the Central Legislative Assembly in 1925?
- Motilal Nehru
 - Vitthalbhai Patel
 - C. Rajagopalachari
 - Madan Mohan Malaviya
- 11.** Consider the following statements regarding Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs):
- They were first recognised as a distinct category by the Dhebar Commission in the early 1960s.
 - Currently, there are 100 PVTGs spread across 18 States and 1 Union Territory.
 - The criteria for their identification include pre-agricultural technology, low literacy, economic backwardness, and declining/stagnant population.
 - The highest PVTG population is found in Jharkhand, followed by Odisha.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- 1, 2 and 3 only
 - 1 and 3 only
 - 2, 3 and 4 only
 - 1, 2, 3 and 4
- 12.** Civil Services Day, observed on 21st April, commemorates the day in 1947 when he addressed the first batch of civil servants. He was conferred the Bharat Ratna in 1991 posthumously.
- Which among the following personalities has been described above?
- Lal Bahadur Shastri
 - Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar
 - Jawahar Lal Nehru
 - Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- 13.** Nuakhai festival, recently seen in the news, is primarily celebrated in which Indian state?
- Odisha
 - Karnataka
 - West Bengal
 - Maharashtra
- 14.** 'Kamrup (Kamarupa) Kingdom' was a historical kingdom in which of the following present-day States of India?
- Assam
 - Madhya Pradesh
 - Kerala
 - Arunachal Pradesh
- 15.** Which of the following is correct about the Daruma doll of Japan?
- It is primarily symbolized for Longevity and health
 - It is primarily symbolized for Peace and unity
 - It is primarily symbolized for perseverance and good luck
 - It is primarily symbolized for Kids entertainment

16. With reference to Guru Tegh Bahadur, consider the following statements:
1. He was the youngest son of Guru Arjan Dev and later became the ninth Sikh Guru in 1664.
 2. He established Anandpur Sahib and contributed over 700 hymns to the Guru Granth Sahib.
- 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. 'Mela Patt' is an annual festival celebrated in which of the following regions in India?
- (a) Punjab
 - (b) Rajasthan
 - (c) Gujarat
 - (d) Jammu and Kashmir

EXPLANATIONS

1. (b)

In News

- The Prime Minister paid tribute to Shaheed Udham Singh on his martyrdom day.

Shaheed Udham Singh

- He was born in 1899 in Sangrur, Punjab and he lost his parents at an early age.
- He was hanged on July 31, 1940, for assassinating **Michael O'Dwyer, the former Lieutenant Governor of Punjab**, in London — an act of revenge for the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

Legacy

- Udham Singh dedicated his life to self-respect and freedom. He launched an armed rebellion against British atrocities.
- The Jallianwala Bagh massacre deeply disturbed him, prompting him to travel to England to avenge the killings.
- Through the **Ghadar Party**, he inspired patriotism among Indians living abroad. His courage, bravery, and sacrifice gave greater strength to India's freedom movement.

2. (d)

Both the statements are correct: Arya Samaj was founded by **Swami Dayanand Saraswati in 1875** as a **Hindu reformist movement**.

- It promoted **inter-caste and interfaith marriages** and allowed conversions through a "**shuddhi**" (**purification**) ritual.
- **The Arya Marriage Validation Act, 1937** legally recognised such marriages, even between different castes or religions, if both parties declared themselves Arya Samajis.

3. (c)

Context

- India has submitted a dossier titled "**Ancient Buddhist Site, Sarnath**" to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre for the 2025–26 nomination cycle

About Sarnath

- **Location:** It is situated near **Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**.
- **Historical Significance:** In Sarnath Gautama Buddha delivered his **first sermon**, known as the **Dhammachakkapavattana Sutta** (Setting in Motion the Wheel of Dharma), after attaining enlightenment.
 - This event marks the beginning of the Buddhist Sangha (monastic community).
- **Cultural Importance:** Sarnath is one of the four most sacred Buddhist pilgrimage sites, alongside **Bodh Gaya, Lumbini, and Kushinagar**, and served as a **major centre for Buddhist learning and dissemination**, closely linked to ancient transnational pilgrimage routes and cultural exchanges.
 - It reflects the interplay of **Mauryan, Kushan, and Gupta** architectural styles.

Key Monuments and Structures at Sarnath

- **Dhamek Stupa:** Built in **500 CE** to commemorate Buddha's first sermon.
- **Ashokan Pillar:** Erected by Emperor Ashoka with an edict; originally topped with the Lion Capital, now India's **national emblem**.
- **Chaukhandi Stupa:** Commemorates the spot where Buddha met his first disciples.
- **Mulagandha Kuti Vihar:** Modern temple built by the Mahabodhi Society, housing frescoes depicting Buddha's life.
- **Sarnath Archaeological Museum:** Houses important artefacts, including the original Lion Capital of Ashoka.

4. (c)

The 11th National Handloom Day was celebrated at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

- The handloom sector played a vital role in India's freedom movement. The Swadeshi Movement, launched on August 7, 1905, championed indigenous industries, especially handlooms, as a form of economic resistance to colonial rule.
 - In honour of this legacy, August 7 was declared **National Handloom Day in 2015**.
 - Every region in India has developed its unique handloom style.
 - For example, Rajasthan is known for its tie and dye, **Madhya Pradesh for Chanderi**, and Uttar Pradesh for Jacquard patterns.
 - Other well-known styles include **Bomkai from Odisha**, Kunbi from Goa, **Paithani from Maharashtra**, Kotpad from Odisha, Balarampuram from Kerala, Jamdani and Baluchari from West Bengal.

5. (a)

In News

- The Karnataka Cabinet has approved the Karnataka Devadasi (Prevention, Prohibition, Relief and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2025, aiming to strengthen efforts against the Devadasi system.

Devadasi system

- It is an ancient practice dating back to the Chola, Chera, and Pandya dynasties, involving dedicating young lower-caste girls to temple deities.
- Though termed "servants of God," these girls often end up providing sexual services to temple patrons and powerful men.
- The system persists under different regional names across India, such as **Natis (Assam)**, **Maharis (Kerala)**, **Basavi/Jogati (Karnataka)**, **Jogin (Andhra Pradesh)**, and **Aradhini (Maharashtra)**.

6. (c)

The Kodali Karuppur silk sari derives its name from **Karuppur**, a village near **Kumbakonam** in the **Thanjavur (Tanjore) region of Tamil Nadu**.

- These are **handwoven** silk saris, dhotis, and furnishings of Karuppur that combined hand painting, block printing, and brocade-weaving.
- They were popular up to the **19th Century**.
 - In some Maratha states like Baroda, Kohlapur and Satara, the Karuppur sari was an essential part of the bride's trousseau, as was the Karuppur turban for the groom.

7. (a)

Statement 1 is correct: The Kakori Train Action was carried out by **members of the Hindustan Republican Association (HRA)** on 9 August 1925 near Kakori, a village in present-day Uttar Pradesh.

- **Background:** HRA was founded in **1924** by Ram Prasad Bismil, Sachindra Nath Sanyal, and others, aimed to **overthrow British colonial rule through armed revolution**.
 - It **needed funds** for revolutionary activities, therefore decided to target government money being transported by train.

Statement 2 is not correct: The incident was purely a revolutionary act by HRA, not a collaboration with moderates.

8. (d)

Context

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has extended his greetings on World Sanskrit Day which falls on the occasion of Shravan Poornima (usually in August).

About the World Sanskrit Day

- Also known as **Vishva-Sanskrita-Dinam**, it was started by the Government of India in **1969**.
- The day aims to promote learning, preserve heritage, and highlight Sanskrit's relevance in modern times.

Do you know?

- Mattur, a village in Karnataka's Shimoga district, is known for residents conversing in Sanskrit in daily life.
- Sanskrit is one of **India's 22 scheduled languages** (8th Schedule of the Constitution).
- **Uttarakhand** (2010) became the **first state to declare Sanskrit** its second official language; Himachal Pradesh followed in 2019.
- Sanskrit has been accorded the status of **Classical Language in India**.

9. (c)

Context: The birth anniversary of India's sixth prime minister Rajiv Gandhi is observed as **Sadbhavana Diwas or Harmony Day** every year on August 20 in the country.

About

- '**Sadbhavana**' in English means **goodwill**.
- It is dedicated to the cause of encouraging peace, national integration, and communal harmony among all religions in the country.
- The day was first observed in 1992, more than a year after Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated in a suicide bomb attack in Tamil Nadu.

- Rajiv Gandhi became the youngest Prime Minister of India when he assumed the post at the age of 40.
- He was posthumously awarded country's highest civilian honour, **Bharat Ratna in 1991**.

10. (b)

Context

- All India Speakers' Conference held in New Delhi, marking the 100th anniversary of Vitthalbhai Patel's election as the **first Indian Speaker of the Central Legislative Assembly**.

The Central Legislative Assembly (CLA)

- The Central Legislative Assembly (CLA) was the **lower house of the Indian Legislature** in British India, established by the **Government of India Act 1919** as part of the **Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms**.
 - The 1919 Act created a **two-house system**: the Central Legislative Assembly (lower house) and the Council of State (upper house).
 - The CLA was **constituted in 1921** following the 1920 elections.
- **Composition**: It had **145 members**, with 104 being elected and the remaining 41 nominated by the Governor-General.
- **Powers and Functions**: CLA could debate the budget and pass resolutions. The members could ask questions, introduce resolutions, and vote on demands for grants.
 - However, the Governor-General retained veto powers and could certify bills even without Assembly approval.
- **The CLA was dissolved** on August 14, 1947, with the establishment of India's independence and the formation of the Constituent Assembly.

11. (b)

Statement 1 is correct: The Dhebar Commission first identified the need for a distinct category in the early 1960s, leading to the recognition and creation of the category later formalized as PVTGs.

Statement 2 is not correct: There are currently 75 PVTGs across 18 States and 1 Union Territory (Andaman & Nicobar Islands).

Statement 3 is correct: The widely accepted criteria include pre-agricultural technology, low literacy, economic backwardness, and a declining or stagnant population.

Statement 4 is not correct: Odisha has the highest number of PVTGs and the largest population among PVTGs, but Jharkhand is not the second highest; central India (including Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh) has a significant PVTG population.

12. (d)

Vallabhbhai Patel was born on 31st October 1875 in Gujarat. His birth anniversary is now observed as **National Unity Day or Rashtriya Ekta Diwas**.

- He had accomplished the task of **integrating 565 Princely States** into the Union of India within a remarkably short span of time.
- Vallabhbhai Patel is also known as the **Iron Man of India**.
- **Civil Services Day** is observed on **21st April every year** to commemorate the day in **1947 when Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel addressed the first batch** of civil servants at the Metcalfe House, New Delhi.
- He was bestowed with the title of '**Sardar**' after the success of Bardoli Satyagrah.
- He was **conferred the Bharat Ratna in 1991** posthumously.

13. (a)

Context

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended heartfelt wishes to the people of India on the occasion of Nuakhai.

About the festival

- Nuakhai is celebrated in the **western districts of Odisha**. The word “Nuakhai” comes from **two Odia words**: “Nua”, which means “new,” and “Khai”, which means “food” or “eating.”
- On this day, farmers offer the season’s first grains to the deity as a gesture of gratitude for a bountiful harvest and seek blessings from elders.
- The festival features community gatherings with traditional dance, music, games, and feasts, and is observed a day after **Ganesh Chaturthi**.

14. (a)

Kamarupa was the **first historical kingdom of Assam**, existing roughly from the **4th century CE to the 13th century CE**.

- It was located in the **Brahmaputra valley**, with **Pragjyotishpura** (modern Guwahati) as its capital.

15. (c)

In News : The chief priest of Daruma-ji temple gifted a Daruma Doll to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his visit to Japan .

- The Daruma is a Japanese papier-mâché doll inspired by Bodhidharma, founder of Zen Buddhism.
- It symbolizes perseverance, resilience, and good luck.
- **Goal-Setting Ritual**: One eye is painted when a goal is set; the second eye is filled in upon achievement—representing commitment and determination.

16. (b)

Statement 1 is not correct: Early Life: He was born on **1 April 1621** in Amritsar and was the **youngest son of Guru Hargobind Sahib**, the sixth Sikh Guru.

- Guru Teg Bahadur was known as **Teyag Mal** in his youth, and he later earned the title “Tegh Bahadur” from his father.
- **In 1664**, he became the ninth Sikh Guru.

Statement 2 is correct: Contributions: He established **Anandpur Sahib**, strengthened Sikh institutions, and added over **700 hymns** to the **Guru Granth Sahib**, leaving a profound spiritual legacy.

17. (d)

In Jammu and Kashmir, the annual **three-day Mela Patt** commenced at the ancient Khakhal Mohalla in Doda district.

- It is dedicated to **Lord Vasuki Nag**, the presiding deity of **Bhaderwah Valley**.
- The festival is rooted in the **Nag culture**, which marks the historic meeting between **Mughal Emperor Akbar and King Nag Pal of Bhaderwah**.
- The festival has been celebrated **since the 16th century**.
 - It was first celebrated by **King Nag Pal** when Bhaderwah was known as **Bhadarkashi**.
- It is observed **every year on Nag Panchami**, seven days after the conclusion of the Kailash Yatra, and is renowned for its inclusive nature.
- **The unique ‘Dikko Dance,’** a traditional folk performance where men and women of all religions and backgrounds participate, serves as a symbol of peace, pride, and communal harmony.



ECONOMY

1. With reference to the Kandla Port, which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. It is a major seaport located along the Kandla Creek in the Kutch district of Gujarat.
 2. Recently India's First 500 MW Green Hydrogen Plant was commissioned at Kandla Port.

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 the Patalpani–Kalakund Railway Line, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It lies in the state of Madhya Pradesh and is part of the Dr. Ambedkar Nagar–Khandwa section.
2. Maharaja Tukoji Rao Holkar II proposed the construction of the line during his reign.

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. With reference to the Stablecoins, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. They are cryptocurrencies designed to maintain price stability by pegging their value to underlying assets.
2. They are legally recognized as legal tender in all G20 countries.

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. In the context of Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation indices in India, which of the following correctly captures their coverage?

- (a) WPI includes all goods and services used by consumers.
- (b) CPI includes only food and energy items.
- (c) WPI focuses exclusively on goods traded in bulk, CPI includes both goods and services used for final consumption.
- (d) Both WPI and CPI exclude housing and fuel items.

5. With reference to the Dairy Sector of India, which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. India is the world's largest milk producer, contributing 50% of global milk output.
 2. The dairy sector contributes more to India's GDP than the entire agriculture sector.

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
6. The Cape Town Convention, recently seen in the news, primarily relates to which of the following?
- (a) Protection of endangered species and their habitats
 - (b) Regulation of dual-use nuclear technologies
 - (c) International legal framework for aircraft leasing and financing
 - (d) International treaty on climate change and carbon emissions
7. With reference to the India's Seafood Industry, consider the following statements:
1. India is the second largest fish producing country with around 8% share in global fish production.
 2. India mainly has eight major fish-producing states including Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal.

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. What is the Repo Rate?
- (a) The rate at which banks lend to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
 - (b) The rate at which RBI lends short-term money to commercial banks
 - (c) The interest rate paid on savings accounts by banks
 - (d) The rate at which banks borrow from each other overnight
9. With reference to the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. It is responsible for fixing the benchmark interest rate in India.
 2. It consists of ten members, six from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

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

10. Which of the following is NOT a stage in the process of Money Laundering?

- (a) Placement
- (b) Layering
- (c) Integration
- (d) Consolidation

11. Consider the following pairs:

<i>Revolution</i>	<i>Sectors</i>
1. White	Dairy
2. Yellow	Honey and Horticulture
3. Silver	Poultry

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

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

12. The Doha Round of WTO negotiations primarily aimed to address which of the following issues?

- (a) Agricultural reform, tariff reduction, and special treatment for developing countries.
- (b) The regulation of global financial markets and banking.
- (c) The establishment of a new global environmental protection agency.
- (d) Setting a global minimum wage for all workers.

13. With reference to the Kaleshwaram Project, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. It is located on the Kaveri River in Tamil Nadu.
- 2. It is regarded as the world's largest multi-stage lift irrigation project.

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

14. With reference to the Pathaneer, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. It is extracted from the unopened spadices (flower stalks) of coconut or palmyra palms.
- 2. It is primarily consumed in Southern India and parts of Sri Lanka.

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

15. With reference to the Etalin Hydroelectric Project, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. The project is located on the Dri and Tangon Rivers in Arunachal Pradesh's Dibang valley.
- 2. It involves construction of concrete gravity dams to divert water through two separate waterway systems.

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

16. Consider the following statements with reference to Consumer Price Index (CPI)

1. It measures changes over time in the general price level of goods and services consumed by households.
2. It serves as a key indicator of inflation and is used to adjust national accounts and index dearth allowances for employees.

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. With reference to the milk production in India, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. India has been the world's largest milk producer since 1998.
2. In 2023–24, India accounted for about 70% of global milk output.

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

18. With reference to the Geographical Conditions for Maize Cultivation, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Maize requires well-drained, fertile soils and does not tolerate waterlogging.
2. The ideal temperature for maize cultivation ranges between 10°C and 18°C.

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

19. With reference to the Off-Budget Borrowings in India, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. They are not reflected in the official calculation of the fiscal deficit.
2. They are raised only by the Union Government through treasury bills.

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

20. With reference to Global Capability Centres (GCCs), which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. GCCs are established to utilize global talent pools and technological advancements for enhancing organizational efficiency.
2. India's first eBay Global Capability Centre has been opened in Hyderabad.

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

21. Which of the following statements best describes a Ponzi scheme?

- (a) It is a legitimate investment where profits come from business activities.
- (b) It is a fraudulent scheme that pays returns to earlier investors using funds of new investors
- (c) It is a government-backed savings plan with fixed returns
- (d) It is a type of mutual fund which invests in diversified stocks and bonds.

22. With reference to the Druzhba Pipeline, consider the following statements:

1. It is the world's longest oil pipeline system, transporting crude oil from Russia to several European countries including Germany, Poland, Hungary, and Slovakia.
2. It also carries natural gas along with crude oil, making it a dual-purpose transcontinental pipeline.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

23. With reference to India's dairy sector, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. India contributes nearly one-fourth of global milk output.
2. The average yield of Indian cows is higher than that of European Union cows.

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

24. Consider the following statements:

1. Dirigisme of France is characterized by a strong state direction of the economy.
2. 'National Champion' strategy was Britain's version of state capitalism.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

25. With reference to Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), consider the following statements:

1. LNG is produced by cooling natural gas to about -162°C , which reduces its volume by around 600 times.
2. LNG cannot be transported by ships and requires only pipelines for long-distance transfer.
3. The USA is the largest exporter of LNG, followed by Australia and Qatar.

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

26. Consider the following statements:

1. India is the only country which grows all four species of cotton.
2. India is the world's largest producer and consumer of cotton.

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. (a)

Context

- India's first indigenously developed **1 MW Green Hydrogen Power Plant** is inaugurated at the Deendayal Port Authority (DPA) in **Kandla, Gujarat**.

About

- The plant is capable of producing approximately **140 metric tonnes of green hydrogen** annually.
- The Deendayal Port Authority has previously introduced India's first **Made-in-India all-electric green tug**, further reinforcing its leadership in eco-friendly port operations.

About Kandla Port

- Kandla Port, officially known as **Deendayal Port Authority**, is a major seaport located in the **Kutch district** of Gujarat, India.
- It's situated on the **Kandla Creek**, about 90 km from the mouth of the Gulf of Kutch.
- Kandla Port was **constructed in the 1950s** to serve as the primary seaport for western India after the partition of India and Pakistan.

2. (c)

Context

- Western Railway has resumed operations of the **9.5 km metre-gauge** heritage train on the **155-year-old Patalpani–Kalakund** line in **Madhya Pradesh**, after a brief suspension due to reduced tourist footfall.

About the Line

- Located on the **Dr. Ambedkar Nagar (Mhow)–Khandwa section**, the Patalpani–Kalakund line lies in the heart of Madhya Pradesh's hilly terrain.
- History:** Maharaja **Tukoji Rao Holkar II**, who reigned from 1844 to 1886, proposed the construction of a railway line from Indore to Khandwa, which would include the Patalpani–Kalakund section.
- The project was completed in **1878**, and called the **Holkar State Railways** which, in **1881-82**, was merged with the **Rajputana-Malwa Railway**.

3. (a)

Context

- Hong Kong is set to enforce the Stablecoins Ordinance from August 1, 2025, marking a significant regulatory intervention in the global cryptocurrency ecosystem.

What are stablecoins?

- Statement 1 is correct:** Stablecoins are **cryptocurrencies designed to maintain price stability** by pegging their value to underlying assets such as:
 - Fiat currencies (e.g., USD, Euro),
 - Commodities (e.g., gold),
 - Other cryptocurrencies, or
 - Algorithm-based systems.
- Stablecoins are **different from CBDCs, or Central Bank Digital Currencies**, which are digital currencies officially issued and controlled by a government's central bank.
 - Meanwhile, stablecoins can be privately issued and can also be pegged to foreign currencies.
- Statement 2 is Incorrect:** Stablecoins **are not legally recognized** as legal tender in all G20 countries.
 - Many countries are still evaluating regulatory frameworks for stablecoins due to concerns over financial stability, money laundering, and monetary sovereignty.

4. (c)

Context

- India's economy is witnessing strong growth momentum, marked by easing inflation and record-high exports, offering relief to households and strengthening the nation's global trade position.

Inflation Trends in India

- The Consumer Price Index (CPI)** inflation dropped to **2.10%** in June 2025, the lowest since January 2019, well within the Reserve Bank of India's target range of **4%** with a tolerance of **±2%**.
- The Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** inflation also saw a marginal decline to **-0.13%** in June 2025.
 - The WPI Food Index inflation fell to **-0.26%**, signaling softer food prices over the year.

Wholesale Price Index (WPI) vs Consumer Price Index (CPI)

- **Wholesale Price Index (WPI):** Measures the average change in prices of goods at the wholesale level, before they reach the end consumer. It covers only goods, primarily under three categories:
 - Primary Articles (like food grains, vegetables)
 - Fuel & Power (like mineral oils, crude oil, natural gas)
 - Manufactured Products (like basic metals, textiles)
 - It does not include services like housing, education, healthcare, etc.
- **Consumer Price Index (CPI):** Measures the price change of goods and services consumed by households at the retail level. It includes a wider consumption basket, such as: Food and beverages, Clothing and footwear, Housing, Fuel and light, Miscellaneous services (like education, healthcare, transport).

5. (d)

Context

- India has made significant strides in the dairy sector, but the potential of small ruminants (goats, sheep) and poultry remains underutilised.

Dairy Sector of India

- **Global Leadership:** India is the **world's largest milk producer**, contributing **24.76%** of global milk output.
- **Production Growth:** Milk production rose from 146.31 million tonnes in 2014-15 to **239.30 million tonnes** in 2023-24.
- **Economic Contribution:** Dairy is India's single largest agricultural commodity, contributing **5% to GDP** and employing over 8 crore farmers.
- **Growth Performance:** Livestock sector grew at a CAGR of 7.9% (2014-15 to 2020-21), outpacing the agriculture sector.

6. (c)

Context

- India has become the **world's fifth-largest aviation market**, handling **211 million** passengers in 2024, as per the latest **World Air Transport Statistics (WATS)** released by the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

Key Pillars of Aviation Transformation

- **Legislative Reforms for Systemic Change:**
 - **Protection of Interest in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025** aligns India's aircraft leasing system with the **Cape Town Convention**, reducing leasing costs and improving investor confidence.
 - **Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam, 2024:** Replaces the colonial-era Aircraft Act, 1934. It encourages Make in India, simplifies licensing, and aligns regulations with global standards like the Chicago Convention and ICAO norms.
- **Infrastructure Expansion and Capacity Building:**
 - **Terminal Upgrades:** Foundation laid for new terminals at Varanasi, Agra, Darbhanga, and Bagdogra.
 - **Greenfield Airports:** 12 operationalised since 2014 (e.g., Shirdi, Mopa, Shivamogga), with Navi Mumbai and Noida (Jewar) to be operational by early 2025–26.
 - **CAPEX Investment:** ₹91,000 crore allocated under National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP); ₹82,600 crore spent by Nov 2024.

7. (c)

Both the statements are correct: India is the **second largest fish producing country** with around **8% share in global fish production**.

- **India mainly has eight major fish-producing states:** Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal.
- **India's total seafood exports in 2024–25** reached \$7.38 billion, amounting to 1.78 million metric tonnes.
 - Frozen shrimp remained the top export, accounting for **66% of earnings with \$4.88 billion**.

8. (b)

Context

- The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) in its **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** meeting decided to keep the **repo rate unchanged at 5.50%**.

What is the Repo Rate?

- The repo rate is the **rate at which the RBI lends short-term money** to commercial banks. **It is the key policy tool** used by the RBI to control liquidity, inflation, and economic growth.
- **A lower repo rate** means banks can borrow from the RBI at cheaper rates. This encourages banks to lower lending rates, leading to:
 - Easier access to credit for consumers and businesses
 - Boost in investment, consumption, and economic activity
 - Increased liquidity and money supply
 - This can stimulate growth, especially during economic slowdowns

9. (a)

Context

- The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) in its **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** meeting decided to keep the **repo rate unchanged at 5.50%**.

What is the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)?

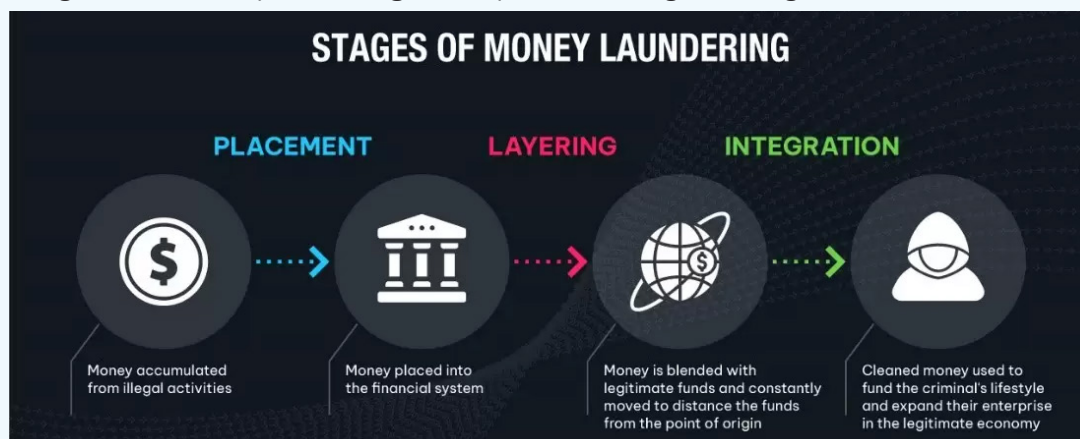
- The MPC is a **statutory body** established under the **RBI Act, 1934** (amended in 2016).
- It is responsible for **fixing the benchmark interest rate** (repo rate) to maintain price stability while keeping growth in mind.
- **It consists of 6 members:**
 - 3 from the RBI (including the Governor as Chairperson),
 - 3 external members appointed by the Government.
- Decisions are made by majority, and each member has one vote. In case of a tie, the **RBI Governor has the casting vote**.

10. (d)

Money Laundering

- Money laundering is the process of making **illegally obtained money appear legitimate** by channeling it through complex financial transactions.
- Under **Section 3 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002**, it involves concealing, possessing, acquiring, or using proceeds of crime and projecting them as untainted property.

- It occurs in **three stages: placement** (introducing illicit money into the system), **layering** (moving it through transactions), and **integration** (reintroducing it through assets or businesses).



11. (c)

Do you Know?

Revolution	Sectors
White Revolution	Operation Flood, launched in 1970, ushered in the White Revolution and transformed the dairy sector in India.
Yellow Revolution	Launched in the early 1990s to achieve self-sufficiency in Oilseed production
Blue Revolution	Launched in 2015-26, it aims to transform the Fisheries sector
Black Revolution	Self-sufficiency in the crude/petroleum sector
Golden Revolution	Increase in the production of honey and horticulture
Silver Revolution	Launched in the 1970s and 1980s to increase egg production and the growth of the poultry sector

12. (a)

The Doha Round of WTO negotiations primarily aimed to achieve major reform of the international trading system with a strong focus on agricultural reform, tariff reduction, and special treatment for developing countries. It sought to lower trade barriers, improve market access, reduce export subsidies, and provide special and differential treatment to support the economic growth of developing and least-developed countries.

13. (b)

Context

- The Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP), is mired in controversies over the manner in which it has been conceived and executed.

About

- Location:** The Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP) is a multi-purpose irrigation project on the **Godavari River** in Kaleshwaram, Bhupalpally, **Telangana**.
 - The project starts at the confluence point of **Pranahita River and Godavari River**.
- Infrastructure:** It utilises a canal network of more than **1,800 km** and is the **world's largest** multi-stage irrigation project.
 - The **barrages** were constructed across Godavari at **Ramadugu, Medigadda, Sundilla and Annaram**.

- **The objective** of the project includes providing irrigation water to a large area of agricultural land, and meeting the drinking water requirements.

Lift Irrigation Projects

- In lift irrigation projects, water is not transported by gravity.
- Instead, it is lifted using pumps or surge pools to a main delivery chamber at the highest point of the project, from where it is distributed to the fields for irrigation.

14. (c)

Context

- In Tamil Nadu's Thoothukudi district, palmyra climbers harvest pathaneer.

About Pathaneer

- **Pathaneer**, also known as palm nectar, is a traditional, refreshing, and sweet beverage made from the sap of palm trees.
 - The sap is processed into **karupatti (palm jaggery)** and **panangkarkandu (palm candy)**.
- It's a popular drink in **South India, Sri Lanka**, and other parts of the world.
- **Extraction:** Pathaneer is typically extracted from the unopened spadices (flower stalks) of **coconut or palmyra palms**.
- The sap is collected in earthen pots, often with a bit of lime or calcium carbonate added to prevent fermentation.

15. (c)

Context

- An expert panel of the Union Environment Ministry has recommended **environmental clearance for the 3,087 MW Etalin hydroelectric project**.

About

- Etalin is a large **run-of-river project** on the **Dri and Tangon Rivers**.
- The project is located in **Arunachal Pradesh's Dibang valley**.
 - The Dri River, after meeting Mathun, flows downstream and is joined by Tangon near Etalin village, where it is called **Dibang River**.
- The project involves construction of **concrete gravity dams to divert water through two separate waterway systems**.
- The project will be developed by the Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) Ltd.

16. (c)

In News : Retail inflation in India fell to 1.55% in July 2025, the lowest since June 2017 and below the RBI's 2–6% target band, driven by a sharp decline in food prices.

Statements 1 and 2 are correct : Consumer Price Indices (CPI) measure changes over time in the general level of prices of goods and services that households acquire for the purpose of consumption.

- CPI is widely used as a macroeconomic indicator of inflation, as a tool by governments and central banks for inflation targeting and for monitoring price stability, and as deflators in the national accounts. CPI is also used for indexing dearness allowance to employees for increase in prices.
- The Central Statistics Office (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has revised the Base Year of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) from 2010=100 to 2012=100 with effect from the release of indices for the month of January, 2015.

17. (a)

Context

- According to data presented in the Lok Sabha by the Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, India's total milk production stands at **239.30 million tonnes**.

Milk Production in India

- Global Leadership:** India has been the world's largest milk producer since 1998, currently accounting for **25%** of global output.
- Decadal Growth:** From 2014–15 to 2023–24, production jumped by **63.56%**, from 146.3 to 239.2 million tonnes, averaging an annual growth of around **5.7%**, well above the global 2%.
- Per Capita Availability:** Rose to **471 g/day in 2023–24**, substantially above the world average of 322 g/day.
- Top Producing states:** Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh.

18. (a)

Context

- Recent reports highlight that maize is increasingly becoming the preferred crop for farmers in Uttar Pradesh (UP), with many shifting from traditional crops to maize.

Geographical Conditions for Maize Cultivation

- Soil:** Maize grows well in well-drained, fertile, sandy loam to silty loam soils. **Alluvial soils** are particularly suitable for maize cultivation.
 - The ideal pH** for maize is between **5.5 and 7.5**.
 - Drainage:** Waterlogging can be harmful to maize, so good drainage is essential.
- Temperature:** Maize is a warm-weather crop that prefers temperatures between 21°C and 32°C.
- Precipitation:** Requires 50 – 100 cm of well-distributed rainfall.
- Season:** In India, maize is typically grown during the **Kharif season** (June-September).
 - However, it can also be sown in other seasons depending on the region and specific variety.

19. (a)

Context

- Indian states are reducing reliance on off-budget borrowings, with the Centre tightening norms by including such loans within states' fiscal limits under **Article 293(3)** of the Constitution.
 - Article 293(3) of the Constitution of India stipulates that a state cannot borrow money without the permission of the union government if it still owes a loan taken from or guaranteed by the union government.

Off-Budget Borrowings

- Off-budget borrowing** also known as extra budget financing is used by the government to finance its expenditures while keeping the debt off from its annual statement.
- Such borrowings are **not counted in the fiscal deficit calculation**, even though they have fiscal implications.

How are Off-Budget Borrowings Raised?

- The government asks implementing agencies to raise required funds from the market through loans or by issuing bonds.
 - Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)** and **Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs)** are commonly used to raise such funds.

- These borrowings are typically directed towards subsidies, infrastructure, and welfare schemes.
- **Concern:** Off-budget financing allows governments to bypass fiscal discipline mandated under the **Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003**.

Trends in Off-Budget Borrowings

- Off-budget borrowings surged during the pandemic and touched **₹67,181 crore in FY 2020-21**, before moderating to **₹29,335 crore in FY 2024-25**.
- **In FY 2024-25**, the top four states with the highest off-budget borrowings were:
 - **Maharashtra:** ₹13,990 crore
 - **Karnataka:** ₹5,438 crore
 - **Telangana:** ₹2,697 crore
 - **Kerala:** ₹983 crore

20. (a)

Context

- American e-commerce major eBay has set up its **first Global Capability Centre (GCC) in India (Bengaluru)** which will host multiple functions, including **technology and engineering, AI/ML, applied research, product development, product management, and data analytics**.

What are Global Capability Centers?

- Global Capability Centers are designed to **leverage global talent pools and technological advancements** to enhance organizational capabilities and drive business transformation.
- GCCs **connect organizations** to a global pool of **top-tier talent**, equipped with the latest technology and training needed to stay ahead of industry trends, continually innovate, and create sustained growth.
 - GCCs also serve as hubs where technology-enabled talent strategies are implemented to streamline processes and foster innovation.

21. (b)

In News: An IIT graduate was arrested in Bengaluru for running a ₹65-crore Ponzi scheme through a fake firm, TARS Project Management.

- A **Ponzi scheme is an investment fraud that pays existing investors with funds collected from new investors**. Ponzi scheme organizers often promise to invest your money and generate high returns with little or no risk."

22. (a)

Statement 1 is correct: The Druzhba pipeline is considered one of the longest oil pipeline systems in the world, with a total length of more than 8,900 km, transporting crude oil from Russia to countries including Germany, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Ukraine, and Belarus.

Statement 2 is not correct: The Druzhba pipeline exclusively transports crude oil, not natural gas. The natural gas transportation from Russia to Europe is served by different pipelines such as the Yamal-Europe pipeline.

23. (a)

Context

- India's low-cost, cooperative-led dairying model ensures global price competitiveness, but its dependence on cheap labour and low productivity poses long-term sustainability challenges.

Dairy Sector of India

- **Global Leadership:** India is the **world's largest milk producer**, contributing **24.76%** of global milk output.
- **Production Growth:** Milk production rose from 146.31 million tonnes in 2014-15 to **239.30 million tonnes** in 2023-24.
- **Economic Contribution:** Dairy is India's single largest agricultural commodity, contributing **5% to GDP** and employing over 8 crore farmers.
- **Growth Performance:** Livestock sector grew at a CAGR of 7.9% (2014-15 to 2020-21), outpacing the agriculture sector.
- **Per Capita Availability:** Rose to **471 g/day in 2023-24**, substantially above the world average of 322 g/day.
- **Top Producing states:** Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh.

Structural Weaknesses in Indian Dairying

- **Breed Productivity Gaps:** Yields still lag behind advanced dairy nations, especially among indigenous breeds.
 - **Average yield of Indian cows** is **1.64 tonnes/year** vs. **7.3 tonnes in EU** and 11 tonnes in US.

24. (c)

In News: Recently, the US decided to acquire about a 10% equity stake in Intel, using funds originally allocated under the **CHIPS and Science Act of 2022**.

- It signals a **new era of government intervention** in high-tech sectors.

Statement 1 is correct

- **Dirigisme** refers to **France's post-war economic model** characterized by a **strong state direction of the economy**. It has key features like:
 - State ownership of key industries such as energy, transport, and telecommunications.
 - Strategic investment in sectors deemed vital for national competitiveness, including aerospace, nuclear energy, and computing.
- However, by the 1980s and 1990s, dirigisme faced criticism for fostering inefficiency, stifling innovation, and creating bloated bureaucracies.

Statement 2 is correct

- **Britain's 'National Champion' Strategy** is its own version of state capitalism—large firms supported by the government to compete globally. It included:
 - Political backing for mergers and acquisitions aimed at creating scale and global reach.
 - State bailouts during periods of financial distress to preserve strategic capabilities.
- The intent was to **close the 'technology gap' with the US**, but most of the firms struggled with **inefficiency and failed to innovate, leading to privatization waves in the Thatcher era**.

25. (b)

Statement 1 is correct: LNG is produced by cooling natural gas to about -162°C (-260°F), which reduces its volume by around 600 times, making it easier and safer to store and transport.

Statement 2 is not correct: LNG can be transported by special tanker ships over long distances, not only through pipelines. Pipelines are used primarily for natural gas in gaseous form, but LNG's liquefied state allows for economic transport by sea in LNG carriers, enabling intercontinental trade.

Statement 3 is correct: The USA is currently the largest exporter of LNG, followed by Australia and Qatar as leading LNG exporting countries.

26. (a)

Context

- The Government of India has extended the **import duty exemption on cotton till 31st December 2025**, as notified by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs.
 - Duty-free cotton imports help control the cost of raw material across the textile value chain, yarn, fabric, garments, and made-ups.

Production and Consumption of Cotton in India

- India is the only country which **grows all four species of cotton** G. Arboreum & G. Herbaceum (Asian cotton), G. Barbadense (Egyptian cotton) and G. Hirsutum (American Upland cotton).
- Majority of cotton production comes from **9 major cotton growing states**, which are grouped into three diverse agro-ecological zones, as under:
 - **Northern Zone** - Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan.
 - **Central Zone** - Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.
 - **Southern Zone** - Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.
 - Apart from the above the cotton is also grown in the state of Odisha and Tamil Nadu.
- **India is the 2nd largest producer** in the world with estimated production of 5.84 Million Metric Tonnes during cotton season 2022-23 i.e. **23.83%** of world cotton production.
- **India is also the 2nd largest consumer** of cotton in the world with estimated consumption of 22.24% of world cotton consumption.



INDIAN POLITY & CONSTITUTION

1. With reference to the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021, consider the following statements:
1. Surrogacy is permitted only for altruistic purposes and for couples with proven infertility or disease.
 2. A couple is eligible for surrogacy if they have been married for at least three years and do not have any living biological child.
 3. A surrogate mother must be a close relative, aged between 25 to 35 years, and can be a surrogate at least twice.

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

2. Which of the following were members of the States Reorganisation Commission (SRC), 1953?
1. K.M. Panikkar
 2. H.N. Kunzru
 3. Potti Sriramulu
 4. Fazl Ali

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

3. With reference to the formation of new states in India, consider the following statements:
1. A Bill for state reorganization can be introduced in Parliament only after the President's recommendation.
 2. Article 3 of the Indian Constitution allows Parliament to form a new state by separating territory from any state or Union Territory (UT).

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

4. With reference to the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, consider the following statements:
1. The CAG is the supreme audit authority of India, responsible for auditing government accounts and ensuring accountability in public finance management.
 2. The President of India appoints the CAG and holds office for a fixed term of 6 years, regardless of age.

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. Under Section 152 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, which of the following acts is not criminalized?
- (a) Exciting secession or armed rebellion
 - (b) Encouraging feelings of separatist activities
 - (c) Criticizing government policies without inciting violence
 - (d) Endangering the sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India
6. Consider the following statements:
1. Article 341 deals with the specification of the Scheduled Castes (SCs).
 2. Article 342 deals with the specification of Scheduled Tribes (STs).
 3. Any inclusion or exclusion in SC/ST lists can be done by the President through a public notification.

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
7. '*The Indra Sawhney vs Union of India case (1992)*' is related to which of the following issues?
- (a) Judicial review of Constitutional Amendments.
 - (b) Implementation of the Mandal Commission recommendations and reservations in government jobs.
 - (c) Distribution of legislative powers between the Union and the States.
 - (d) Disqualification of Members of Parliament and State Legislatures.
8. With reference to the Overseas Citizen of India (OCI), consider the following statements:
1. OCI cardholders enjoy the right to vote in India and can hold constitutional offices like the President or Vice President.
 2. An individual whose grandparent was a citizen of Pakistan is not eligible for OCI registration.
 3. OCI provides a multiple-entry lifelong visa facility to persons of Indian origin and their spouses.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only

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

9. Consider the following statements with reference to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC).
1. It was set up in 1921 as per the Morley-Minto Reforms Reforms.
 2. It is reconstituted annually and comprises 22 members from Lok Sabha.
 3. It examines appropriation and finance accounts, as well as Comptroller and Auditor General of India reports.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

10. With reference to the removal of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India, consider the following statements:
1. The CEC can be removed in the same manner and on the same grounds as a judge of the Supreme Court.
 2. The removal requires a motion passed by a two-thirds majority in both Houses of Parliament.
 3. To initiate the removal process, support of at least 100 members of the Lok Sabha or 50 members of the Rajya Sabha is required.

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 election of the Vice President of India, consider the following statements:
1. Both elected and nominated members of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha form the Electoral College for the Vice-President's election.
 2. The system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote is followed, but the value of each vote is the same.
 3. Members of State Legislative Assemblies also take part in the election of the Vice-President.
 4. Anti-Defection Law is applicable to members voting in this election.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

12. With reference to the 'Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)', consider the following statements:
1. It is a permanent body in the Indian Parliament that meets every year.
 2. It includes members from both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.
 3. Its recommendations are legally binding on the government.

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

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

13. Consider the following statements about the Atomic Energy Act, 1962:

1. It empowers union and state governments to regulate nuclear energy within their jurisdiction.
2. It provides the central government authority to control, develop, and use atomic energy for peaceful purposes.
3. It regulates the mining of uranium and thorium in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

14. With reference to a Constitution Amendment Bill in India, consider the following statements:

1. It can be introduced under Article 368 of the Constitution.
2. It requires a special majority of two-thirds of members present and voting in each House of Parliament.
3. All Constitution Amendment Bills must be ratified by at least half of the state legislatures before coming into effect.

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

15. With reference to the election of the Vice-President of India, consider the following statements:

1. The Vice-President is elected by an Electoral College consisting of members of both Houses of Parliament, including nominated members.
2. The election is conducted by secret ballot using the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.
3. State legislatures also form part of the Electoral College for this election.

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. Which of the following restrictions on free speech are explicitly mentioned under Article 19(2) of the Constitution?

1. Security of the State
2. Public order
3. Defamation
4. Protection of trade secrets
5. Friendly relations with foreign States

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

17. Which of the following are covered under Article 21 of the Indian constitution?

1. The right to health
2. The right to privacy
3. The right to die with dignity
4. The right to livelihood

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

EXPLANATIONS

1. (b)

Statement 1 is correct: The Act defines surrogacy as a practice where a woman gives birth to a child for an intending couple with the intention to hand it over to them after the birth.

- It is permitted only for **altruistic purposes** or for couples who suffer proven infertility or disease.
- Surrogacy is **prohibited for commercial purposes** including for sale, prostitution or any other forms of exploitation.

Statements 2 and 3 are not correct: The couple is deemed 'eligible' if they have been **married for five years**, the wife is aged between **23-50 years** and the husband is between **26-55 years**.

- The couple must not have **any living child** (biological, adopted or surrogate).
- A surrogate mother has to be a **close relative** of the couple, a married woman with a child of her own, aged between **25-35 years**, can be a surrogate **only once** in her life.
 - She must also possess a certificate of **medical and psychological fitness** for surrogacy.

2. (d)

Context

- The Tamil Nadu Governor recently criticised the linguistic division of states in India, calling it a factor in the creation of "second-class citizens".

Background

- **At Independence in 1947**, India inherited a patchwork of provinces and princely states shaped by colonial administrative imperatives. These included:
 - Provinces under direct British rule,
 - 565 princely states under indirect control.
- The Constitution, which came into force on **January 26, 1950**, declared India to be a “Union of States”. The country, at the time, was divided into 28 states, falling under four categories.
- **Post-Independence**, people expected the new democratic government to respect and reflect linguistic aspirations in governance.

Development in Later phases

- **JVP Committee (1948–1949)**: The Indian National Congress set up the Linguistic Provinces Committee in December 1948, comprising **Jawaharlal Nehru, Vallabhbhai Patel, and Pattabhi Sitaramayya**.
 - **Findings**: The committee formally **rejected language as the basis for reorganisation** and emphasised the risks of national disintegration due to linguistic division.
- **Creation of Andhra State**: **Potti Sriramulu’s** 56-day hunger strike for a **Telugu-speaking state** led to his death in 1952, triggering mass protests.
 - In response, the Government **created Andhra State in October 1953** by separating Telugu-speaking areas from Madras State, marking the first linguistic state in India.
- **States Reorganisation Commission (SRC), 1953**:
- Government of India appointed (December, 1953) a **three member States Reorganisation Commission** under the **chairmanship of Fazl Ali** with other two members were **K.M. Panikkar and H.N. Kunzru**.
- The Commission broadly accepted language as a valid criterion but rejected the idea of “**one language—one state.**”

3. (c)

Context

- Recently, renowned climate activist and **Ramon Magsaysay Award winner Sonam Wangchuk** joined a protest, demanding **statehood for Ladakh** and its inclusion in the **Sixth Schedule of the Constitution**.

Constitutional Basis for State Formation

- **Constitutional Provisions**:
 - **Article 3 of the Indian Constitution**: Parliament may:
 - ♦ Form a new state by separating territory from any state or UT;
 - ♦ Unite two or more states or parts of states or UTs;
 - ♦ Alter the boundaries or names of existing states;
 - **Key Requirements**:
 - ♦ A Bill for reorganization needs to be introduced in Parliament only with the President’s recommendation;
 - ♦ If the proposal affects the area or boundaries of an existing state, the President needs to refer it to that state’s legislature for its views;
 - ♦ The views of the legislature are not binding; Parliament can proceed regardless.

4. (a)

Statement 1 is correct: The CAG is the **supreme audit authority** of India, responsible for auditing government accounts and ensuring accountability in public finance management.

- **Articles 148 to 151** of the Indian Constitution provide the framework for the appointment, duties, and reporting structure of the CAG.
- **Appointed by:** President of India.

Statement 2 is not correct: Tenure: 6 years **or up to the age of 65 years**, whichever is earlier.

- **Removal:** By the President based on a motion passed by both Houses of Parliament with a special majority on grounds of proved misbehaviour or incapacity.
- **Oath:** Administered by the President.

5. (c)

In News: The Supreme Court issued a notice on a plea challenging the constitutional validity of Section 152 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

- The petition contends that the provision “reintroduces the colonial sedition law”

Section 152 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita penalizes anyone who, knowingly or purposely, through speech, writing, signs, electronic means, or financial support, promotes or attempts to promote secession, armed rebellion, subversive or separatist activities, or endangers India’s sovereignty, unity, and integrity.

- Punishment includes life imprisonment or up to seven years in prison, along with a fine.

6. (a)

Statements 1 and 2 are correct: Article 341 relates to the specification of Scheduled Castes.

- Article 342 relates to the specification of Scheduled Tribes.

Statement 3 is not correct: The President can declare certain castes, races, or tribes as Scheduled Castes for a State or Union Territory.

- For a State, this is done after consulting the Governor.
- Only Parliament can later add or remove any caste, race, or tribe from this list.
- Once the President issues the list, it cannot be changed by another notification — **only by a law passed by Parliament.**

7. (b)

The Indra Sawhney case (1992), also known as the Mandal Commission case, upheld 27% reservation for OBCs in central government jobs, bringing the total reservation ceiling to 50%.

- The SC had ruled that reservations should **not exceed 50%**, barring certain **extraordinary situations**.
 - Such as to provide reservations to communities that hail from far-flung areas of the country and have been kept out of the mainstream of society. This is not a geographical test but a social one.
- **EWS Judgement:** The Supreme Court upheld the **103rd Constitutional Amendment**, which provides for **10% additional reservations** to the EWS.
 - This means, for the time being, that the 50% limit applies only to non-EWS reservations, and States are permitted to reserve a total of **60%** of the seats/posts, including EWS reservations.

8. (b)

Context

- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has tightened the norms governing Overseas Citizens of India (OCI).

About OCI

- Introduced: **2005**
- **Purpose:** Offers multiple-entry, multi-purpose lifelong visas to persons of Indian origin (PIOs) and their spouses.
- **Benefits:**
 - No need to register with **Foreign Regional Registration Officer or Foreign Registration Officer** for any length of stay in India. However, permission is required to visit protected areas in India.
 - Can open special bank accounts, buy non-farm property, apply for driver's licence and PAN card.
- **Eligibility Criteria**
 - It provides for registration as an OCI of all Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) who were citizens of India on **26th January, 1950**, or thereafter, or were eligible to become citizens of India on the said date.
 - A foreign national who;
 - ♦ Belonged to a territory that became part of India after **15th August, 1947**; or
 - ♦ A child or a grandchild or a great grandchild of such a citizen; or
 - ♦ A minor child of such persons mentioned above; or
 - ♦ A minor child whose both parents are citizens of India or one of the parents is a citizen of India is eligible for registration as OCI cardholder.
- **Restrictions:**
 - No person whose parents, grandparents, or great-grandparents are or were citizens of **Pakistan or Bangladesh** is eligible for registration as an **OCI cardholder**.
 - Foreign military personnel either in service or retired are also not entitled for grant of OCI.
 - **The OCI card holder is not entitled to vote**; to be a member of a Legislative Assembly or of a Legislative Council or of Parliament; to hold Indian constitutional posts such as that of the **President, Vice President, Judge of the Supreme Court or High Court**.

9. (a)

In News : The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Parliament has proposed major changes to toll collection on national highways, including a recommendation to end the practice of perpetual tolling.

Statements 1 and 2 are not correct : The PAC was set up in 1921 as per the Montague Chelmsford Reforms. The PAC consists of **15 members elected by Lok Sabha every year from amongst its members** according to the principle of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote. **Seven members of Rajya Sabha** elected by it in the same manner as the Lok Sabha are associated with the Committee in proportion to its respective strength in both the Houses

Statement 3 is correct : The parliamentary financial tool to monitor the government's financial activities is the Public Accounts Committee (PAC). It is constituted to examine the **appropriation accounts and the annual finance accounts of state corporations and other bodies**. It also **scrutinises the CAG report** but not those organisations which have been designated to the Committee on Public Undertakings.

10. (d)**Context**

- Recently, a war of words has broken out between the Opposition INDIA bloc and the Chief Election Commission (CEC) of India. The bloc has even hinted at moving a motion seeking the removal of CEC Gyanesh Kumar.

About

- According to the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023, the CEC can be removed in the same manner and grounds as a **Supreme Court judge**.
- That means, through a motion passed by a **two-thirds majority** in both Houses of Parliament. And to even initiate the proceedings India bloc would need the support of at least a **100 members** of the Lok Sabha or at least **50 members** of the Rajya Sabha.

11. (a)

Statement 1 is correct: Both elected and nominated members of the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha participate in the Electoral College for the Vice President.

Statement 2 is correct: Single transferable vote system is indeed used, and unlike the Presidential election, each member's vote carries equal value.

Statement 3 is not correct: Only members of the two Houses of Parliament (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha), both elected and nominated, vote. State legislative assembly members do not participate in the Vice President's election.

Statement 4 is not correct: The Anti-Defection Law does not apply to elections to the offices of President and Vice President since voting is by secret ballot and members are not bound by party whips.

12. (b)

In News: Recently, the **Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill, 2025** was introduced in the Lok Sabha and subsequently referred to a **Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)** following intense opposition protests.

Statement 1 is not correct

- **The Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)** is an **ad hoc body** formed to examine complex or controversial legislation and **dissolve after submitting their report**.

Statement 2 is correct

- It is composed of members from **both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha**. Typically includes 31 members (21 from Lok Sabha, 10 from Rajya Sabha), though size may vary.

Statement 3 is not correct

- It is tasked with scrutinizing bills clause-by-clause, gathering expert opinions, and submitting a report to Parliament.
- While its recommendations are influential, they are **not binding on the government**.

13. (b)

Statement 1 is not correct: The Atomic Energy Act, 1962 empowers the Central Government—not state governments—to regulate nuclear energy in India.

Statement 2 is correct: The Act provides the central government with authority to control, develop, and use atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

Statement 3 is correct: The Act also regulates the mining and management of uranium and thorium.

14. (a)**Context**

- Recently, the **Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill, 2025** was introduced in the Lok Sabha and subsequently referred to a **Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)** following intense opposition protests.
 - The Bill seeks to amend **Articles 75, 164, and 239AA** dealing with the Union Council of Ministers, State Councils of Ministers, and special provisions for Delhi.

What Is a Constitution Amendment Bill?

- It is a legislative proposal, **introduced under Article 368**, to modify provisions of the Indian Constitution, like changes in the structure of government, electoral processes, or fundamental rights.
- It requires a **special majority: two-thirds of members present and voting in each House of Parliament**.
- Some amendments require **ratification by half of the state legislatures** if they affect federal provisions (e.g., distribution of powers between Centre and States).

15. (a)

Statement 1 and 2 are correct: Article 66 of the Indian Constitution deals with the **election of the Vice-President overseen by the Election Commission**.

- The Vice-President is elected by an **Electoral College** comprising members of both Houses of Parliament, including nominated members.
- **Procedure:** The election is conducted by secret ballot, using the **single transferable vote (STV) system** of proportional representation. Each MP ranks the candidates in order of preference (1, 2, 3, etc).

Statement 3 is not correct: State legislatures play no role in this election.

16. (b)

The explicit restrictions under Article 19(2) are security of the State, public order, defamation, and friendly relations with foreign States but protection of trade secrets is not mentioned. The protection of trade secrets may be protected under other laws but not as a ground for restricting free speech in Article 19(2).

17. (d)

In News: The Punjab and Haryana High Court granted bail to a Bangladeshi woman accused of forgery and illegal stay, ruling that **Article 21's right to personal liberty applies to foreigners**.

- Article 21 of Constitution of India guarantees the fundamental right to protection of life and personal liberty except by procedure established by law
- It ensures certain safeguards against arbitrary deprivation of life and liberty.
- It protects the right to life, which includes living with dignity, the right to livelihood, and a healthy environment, as well as personal liberty, such as the freedom to move, reside, and work lawfully.
- In the case of **R.C. Cooper v. Union of India (1970)** the court held that the word personal liberty would not only include **Article 21** but also includes the **6 Fundamental Freedoms given under Article 19 (1)**.
- In the landmark judgment **Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India (1978)**, the Supreme Court held that the right to life and personal liberty under Article 21 is not limited to mere animal existence but includes the **right to live with dignity**.
- In **Olga Tellis v. Bombay Municipal Corporation (1985)**, the court recognized the **right to livelihood** as an integral part of the right to life under Article 21.
- In the landmark judgment, **Vishaka v. State of Rajasthan (1997)**, the supreme court addressed the issue of sexual harassment at the workplace.
 - The court held that the **right to a safe and secure** working environment is a fundamental right flowing from Article 21.

- In **National Legal Services Authority v. Union of India (2014)**, the Supreme Court recognized the **rights of transgender persons as part of the fundamental right to life under Article 21**.
 - The Court held that individuals have the right to self-identify their gender, and transgender persons must be given the same legal and constitutional protections as others.
- In **K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017)** judgment) the Supreme Court recognized the **right to privacy** as a fundamental right protected under Article 21.
 - The court held that privacy is an essential aspect of personal liberty and dignity and is intrinsic to the entire constitutional scheme.
- In **Common Cause v. Union of India (2018)**, the court legalized passive euthanasia and recognized the **right to die with dignity** as a fundamental right under Article 21.
- In 2024 the Supreme Court expanded the scope of **Articles 14 and 21 to include the “right against the adverse effects of climate change”**.
 - **The right to health (which is a part of the right to life under Article 21)** is impacted due to factors such as air pollution, shifts in vector-borne diseases, rising temperatures, droughts, shortages in food supplies due to crop failure, storms and flooding.



GEOGRAPHY

1. Which of the following is the only African country with coastal exposure to both the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea?
 - (a) Algeria
 - (b) Tunisia
 - (c) Morocco
 - (d) Libya
2. Mount Lewotobi, which recently erupted, is located in which of the following regions?
 - (a) The Andes Mountains
 - (b) The Pacific Ring of Fire
 - (c) The East African Rift
 - (d) The Mediterranean Belt
3. The Amazon Rainforest spans across several countries in South America. Which of the following countries is not part of the Amazon basin?
 - (a) Bolivia
 - (b) Suriname
 - (c) Argentina
 - (d) Ecuador
4. It is the largest free-standing mountain rise in the world, meaning it is not part of a mountain range. It was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987.

Which among the following is described above?

 - (a) Mount Elbrus
 - (b) Mount Kilimanjaro
 - (c) Mount Fuji
 - (d) Mount Aconcagua
5. Consider the following statements about the island nation of Nauru:
 1. It is the world's smallest country by area located in the South Pacific Ocean.
 2. It once had unusually pure phosphate deposits, which made it one of the richest countries per capita 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

6. Scientists recently warned about the accelerated melting of the Perito Moreno Glacier. It is located in which of the following?
- Alaska range
 - Rocky Mountains
 - Andes
 - Caucasus Mountains
7. Fiji, recently in the news for receiving black-eyed cowpea seeds from India, is located in which region?
- Caribbean Sea
 - South Pacific Ocean
 - Indian Ocean
 - Atlantic Ocean
8. Wallacea, recently in news, refers to;
- A biodiversity hotspot located entirely within the Indian subcontinent.
 - A transitional biogeographic region between Asia and Australasia.
 - A tectonic plate boundary between the Pacific Plate and the Eurasian Plate.
 - A coral reef system in the Pacific Ocean.
9. With reference to the Mandovi (Mahadayi) River, consider the following statements:
- It originates in the Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary located in Karnataka.
 - Its basin is spread across Goa, Karnataka, and Kerala.
 - More than two-thirds of the river's length lies in Goa.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 and 2 only
 - 1 and 3 only
 - 2 and 3 only
 - 1, 2 and 3
10. Which of the following are bordering countries of South China Sea?
- Malaysia
 - Indonesia
 - Vietnam
 - Brunei
 - Philippines
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
 - 1, 3 and 4 only
 - 2, 4 and 5 only
 - 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
11. Which among the following protected areas is the habitat of feral horses in India, believed to be descendants of World War II military horses?
- Dibru-Saikhowa National Park, Assam
 - Keibul Lamjao National Park, Manipur

- (c) Namdapha National Park, Arunachal Pradesh
- (d) Simlipal National Park, Odisha

- 12.** Joint Base Elmendorf–Richardson, recently in news, is located in which of the following places?
- (a) Greenland, Denmark
 - (b) Alaska, USA
 - (c) Vladivostok, Russia
 - (d) Hawaii, USA
- 13.** The Gulf of Mannar, recently seen in news, is a part of which of the following seas?
- (a) Arabian Sea
 - (b) Bay of Bengal
 - (c) Laccadive Sea
 - (d) Andaman Sea
- 14.** Which of the following rivers form the boundary of the Indian Sundarbans Biosphere Reserve?
1. Muriganga
 2. Harinbhahga
 3. Raimangal
 4. Godavari

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
- 15.** With reference to Dal Lake, which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. Dal Lake is located in Srinagar at the foothills of the Zabarwan Mountain range.
 2. It is the largest freshwater lake in Jammu and Kashmir.

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
- 16.** With reference to the Drake Passage, consider the following statements:
1. It is a key historic trade route located between the southern tip of Africa and Antarctica.
 2. The water in the passage majorly flows from east to west as part of the Antarctic Circumpolar Current.
 3. It is named after Sir Francis Drake, a famous English navigator.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

17. Consider the following statements

1. Shipki La is a high-altitude mountain pass located in Pauri Garhwal District of Uttarakhand.
2. The Sutlej river, known as Langqen Zangbo in Tibet, enters India through Shipki Lapass.

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

18. The Kilauea Volcano, one of the world's most active volcanoes, is located on which island?

- (a) Bali Island (Indonesia)
- (b) Hawaii Island (USA)
- (c) Hokkaido Island (Japan)
- (d) Sicily Island (Italy)

19. With reference to the Republic of Fiji, consider the following statements:

1. It is located in the South Pacific Ocean, east of Australia and north of New Zealand.
2. Fiji is a parliamentary democracy and a member of the Commonwealth.

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. Consider the following statements about the Tawi River:

1. It originates from the Kailash Kund glacier in Jammu & Kashmir.
2. It is a left-bank tributary of the Chenab River.

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. The Dnipropetrovsk Region, known as a key industrial and logistical hub, is located in which country?

- (a) Belarus
- (b) Poland
- (c) Ukraine
- (d) Germany

22. With reference to Volcanoes, Consider the following pairs :

- | Volcanoes | Place |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. Mount Etna | Italy |
| 2. Kīlauea | Hawaii Island |
| 3. Mount Fuji | Indonesia |

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

EXPLANATIONS

1. (c)

Context

- India and Morocco have signed a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote **cooperation in judicial and legal spheres**.

Morocco

- Morocco is a mountainous country of **western North Africa** that lies directly across the **Strait of Gibraltar from Spain**.



- Morocco borders** Algeria to the east and southeast, Western Sahara to the south, the Atlantic Ocean to the west, and the Mediterranean Sea to the north.
- It is the **only African country** with coastal exposure to both the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea.

2. (b)

Context: Mount Lewotobi in Indonesia has erupted twice, spewing volcanic ash up to 18,000 meters into the sky.

About: Mount Lewotobi

- Mount Lewotobi is one of Indonesia's** active volcanoes.
 - Indonesia lies along the **"Pacific Ring of Fire,"** an area of high seismic activity where multiple tectonic plates meet.

Pacific Ring of Fire

- A horseshoe-shaped region around the Pacific Ocean.
- Characterized by frequent earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.
- Caused by the interaction of the massive Pacific Plate with surrounding plates (Nazca, Juan de Fuca).

3. (c)

Context

- Over 25% of the Amazon rainforest has already been degraded due to deforestation, fires, and mining, putting immense pressure on its biodiversity and ecological stability.

About

- The Amazon rainforest, often called the **lungs of the Earth**, is home to about **10%** of all known plant and animal species — and countless others that haven't even been discovered yet.
- The Amazon spans **8 countries and one overseas territory: Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, Venezuela, and French Guiana** (a French overseas territory).
- It stores around **250–300 billion tonnes of carbon**, equivalent to **15–20 years of global greenhouse gas emissions**, and generates rainfall that supports some of the world's largest cities and most vital agricultural regions.



4. (b)

Context

- Kabak Yano, a mountaineer from Arunachal Pradesh, has successfully summited Mount Kilimanjaro.

About

- Location:** Tanzania, East Africa.
- Height:** Approx. **5,895 meters (19,340 feet)**, Africa's tallest mountain. It is also the **largest free-standing mountain rise** in the world, meaning it is **not part of a mountain range**.
- Type:** Stratovolcano – composed of layers of ash, lava, and rock.
- Volcanic Cones:**
 - Kibo** – the highest and only dormant cone (summit point).
 - Mawenzi and Shira** – extinct cones.
- Glacial Retreat:** Has lost over **90% of its ice cap since 1900**, making it a symbol of climate change.

- **Conservation Status:**

- In 1973, the mountain and its six surrounding forest corridors were named **Kilimanjaro National Park**.
- Designated a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in 1987.

5. (b)

Statement 1 is not correct: The island republic of Nauru sits on a **small plateau of phosphate rock in the sparsely populated South Pacific**.

- It is the **world's third-smallest country** by area (21 km²) after Vatican City and Monaco.

Statement 2 is correct: Unusually pure phosphate deposits -- a key ingredient in fertiliser -- once made Nauru one of the wealthiest places, per capita, on the planet.

- But these supplies have long since dried up, and researchers today estimate 80% of Nauru has been rendered uninhabitable by mining.

6. (c)

Recently, Scientists warned of accelerated melting in Argentina's Perito Moreno Glacier.

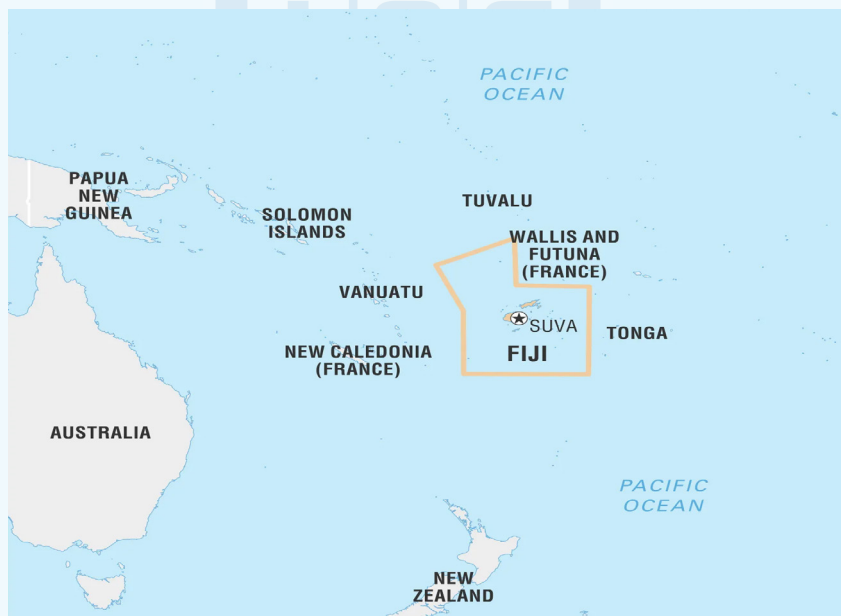
Perito Moreno Glacier ('White Giant') is located near the city of El Calafate in the Argentine province of Santa Cruz, and comes under the Los Glaciares National Park which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

- It is a 30 km-long glacier located in the **Andes mountain range**.
- It was formed around 18,000 years ago during the last Ice Age.

7. (b)

In News

- India sent 5 metric tonnes of **black-eyed cowpea** seeds to Fiji as **humanitarian aid to support agriculture**, under its Act East Policy.



- **Fiji** It is an island country in the South Pacific Ocean, surrounding the Koro Sea, about 2,100 km north of Auckland, New Zealand.
- It consists of about 330 islands and 500 smaller islets and reefs.
 - The capital, Suva.
- The largest islands, Viti Levu and Vanua Levu, are volcanic, while smaller ones are coral-based.
- The highest point is **Mount Tomaniivi (1,324 m)**.

8. (b)

Context

- Scientists have discovered a series of stone tools on Indonesia's Sulawesi island that date back up to **1.48 million years**, suggesting human presence in the Wallacea region much earlier than previously believed.

About Wallacea

- Wallacea is a region in Eastern Indonesia** including several islands such as **Sulawesi, Lombok, Flores, Timor, Sumbawa** that lie between Borneo and Java and Australia and New Guinea.
- The region is named for the naturalist **Alfred Russel Wallace** who studied the fauna and flora of the area.

9. (b)

Context

- The Union Government has extended the tenure of the Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal by one year.

About the Mandovi River

- Names:** Known as *Mahadayi* in Karnataka and *Mhadei* in Goa.
- Origin:** Rises in the **Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary**, of Karnataka's Belagavi district.
- Course:** Flows westward, entering Goa via Sattari taluk (North Goa), before joining the **Arabian Sea** at Panaji.
- Basin Coverage:** Spans **Goa, Karnataka, and Maharashtra**.
- Length:** **111 km** total; about **76 km** lies within Goa.

10. (d)

Recently, the United States deployed two warships near the disputed **Scarborough Shoal** in the **South China Sea** following a collision between Chinese naval vessels attempting to block a Philippine coast guard ship.

- The South China Sea lies between China, Taiwan and five Southeast Asian countries — **Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, the Philippines, and Indonesia** — and has emerged as one of the most important flashpoints in the Indo-Pacific.

11. (a)

Dibru-Saikhowa National Park

- Location:** Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts, Assam
- Geography:** The park is bounded by the **Brahmaputra and Lohit Rivers** in the north and **Dibru River** in the south.
- Flora:** The forest consists of **semi-evergreen forests, deciduous, littoral and swamp forests** and patches of **wet evergreen forests**.
- Fauna:** Bengal florican, Hog deer, Hoolock gibbon, Swamp grass babbler etc.
 - Only habitat of **feral horses** in India, descendants of WWII military horses.
- Status:** UNESCO Biosphere Reserve (1997), National Park (1999).

12. (b)

In News

- The Presidents of the United States and Russia met at **Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage, Alaska**, to discuss the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

About Alaska

- Alaska is the **largest and one of the most northern states in the United States**.
- Alaska used to be known as “**Seward’s Folly**,” named after Secretary of State William H. Seward, who negotiated the purchase of Alaska from Russia in 1867 for 7.2 million dollars as per **Alaska Treaty 1867**.
- It is separated from the United States by Canada and is bordered by the Arctic Ocean (north), Pacific Ocean (south), Bering Strait (west), and Canada (east).
- The **Aleutian Range**, a volcanic mountain range, runs along the peninsula, and the region contains numerous active and dormant volcanoes.
- It is part of the **Pacific Ring of Fire** and is seismically active, with frequent earthquakes and volcanoes.
- Alaska’s population density is the lowest among U.S. states.

13. (c)**Context**

- A recent study published in the **Journal of Environmental Management** has highlighted the lessons learnt, successes, challenges, and prospects of long-term coral restoration to mitigate the anthropogenic and climatic impact on the Gulf of Mannar.

About the Gulf of Mannar

- It is one of India’s coral-rich regions, covering about 100 sq.km, with high species diversity of reef-building corals (117 species reported).
- It is a large shallow bay in the **Laccadive Sea**, lying between the southeastern tip of India and western Sri Lanka.
- It is bounded by Rameswaram (island), Adam’s (Rama’s) Bridge (a chain of shoals), and Mannar Island; approximately 130–275 km wide and 160 km long.

14. (a)**Context**

- A recent report titled “Population Assessment and Habitat Ecology Study of Saltwater Crocodiles in Sundarbans 2025” highlights an increase in the population of saltwater crocodiles in the **Sundarban Biosphere Reserve (SBR)**.

Sundarban Biosphere Reserve (SBR)

- Sunderban is the **largest delta (Ganges–Brahmaputra–Meghna delta) and mangrove forest** in the world.
- **Location:** The Sundarbans Biosphere Reserve or Indian Sundarbans is situated in West Bengal and covers an area of **9,630 square kilometers**.
 - The region is situated **south of the Tropic of Cancer**.
- **River system:** It is bounded on the west by **river Muriganga** and on the east by rivers **Harinbaha** and **Raimangal**.
 - Other major rivers flowing through this eco-system are Saptamukhi, Thakuran, Matla and Goasaba.

15. (a)**About Dal Lake**

- **Location:** Situated in Srinagar, Dal Lake lies in the foothills of the **Zabarwan Mountain range**, with the **Shankaracharya Hill** providing a panoramic backdrop.

- **Type:** It is a **Freshwater** urban lake, classified as a flood lung of the **Jhelum River** basin.
- **It is the second-largest lake** in J&K, covering about **18 sq km**, and features a unique wetland ecosystem with **floating gardens** (“Raad”) that grow vegetables and flowers.

16. (a)

Statement 1 is not correct: The Drake Passage is actually located between the southern tip of South America (Cape Horn) and Antarctica, not Africa.

Statement 2 is not correct: The Antarctic Circumpolar Current flows from west to east, circulating around Antarctica and passing through the Drake Passage in that direction.

Statement 3 is correct: The passage is named after Sir Francis Drake, the English explorer and privateer, although he did not actually sail through the passage himself.



17. (b)

In News : China has agreed in principle to resume trade through the Shipki-La pass in Himachal Pradesh's Kinnaur district.

Statement 1 is not correct but statement 2 is correct : Shipki-La pass is situated in Himachal Pradesh's Kinnaur district, and the **Sutlej River (known as Langqen Zangbo in Tibet)** enters India through this pass.

- It is a historic trade route between India and Tibet, active since at least the 15th century and rooted in deep cultural ties symbolised by a traditional oath of continuity.
- However, trade through the pass ceased due to geopolitical tensions, beginning with the **1962 Sino-India war** and later affected by the **Doklam standoff** and the **COVID-19 pandemic**.

18. (b)

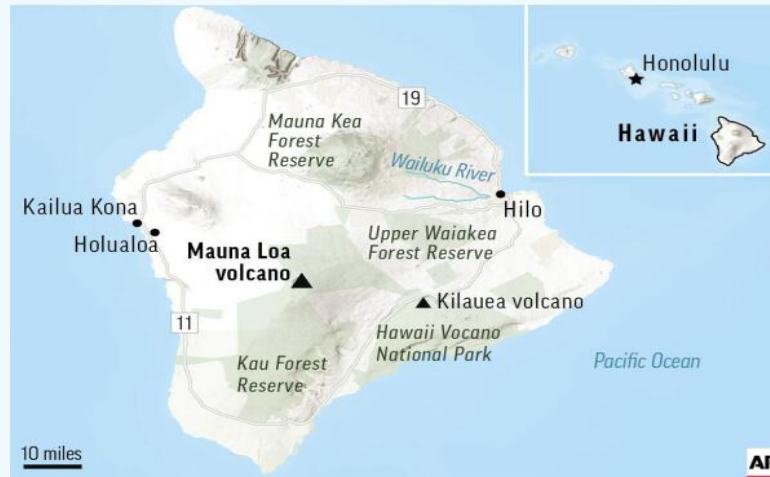
Context

- **Hawaii's Kilauea Volcano**, one of the **world's most active**, has started erupting again.

About Kilauea

- It is one of **six active volcanoes** in the Hawaiian Islands (USA). It is a **shield volcano** and is known for **effusive lava flows** rather than explosive eruptions.
- It is located within the **Hawaii Volcanoes National Park**, alongside **Mauna Loa** (the largest volcano in the world).

- Although smaller than Mauna Loa, Kilauea is **more active**, erupting frequently since **1983**.



19. (c)

Both statements are correct: Location: The Republic of Fiji is situated in the South Pacific Ocean, east of Australia and north of New Zealand.

- Composition:** About 330 islands and over 500 islets & reefs. Around 110 islands are inhabited.
- Capital:** Suva (on Viti Levu island).
- Political Structure:** Parliamentary democracy, member of the Commonwealth.

20. (c)

In News

- India recently warned Pakistan of a potential flood in the **Tawi River** as a humanitarian gesture.
 - The communication was made through diplomatic channels, **not via the Indus Waters Commission** as required under the **Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), 1960**.

About River Tawi

- Origin:** Kailash Kund glacier (Kali Kund) near Bhaderwah in Doda district, J&K.
- Tributary:** Left bank tributary of the Chenab River.
- Importance:** Known as the “Lifeline of Jammu city”, flows through Jammu before joining Chenab.
 - Provides water for drinking, irrigation, and is culturally revered.

21. (c)

Russian forces have captured villages in the region of Dnipropetrovsk .

Dnipropetrovsk Region is situated in southeastern **Ukraine** and is a key industrial and logistical hub

- It borders conflict-prone regions like Zaporizhzhia and Donetsk.
- It is not among the five Ukrainian territories Russia officially claims to have annexed (Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, Zaporizhzhia, Crimea).
- It is an important mining and **industrial hub for Ukraine** and deeper Russian advances into the region could have a serious knock-on effect for Kyiv’s struggling military and economy.

22. (b)

Context

- Japan recently released an AI-generated video of Mount Fuji erupting, to give people an idea of what to expect if the disaster strikes and how to prepare themselves.

About

- Mount Fuji is an **active stratovolcano** located on the **Japanese island of Honshu**, with a summit elevation of **3,776.24 m**.
- **Geographical Significance:** It is the highest mountain in Japan, the second-highest volcano on any Asian island, and seventh-highest peak of an island on Earth.
- **Cultural Significance:** It is revered as one of Japan's "Three Holy Mountains", along with **Mount Tate and Mount Haku**.
 - Mount Fuji was inscribed as a **UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site in 2013** as **Fujisan**, sacred place and source of artistic inspiration.
- The volcano has not erupted since **1707**.

Mount Etna

- Mount Etna, is an active stratovolcano on the east coast of Sicily, Italy.
- It is Europe's most active volcano and one of the largest in the world.

Kīlauea

- Kīlauea is an active shield volcano in the Hawaiian Islands.
- The volcano is between 210,000 and 280,000 years old and emerged above sea level about 100,000 years ago.
- Historically, it is the most active of the five volcanoes that together form the island of Hawaii.



GOVERNMENT SCHEMES/ INITIATIVES

1. With reference to Nyaya Bandhu Legal Aid Programme, consider the following statements:
1. It is a part of the “Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice” (DISHA) scheme.
 2. The initiative connects Pro Bono advocates with eligible beneficiaries through a dedicated mobile application.

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

2. With reference to the Colorado River, consider the following statements:

1. It originates from La Poudre Pass Lake in the Rocky Mountains.
2. Its drainage basin covers parts of seven U.S. states.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

3. With reference to the Sabbatical Leave Scheme launched by Sikkim, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The scheme allows government employees to take sabbatical leave for up to five years.
2. The scheme preserves seniority and ensures continuity in service.

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 Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme (PMNDP), consider the following statements:

1. It was launched under the National Health Mission to provide free dialysis services to patients with end-stage renal disease.
2. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is the nodal ministry for implementing the programme.
3. It was announced as part of the Union Budget 2016–17.

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. Operation Muskaan-XI, recently seen in the news, is primarily related to:

- (a) Eliminating child malnutrition in aspirational districts
- (b) Promoting school enrollment among tribal children
- (c) Rescuing and rehabilitating missing and vulnerable children
- (d) Preventing child marriage in rural India

6. With reference to the National Means-Cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS), consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a Central Sector Scheme launched by the Ministry of Education.
- 2. Scholarships are awarded to students from Class VI onwards.
- 3. Students studying in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas are eligible for the scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) None of the above

7. With reference to the PM Internship scheme, consider the following statements:

- 1. The scheme aims to provide 12-month internships to one crore candidates over a five-year period.
- 2. The scheme will be implemented by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

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 Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), consider the following statements:

- 1. Launched in 2014, the PMJDY has become one of the world's largest financial inclusion initiatives.
- 2. The scheme was aimed at providing every household with at least one bank account.
- 3. It offers features such as RuPay debit cards, insurance coverage, and overdraft facilities.

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

9. With reference to the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, consider the following statements:
1. It was launched in 2024 and aims to provide free electricity to households by facilitating the installation of rooftop solar panels.
 2. The scheme offers a subsidy of up to 20% to households, making renewable energy more affordable and accessible.

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 *MERITE Scheme*, consider the following statements:
1. It is designed to implement reforms aligned with the National Education Policy 2020.
 2. It is exclusively for private schools and engineering colleges.

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

11. With reference to the SHINE Programme, consider the following statements:
1. It is a nationwide student outreach programme.
 2. It is an initiative of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Department of Health Research (DHR).
 3. It focuses on motivating students towards public health careers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

12. With reference to the Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR), consider the following statements:
1. It is a scheme launched by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) under the 'Digital India' program.
 2. It provides a unique 12-digit ID that consolidates a student's academic and co-curricular achievements throughout their educational journey.
 3. Parental consent is mandatory for creating an APAAR ID for a minor student.

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

13. With reference to the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), consider the following statements:
1. It was launched by NITI Aayog in 2016 to promote grassroots innovation and entrepreneurship.
 2. AIM 2.0 focuses on expanding innovation in only English and Hindi to ensure wider participation.

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. 'Kancha Gachibowli Forest' recently seen in the news, is located in which of the following Indian States?
- (a) Maharashtra
 - (b) Telangana
 - (c) Tamil Nadu
 - (d) Arunachal Pradesh
15. With reference to 'SabhaSaar', recently in the news, consider the following statements:
1. It is an AI-powered platform designed to generate minutes of gram sabha meetings from audio or video recordings.
 2. It is built on Bhashini which is the government's AI-based language translation platform.
 3. It supports transcription only in Hindi and English.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1 and 2 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
16. The E-Jagriti platform, recently seen in the news, is related to which of the following?
- (a) Digital literacy for rural women
 - (b) Consumer dispute redressal system
 - (c) Online agricultural marketing
 - (d) Digital services for pensioners
17. Consider the following statement with reference to Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana.
1. It will provide an incentive of up to Rs 15,000 in two installments to newly employed youth.
 2. Employees with salaries up to Rs 6 lakh will be eligible for the incentives.

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
18. The NAVYA initiative, recently seen in the news, is related to:
- (a) Providing nutritional supplements to adolescent girls
 - (b) Ensuring reservation for women in local bodies

- (c) Promoting menstrual hygiene management in schools
- (d) Empowering adolescent girls through vocational training and skill development

19. The SMILE scheme launched by the Government of India mainly aims to support which groups?

- (a) Women working in the unorganized sector
- (b) Persons with disabilities and senior citizens
- (c) Transgender persons and people engaged in begging
- (d) Children in conflict with law

20. Consider the following statements with reference to Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)

1. It has been introduced for the employees of the Central government who are covered under the National Pension System (NPS).
2. The rate of full assured payout is 50% of 12 monthly average basic pay, immediately prior to superannuation.
3. A minimum assured payout of Rs.10,000 per month has been guaranteed under Unified Pension Scheme(UPS) in case superannuation is after 10 years.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

21. With reference to the 'One Nation, One Subscription Scheme', consider the following statements:

1. It is focused on academic journals, research databases and copyrighted books.
2. It provides free international travel for researchers to access foreign libraries.

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. With reference to the PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It was launched in 2020 as part of the government's COVID-19 relief package to provide affordable working capital loans to street vendors.
2. The scheme is jointly implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and the Department of Financial Services.

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)

Both the statements are correct: The Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Service) is one of the programmes under the scheme of “**Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice**” (DISHA).

- It was launched in **2017** and is **implemented** by the Department of Justice under the **Ministry of Law and Justice**.
- It registers interested **Pro Bono Advocates** and connects them with the **beneficiaries**.
- **Beneficiaries** are entitled for free legal aid under Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 through the Nyaya Bandhu Application.
- In order to avail the services of a Pro Bono lawyer, **both the applicants and lawyers** are required to register on the **Nyaya Bandhu Mobile Application**.

2. (c)

Both the statements are correct: The Colorado River is one of the most important rivers in the **western United States and northern Mexico** — both ecologically and economically.

- It is also **one of the most overused and stressed** water systems in the world.
- **Source:** Rocky Mountains, Colorado (La Poudre Pass).
- **Mouth:** Gulf of California, Mexico (though it rarely reaches the sea now due to heavy water usage).
- **Its drainage basin covers** 246,000 square miles (637,000 square kilometres) and includes parts of seven states—Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, Nevada, Arizona, and California.

3. (b)

Context

- Sikkim has become the first state in India to implement a Sabbatical Leave Scheme for government employees.

About

- **Introduced in August 2023**, the scheme aimed at empowering the workforce by providing time for personal and professional development without sacrificing job security.
- The policy allows **regular state government employees** who have completed at **least five years of continuous service** to avail of leave from **365 days up to a maximum of 1,080 days** (roughly 3 years) while receiving 50% of their basic pay during their absence.
 - The scheme **preserves their seniority**, ensuring continuity in service, and the government retains the right to recall the employee with **one month's notice**.
- **Temporary employees** become eligible after **six months** of continuous service, with the same structural provisions in place.

4. (d)

In Context

- The Government of India has significantly expanded the reach of the **Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme (PMNDP)**, with the initiative now operational across all 36 States and Union Territories, covering 751 districts.

PM National Dialysis Programme (PMNDP)

- **About:** It is a flagship scheme under the National Health Mission (NHM) that offers free dialysis services to economically vulnerable patients with end-stage renal disease (ESRD).

- **Launched:** April 2016, as part of the Union Budget 2016–17.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- **Objectives:** To provide equitable and affordable dialysis care, reduce the financial burden on BPL families, and strengthen renal-care infrastructure.
- **Service Components:**
 - **Hemodialysis (HD):** Dialysis centers are established at district hospitals to provide HD to patients.
 - **Peritoneal Dialysis (PD):** Expanding access to PD for those who cannot avail of HD.

5. (c)

Context

- Telangana Police rescued over 7,600 children during the last month as part of the nationwide **Operation Muskaan-XI initiative**.

About the Initiative

- Objective: To **rescue children** involved in **child labour, begging**, or living in **unsafe conditions**.
- High-risk areas targeted: Railway and bus stations, brick kilns, mechanic shops, construction sites, tea stalls, and religious places.
- Conducted in coordination with: Women Development and Child Welfare Department, Labour and Health Departments, Child Welfare Committees (CWCs), District Child Protection Units (DCPUs), and NGOs.

Did You Know?

- **Operation Muskaan**, also known as Operation Smile, is a **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** initiative.
- It is a **month-long campaign** led by **State Police forces** that aims to trace, **rescue, rehabilitate**, and **reunite** missing or trafficked children with their families.

6. (d)

Context

- An awareness session on the **National Means-Cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS)** was recently conducted in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh.

About the Scheme

- Launched in 2008 by the **Ministry of Education**, the NMMSS is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** aimed at encouraging meritorious students from economically weaker sections to continue their education from **Class IX to Class XII**.
- **Eligibility & Benefits:**
 - The scheme awards fresh scholarships in Class IX, with renewals in Classes X, XI, and XII based on promotion and securing **at least 60% marks**.
 - It is exclusively for students of **government and government-aided schools**, excluding Kendriya Vidyalayas, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas, and other residential institutions.
 - The **annual scholarship amount is ₹12,000**, disbursed via **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** to Aadhaar-seeded bank accounts of students or their parents.
 - The **parental income** must not exceed **₹3.5 lakh per annum** from all sources.

7. (a)

Statement 1 is correct: About PM Internship Scheme

- **Announced in: Union Budget 2024-25.**
- **Aim:** To provide 12-month internships for one crore candidates in the age group of 21 to 24 years, for five years.
 - To provide real-life work experience to job seekers in top companies.
- **Vacancies:** 1,25,000 positions in 500 top companies for FY - 2024-25.
- **The top companies** have been identified based on the average Corporate Social Responsibility expenditure of the last three years.
 - Participation of the companies in the scheme is **voluntary**.

Statement 2 is not correct: Implementing Agency: Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

8. (d)

Context

- The PM highlighted the effectiveness of **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)** in transforming financial services for India's poorest over the past 11 years.

About PMJDY

- Launched on **August 28, 2014**, the PMJDY has become one of the world's largest **financial inclusion initiatives**.
- The scheme was aimed at **providing every household with a bank account** and bringing marginalized and rural communities into the formal banking system.
- **As of March 2024**, more than **52.6 crore accounts** have been opened under the scheme, with a total balance of **₹2.63 lakh crore**.
- The scheme offers several benefits including **zero-balance accounts, RuPay debit cards, accidental and life insurance, and overdraft facilities**.

9. (a)

Statement 1 is correct: PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana was launched in 2024 and aims to provide free electricity to households by facilitating the installation of rooftop solar panels.

Statement 2 is not correct: The scheme has an outlay of Rs **75,021 crore** and is to be implemented till FY 2026-27.

- **Installation Targets:**
 - **By March 2025:** To exceed 10 lakh,
 - **By October 2025:** Doubling reaching 40 lakh,
 - **March 2027:** 1 crore households.
- The scheme offers a **subsidy of up to 40%** to households, making renewable energy more affordable and accessible.

10. (a)

In News: Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved the **Multidisciplinary Education and Research Improvement in Technical Education (MERITE) Scheme**.

- It aims to elevate the quality, equity, and governance of technical institutions across the country.

Statement 1 is correct: MERITE Scheme is a **Central Sector Scheme** designed to implement reforms aligned with the **National Education Policy 2020 (NEP-2020)**.

Statement 2 is not correct: MERITE Scheme aimed to be rolled out in **275 government and government-aided technical institutions**, including **175 engineering colleges**; and **100 polytechnic institutes** etc.

11. (d)

The SHINE Programme (Science, Health and Innovation for Nextgen Explorers) is a nationwide student outreach programme organized by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Department of Health Research (DHR). It actively involves students from various schools across many states and union territories in India. The programme's focus is on motivating students towards public health careers and biomedical research. It includes activities like guided lab tours, research demonstrations, exhibitions, and interactions with scientists to inspire the next generation of health researchers.

12. (c)

Statement 1 is not correct: APAAR is launched by the Ministry of Education, not by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

Statement 2 is correct: APAAR provides a unique 12-digit ID that consolidates a student's academic and co-curricular achievements throughout their educational journey.

Statement 3 is correct: Parental consent is mandatory for creating an APAAR ID for a minor student.

13. (a)

Context: The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, hosted "Mega Tinkering Day 2025," bringing together over 10,000 Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) from all 35 states and Union Territories.

Statement 1 is correct: AIM was launched in 2016 under NITI Aayog to foster grassroots innovation and entrepreneurship.

Statement 2 is Incorrect: AIM 2.0 promotes language inclusivity through the Language Inclusive Program of Innovation (LIPI) and 30 vernacular innovation centres, not just English and Hindi.

14. (b)

The government had cleared **over 100 acres in the Kancha Gachibowli forest area** abutting the University of Hyderabad for an IT infrastructure project.

- Kancha Gachibowli Forest (KGF) is a vital urban forest spanning around 400 acres adjacent to the University of Hyderabad, **located in Telangana.**
 - It belongs to the **Deccan scrub forest ecosystem**—one of India's most ecologically significant and under-protected landscapes.
- **Biodiversity:** About 233 bird species, including migratory ones, approximately 72 tree species, and over 40,000 trees.
 - Scheduled and protected fauna, including spotted deer, wild boars, monitor lizards, star tortoises, Indian rock pythons, peacocks, and the rare tree-trunk spider (*Murricia hyderabadensis*)—the only known habitat of this species.

15. (c)

Context

- The Union Government will launch 'SabhaSaar' in Tripura on **Independence Day (15 August)**, with plans to extend it to other states.

About SabhaSaar

- **Purpose:** AI-powered tool to automatically generate minutes of gram sabha meetings.
- **Functioning:**
 - Generates **transcriptions** from audio or video recordings.
 - Panchayat officials can upload recordings using **e-GramSwaraj login credentials**.

- **Technology Base:** Built on **Bhashini**, the government's AI-powered **language translation platform**.
- **Language Support:** All major Indian languages — **Hindi, Bengali, Tamil, Telugu, Marathi, Gujarati** — and **English**.

16. (b)

It is a digital platform developed by the Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of India, to unify and digitize the entire consumer grievance redressal process across National, State, Circuit Bench, and District Consumer Commissions. The platform integrates multiple legacy systems into one modern, AI and digital technology-powered portal that allows filing consumer complaints, online fee payment, case monitoring, virtual hearings, and smart search of case data.

17. (a)

In News: Recently, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi announced the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana on Independence Day with an outlay of ₹1 lakh crore.

- **Statement 1 is correct :** **PM Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana** will provide incentive of up to **₹15,000 in two instalments to newly employed youth** and **upto 3000 per month** per new employee to employers for creating new job opportunities.
 - Payments will be made via DBT and PAN-linked accounts
- **Statement 2 is not correct :** Targets 1.92 crore new employees registered with EPFO, offering up to ₹15,000 in two installments (after 6 and 12 months), with a portion kept in a savings account.
 - ♦ Employees with salaries up to Rs 1 lakh will be eligible for the incentives.
 - It will encourage generation of additional employment in all sectors, with a special focus on the manufacturing sector.

18. (d)

Context

- The Union minister provided the information on the **NAVYA initiative** in the written reply in Lok Sabha.

About

- NAVYA (Nurturing Aspirations through Vocational training for Young Adolescent Girls) is a **joint initiative** of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and the Ministry of Women & Child Development, launched in June 2025.
- It aims to empower **adolescent girls (16–18 years)** in aspirational districts, with a minimum qualification of **Class 10**, by equipping them with relevant skills for socio-economic independence.
- Under NAVYA, **3,850 adolescent girls** will be trained under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0 (PMKVY 4.0) in non-traditional and emerging sectors such as digital marketing, cybersecurity, AI-enabled services, and green jobs.
- Training will also include life skills, financial literacy, and digital competence to prepare them for current and future workforce demands.

19. (c)

The SMILE (Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) scheme is a central sector scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. It mainly focuses on the rehabilitation and welfare of transgender persons and individuals engaged in begging, by providing medical care, education, skill development, shelter, counseling, and economic linkages.

20. (c)

In News: The Finance Ministry introduced a one-time, one-way switch facility from the newly introduced **Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) to the National Pension System (NPS)**.

Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct: The Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) closely mirrors the Old Pension Scheme (OPS), assuring retirees **50% of their last year's basic pay as pension after completing at least 25 years of service**. The Central Government employees, who are covered under NPS, are eligible to submit their option for UPS under National Pension System.

- For service less than 25 years (with a minimum of 10 years), the pension is proportionately reduced, but not below **₹10,000 per month**.
- Family pension is set at **60% of the retiree's pension, and all pensions are inflation-indexed**.
- It is funded—employees contribute 10% of their salary, while the government contributes 18.5%, with adjustments based on actuarial reviews.

21. (a)

In News: *The One Nation, One Subscription Scheme (ONOS)* aims to eliminate institutional disparities in access to high-quality research.

- It ensures that students, faculty, and researchers in all government-funded higher education and R&D institutions **can access over 13,000 journals from 30 global publishers** by negotiating national licenses with major international publishers.
- The government has allocated ₹6,000 crore for the first three years (2025–2027).

Statement 1 is correct: The One Nation, One Subscription (ONOS) scheme focuses on providing access to academic journals, research databases, and copyrighted books to government academic and R&D institutions across India. It aims to democratize access to scholarly content for students, faculty, and researchers through national licenses for subscriptions from major international publishers.

Statement 2 is not correct: ONOS is about digital access to journals and research databases, **not physical travel**. It has **no provision to provide free international travel** for researchers to access foreign libraries.

22. (c)

Both statements are correct: Launched: June 2020 as part of the government's COVID-19 economic relief package.

- **Objective:** Provide affordable working capital loans to street vendors affected by the pandemic.
- **Recent Updates:**
 - **Extension:** Cabinet approved extension of lending period from Dec 31, 2024, to Mar 31, 2030.
 - **Implementing Agencies:** Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs & Department of Financial Services.
- **Key Features of the Restructured Scheme:**
 - **Enhanced Loan Amounts:** Higher loan limits under the first and second tranches.
 - **Digital Empowerment:** UPI-linked RuPay Credit Card for beneficiaries after repayment of the second loan.
 - Cashback incentives for digital retail and wholesale transactions.
 - **Expanded Coverage:** Beyond statutory towns, it now includes census towns, peri-urban areas in a graded manner.



DEFENSE/ INTERNAL SECURITY

1. Consider the following statements with reference to Himgiri (Yard 3022):

1. It is the third ship of Nilgiri Class (Project 17A) and is built by DRDO.
2. It is equipped with BrahMos anti-ship and Barak 8 anti-aircraft missiles.
3. It is capable of anti-air, anti-surface, and anti-submarine warfare operations.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

2. The joint military exercise “Desert Cyclone” is conducted between India and which of the following countries?

- (a) Oman
- (b) Saudi Arabia
- (c) United Arab Emirates
- (d) Egypt

3. Consider the following statements with reference to Women Representation in the Armed Forces:

1. Twelve branches in the Indian Army are open to women officers, including combat.
2. In the Indian Navy, all branches are open for women officers except submarines.
3. All branches of the Indian Air Force are open for women officers.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

4. It was established as an armed force of the Union under an Act of Parliament. It is the only Central Armed Police Force with a dedicated fire wing.

Which of the following Central Armed Police Forces has been described above?

- (a) Border Security Force (BSF)
- (b) Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)
- (c) Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)
- (d) Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)

5. Mission Sudarshan Chakra, recently seen in the news, is related to:
- Indigenous solar-powered satellite launch vehicle
 - Development of a nationwide digital health mission
 - Creation of an indigenous comprehensive air defence system
 - Indigenous quantum computing initiative
6. Consider the following statements regarding SLINEX:
- SLINEX is a bilateral naval exercise conceptualised in 2005 to strengthen maritime cooperation between India and Seychelles.
 - SLINEX aligns with India's MAHASAGAR vision for regional maritime security cooperation.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
7. With reference to India's defence production, which of the following statements is/are correct?
- In FY 2024-25, the private sector contributed around 37% to the total defence production.
 - In FY 2024-25, Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) accounted for about 57.5% of the total defence production.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
8. Which of the following statements is correct about Exercise Samanvay Shakti 2025?
- It is a series of naval exercises between the Indian and Sri Lanka.
 - It is a military-civil Integration Exercise with state officials of Assam & Manipur.
 - It is focused on incorporating New Technology Equipment (NTEs) into the Army's offensive operations.
 - It aims to prepare Indian Armed Forces for peacekeeping missions.
9. With reference to Agni-5 Missile, which of the following statements is/are correct?
- It is a nuclear-capable, surface-to-surface ballistic missile developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
 - It uses a three-stage solid-fuel propulsion system.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2

- 10.** With reference to the '*Indigenous Integrated Air Defence Weapon System (IADWS)*', consider the following statements:
1. It is designed exclusively for naval operations.
 2. It uses kinetic missiles and directed energy weapons.
- 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
- 11.** The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) recently launched its first all-women commando unit. Which of the following statements about CISF is/are correct?
1. It functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
 2. CISF provides security to critical infrastructure including airports, metro, ports, and the Parliament complex.
 3. It is the only force in India with a dedicated fire wing.
- 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
- 12.** The Super Garuda Shield Exercise was originally started as a bilateral military exercise between;
- (a) India and Indonesia
 - (b) United States and Indonesia
 - (c) United States and India
 - (d) India and Japan
- 13.** Exercise Bright Star, recently in news, is:
- (a) A bilateral naval exercise between India and the United States
 - (b) A multilateral exercise hosted by Egypt in conjunction with the US
 - (c) A counter-terrorism exercise conducted annually in the Middle East
 - (d) A UN-mandated peacekeeping drill in Africa
- 14.** The Extended Range Attack Munitions (ERAM) missiles, recently approved by the US for sale to Ukraine, are:
- (a) Artillery-launched long-range missiles with a range of 100–200 km
 - (b) Air-launched, precision-guided missiles with a range of 240–450 km
 - (c) Surface-to-air missiles for air defense with a range of 50–100 km
 - (d) Short-range ballistic missiles with nuclear capability and a range of 150–300 km
- 15.** INS Udaygiri and INS Himgiri, recently seen in the news, are:
- (a) Frigates
 - (b) Aircraft Carriers
 - (c) Corvettes
 - (d) Submarines

16. Exercises 'Al Mohed Al Hindi' and 'Sada Tanseeq' are conducted between India and which of the following countries?
- Oman
 - Saudi Arabia
 - United Arab Emirates
 - Qatar
17. Exercise Achook Prahar, recently conducted in Arunachal Pradesh, involved which of the following forces?
- Indian Army and Indian Air Force
 - Indian Army and Indo-Tibetan Border Police
 - Indian Army and Central Reserve Police Force
 - Indian Army and Assam Rifles

EXPLANATIONS

1. (b)

In News: The Indian Navy received the advanced guided-missile frigate Himgiri built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) in Kolkata.

Statement 1 is not correct: Himgiri (Yard 3022) is the **third Nilgiri-class (Project 17A) frigate** and the first **built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE)**.

- The Project 17A frigates are versatile multi-mission platforms, designed to address current and future challenges in the maritime domain.
- It is a reincarnation of the erstwhile **INS Himgiri**, a Leander-class frigate, that was decommissioned on May 6, 2025
- It is a modern, multi-mission warship designed by the Warship Design Bureau and launched in December 2020.

Statements 2 and 3 are correct: Himgiri It features **BrahMos** and **Barak 8 missiles**, advanced AESA radar, and state-of-the-art combat systems.

- It is capable of anti-air, anti-surface, and anti-submarine warfare.

2. (c)

Context

- India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral defence cooperation during the 13th India-UAE Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) meeting, held in New Delhi.

UAE and India relations

- **Political:** India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) established diplomatic relations in 1972.
- **Multilateral Cooperation:** India and the UAE are currently part of several plurilateral platforms such as **I2U2 (India-Israel-UAE-USA)** and **UFI (UAE-France-India) Trilateral**, etc.
 - UAE was also invited as a Guest Country to the G-20 Summit.
- **Defence cooperation:** It is steered through a Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) at the Ministry level, with the signing of **Agreement on Defence Cooperation in 2003**, which came into effect in 2004.
 - **The Desert Cyclone exercise 2024**, marked a milestone in military cooperation.

3. (c)

In News: The Parliamentary Consultative Committee on Defence, led by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, was briefed on the growing representation of women in the armed forces.

Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct: As per the data from the Ministry of Defence (MoD), women form **13.4% of the Indian Air force workforce** — the highest among all three services — while they make up **6.85% of the Army's workforce** and **6% of the Navy's**.

- In 2024, there were a total of **1,735 women in the Army, 1,614 in the Air Force, and 674 in the Navy**.
 - In 2005, the figures were 767, 574, and 154, respectively.
- **Twelve branches in the Army** are open to women officers, **including combat**.
- In the **Navy**, all branches are open for **women officers except submarines**.
- **All branches of the Air Force** are open for women officers.

4. (c)

In News

- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has approved the recruitment of **58,000** additional personnel for the **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)**, anticipating future industrial hubs in areas now affected by **Left Wing Extremism (LWE)**.

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)

- It is an armed force of the **Union** established under the **CISF Act, 1968**.
 - Initially formed in 1969 with 3,129 personnel, its strength has grown to 1.88 lakh as of April 1, 2025.
- The CISF includes 74 other formations, such as 12 reserve battalions and 8 training institutes.
- CISF is the only force with a customized and dedicated fire wing.

Mandate

- CISF's mandate covers the security of premises, staff, property, and establishments.
- It secures strategic and vital infrastructure, including the Department of Space, Department of Atomic Energy, airports, Delhi Metro, ports, historical monuments, and sectors like petroleum, natural gas, electricity, coal, steel, and mining.
- It also protects some private sector units, key government buildings in Delhi, and VIPs under Z+, Z, X, and Y categories.

5. (c)

Context

- PM Modi announced the launch of Mission Sudarshan Chakra, an ambitious **indigenous air defence system** to be fully developed by 2035.

About

- The mission, named after Lord Krishna's mythological weapon, is a **comprehensive air defence initiative** to build a robust **indigenous shield** against aerial threats.
- It seeks to ensure that all public places in India are protected under a nationwide security shield by **2035**.

Key Air-Defence Systems of other countries

Country/Region	Key Systems
Russia	S-400 Triumph, S-300VM, S-350 Vityaz, S-500 Prometheus
USA	THAAD, Patriot (PAC-3 MSE), Golden Dome (in development)

Country/Region	Key Systems
Israel	Iron Dome, David's Sling, Iron Beam
China	HQ-9, HQ-22, HQ-16
European Sky Shield Initiative (ESSI)	Skyranger, IRIS-T SLM

6. (b)

Context

- The 12th edition of the Sri Lanka-India Naval Exercise, **SLINEX-25**, saw the arrival of Indian Naval ships **INS Rana** (Guided Missile Destroyer) and **INS Jyoti** (Fleet Tanker) at Colombo.

About the Exercise

- SLINEX is a **bilateral naval exercise** conceptualised in **2005** to strengthen maritime cooperation between India and Sri Lanka.
 - The previous edition of SLINEX was conducted at **Visakhapatnam, India** from 17 to 20 Dec 2024.
- Structure of SLINEX-25:**
 - Harbour Phase:** Conducted in Colombo
 - Sea Phase:** Joint operations at sea
- Strategic Significance:** SLINEX aligns with India's policy of **MAHASAGAR** — *Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions*.

7. (b)

Context

- According to the Department of Defence Production, the **private sector contributed ₹33,979 crore (22.56%)** to India's total defence production of ₹1,50,590 crore in **FY 2024-25**.
 - This marks the highest-ever private participation since 2016-17, when the share was 19%.

Defence Production in India

- Sectoral Contribution:** In FY 2024-25, defence public sector undertakings (**DPSUs**) accounted for **57.50%** of the total defence production, while **Indian ordnance factories contributed 14.49%**, and non-defence PSUs 5.4%.
- Defence Budget Growth:** Increased from ₹2.53 lakh crore in 2013-14 to ₹6.81 lakh crore in 2025-26.
- In 2024-25**, India achieved its highest-ever defence production of **₹1.50 lakh crore**, more than three times the ₹46,429 crore recorded in 2014-15.
- Surge in Indigenous Defence Production:** 65% of defence equipment is now manufactured domestically, a significant shift from the earlier 65-70% import dependency.
- India targets **₹3 lakh crore** in defence production by **2029**, reinforcing its position as a global defence manufacturing hub.

8. (b)

In News : Indian Army has initiated Exercise Samanvay Shakti 2025 in Tinsukia district of Assam.

Exercise Samanvay Shakti 2025 is a landmark collaboration with state officials of Assam & Manipur to foster efficient cooperation, cohesion and mutual understanding.

- It is a 10 day **Military-Civil Integration Exercise** which aims at fostering synergy between security forces, government departments and civil institutions to address the region's complex challenges through a unified and coordinated approach.

9. (c)

Context

- India recently carried out a successful launch of the **Agni-5 ballistic missile** under the command of the **Strategic Forces Command (SFC)**.
 - Strategic Forces Command (SFC)** is a part of **India's Nuclear Command Authority (NCA)** responsible for the management, training, and operational deployment of India's tactical and strategic nuclear weapons arsenal.

About Agni-5 Missile

- Type:** Nuclear-capable **Surface-to-Surface Ballistic Missile (SSBM)**.
 - SSBM Powered by rockets initially, but follow an unpowered ballistic trajectory after burnout, arching upwards before descending onto the target.
- Range:** Over 5,000 km, placing it in the category of Intermediate Range Ballistic Missiles (IRBM).
- Propulsion:** Three-stage solid-fuel engine.
- Developer:** Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- Programme Link:** Part of the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP), under which other missiles like Prithvi, Trishul, Nag, and Akash were also developed.
- MIRV Capability:** Can be equipped with Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicles (MIRVs), enabling a single missile to carry and deliver multiple warheads at different targets.
- Strategic Status:** Puts India in the elite club of nations like the US, Russia, China, and France, which possess similar missile technology.

10. (b)

In News: Recently, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) announced that the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully conducted the **first flight-tests of the Integrated Air Defence Weapon System (IADWS)** off the **coast of Odisha**.

Statement 1 is not correct

- IADWS is entirely indigenous, developed by India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- IADWS is a **land-based air defence system** meant to protect strategic ground assets.

Statement 2 is correct

- IADWS uses kinetic missiles and includes directed energy weapons, which uses high-powered lasers to neutralize aerial threats.

11. (d)

Context

- The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has launched its **first all-women commando unit** to boost gender parity.
 - These commandos will be deployed in Quick Reaction Teams and Special Task Forces at high-security sites.

About the CISF

- It is a **paramilitary force** that came into existence in the year **1969** under the CISF Act, 1968. Every year, CISF Raising Day is observed on **March 10**.
- It operates under the **Ministry of Home Affairs** and is responsible for providing security to various critical infrastructure installations and industries including the Department of Space, the Department of Atomic Energy, **Parliament complex**, the Airports, the Delhi Metro, the ports across the country.

- Presently, CISF is also providing security to the protected persons classified as **Z Plus, Z, X, Y**.
- CISF is the only force with a customized and dedicated **fire wing**.

12. (b)

Context

- The United States and Indonesia have launched the largest-ever edition of the Super Garuda Shield military exercise.

About

- The **Garuda Shield exercise** originally began as a bilateral **U.S.–Indonesian army** exercise in **2007**.
 - In **2022**, the exercise was expanded and rebranded as Super Garuda Shield, involving multiple Indo-Pacific partners and transforming into a multinational exercise.
- **Multinational Participation:** Troops from **12** other countries such as Japan, Australia, Singapore, the UK, France, Canada, South Korea, Thailand, Brunei, Brazil, India, and New Zealand.
 - Observer teams include Cambodia, India, and Papua New Guinea.
- **Geographical Spread:** Drills conducted in and around Jakarta, Sumatra, and the Riau archipelago.

13. (b)

Context

- Over **700 Indian Armed Forces personnel** are set to participate in **Exercise Bright Star 2025**.

About the Exercise

- Exercise Bright Star is a **multilateral exercise** hosted by Egypt in conjunction with the US since **1980** and is amongst the largest **Tri-Service multilateral exercises** in the region.
- The exercise is held **biennially**, with the last edition having taken place in 2023, which witnessed the participation of a host of nations including **India** along with troops.

14. (b)

Context

- The United States has approved the sale of 3,350 Extended Range Attack Munitions (ERAM) missiles to Ukraine.

The ERAMs

- **Type:** Next-generation, air-launched, precision-guided missile.
- **Range and Warhead:** With a range of **240 to 450 kilometers** and a **500-pound warhead**, these missiles can hit supply depots, command centers, and critical infrastructure deep inside occupied territories, including **Crimea**.
- **Guidance:** GPS, inertial navigation, and terminal seeker, with accuracy within **10 meters**, even under electronic jamming.
- **Launch Platforms:** Modular design allows deployment on Western fighter jets like F-16s or retrofitting on Soviet-era aircraft.

15. (a)

In News: The Indian Navy simultaneously commissioned two Nilgiri-class stealth guided-missile frigates, the INS Udaygiri and INS Himgiri, at Visakhapatnam.

Udaygiri

- INS Udaygiri is the **second ship of the Project 17A stealth frigates** built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) in Mumbai.

- It is the 100th ship designed by the Navy's in-house Warship Design Bureau.
- It is a modern Avatar of its predecessor, erstwhile INS Udaygiri which was a Steam Ship, decommissioned in August 2007 after rendering 31 years of glorious service to the nation.
- It also holds the distinction of being the fastest ship of her class to be delivered post-launch.

Himgiri

- INS Himgiri is the first of the Project 17A ships constructed by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.
- It is a reincarnation of the erstwhile INS Himgiri, a Leander-class frigate, that was decommissioned in May 2005 after 30 years of glorious service to the nation.

16. (b)

In News

- The 7th meeting of the Joint Committee on Defence Cooperation (JCDC) was held recently.

Brief About India and Saudi Arabia Relations

- **Historical Linkages:** The historic visit of King Abdullah to India in **2006 led to the Delhi Declaration**, marking enhanced bilateral cooperation.
 - In **2010, the Riyadh Declaration** further elevated the relationship to a Strategic Partnership during Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's visit to Saudi Arabia.
- **Economic Cooperation:** India is Saudi Arabia's second largest trade partner; Saudi Arabia ranks as India's fifth largest trading partner.
 - Bilateral trade reached approximately USD 42.98 billion in FY 2023-24, with Indian exports worth USD 11.56 billion and imports of USD 31.42 billion from Saudi Arabia.
- **Energy Partnership:** Saudi Arabia remains India's third largest crude oil & LPG supplier.
- **Defence Partnership:** The defence relationship has strengthened with extensive naval cooperation, two editions of the bilateral naval exercise **Al Mohed Al Hindi**, and the first-ever India-Saudi joint land force exercise **EX-SADA TANSEEQ-I** held in India in 2024.
- **Cultural Relations:** India was 'Guest of Honour' at Saudi Arabia's 32nd National Festival of Heritage and Culture (JANADRIYAH) in 2018.
 - In 2017, the Saudi Arabian government approved the practice of yoga as a sports activity.

17. (b)

Context

- The Indian Army and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) wrapped up a high-altitude exercise **Achook Prahar** in Arunachal Pradesh.

About the Exercise

- It was conducted under **simulated combat conditions**, the drill tested **interoperability** between Army and ITBP, reaffirming the **combat readiness** of Armed Forces and CAPFs in safeguarding the nation's frontiers.
- It reinforces India's **layered defence architecture** and **rapid-response capability** in the sensitive eastern sector bordering **China**.
- It follows a series of recent integrated exercises — such as **Prachand Prahar** and **Poorvi Prahar** — that have tested India's tri-service capabilities in the high-altitude terrain of Arunachal Pradesh.



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1. The “Joint Sea-2025” naval drills are conducted between which two countries?
 - (a) Russia and India
 - (b) China and Russia
 - (c) Japan and China
 - (d) India and South Korea
2. With reference to The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), often mentioned in news, consider the following statements:
 1. It came into existence in June 1997 through the ‘Bangkok Declaration’.
 2. It was originally formed by Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand.
 3. It focuses only on areas of trade, energy, and counter-terrorism.

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 the *OPEC & OPEC+ alliances*, consider the following statements:
 1. OPEC was established in 1960 by Saudi Arabia, Iran, Venezuela, Kuwait and Iraq.
 2. OPEC+ was formed in 2016 after the adoption of the ‘Algiers Accord’.

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 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, consider the following statements:
 1. It was signed between the United States and the Soviet Union in 1947 and entered into force in 1948.
 2. The treaty required elimination of all ground-launched missiles with ranges between 500 and 5,500 kilometres.

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 Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), consider the following statements:
1. BIMSTEC was established through the Bangkok Declaration in 1997.
 2. Bangladesh, India and Malaysia are among the founding members.
 3. The BIMSTEC Secretariat is located in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

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

6. With reference to the 'India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)', consider the following statements:
1. The East Corridor of IMEC connects India to Europe directly.
 2. It is expected to cut the cost of shipping in comparison to the Red Sea route.

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. The "Ulchi Freedom Shield" exercise, recently in news, is:
- (a) A trilateral naval drill between the US, Japan, and South Korea to secure Indo-Pacific sea lanes.
 - (b) An annual South Korea–US military exercise to enhance readiness and cooperation for defending the Korean Peninsula.
 - (c) A multinational UN-led peacekeeping exercise in the Korean Peninsula region.
 - (d) A South Korean cyber-security drill against ransomware attacks.

8. With reference to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), consider the following statements:
1. UNHCR was established in 1950 by the UN Security Council in the aftermath of the Second World War.
 2. It acts as the guardian of the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol.
 3. UNHCR has received the Nobel Peace Prize twice, in 1954 and 1981.

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

9. With reference to India's border trade, consider the following statements:
1. Lipulekh Pass, Shipki La Pass, and Nathu La Pass are the land routes through which border trade between India and China is permitted.
 2. Lipulekh Pass also serves as an entry point for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

10. With reference to the *International Solar Alliance (ISA)*, consider the following statements:

- 1. The ISA was launched in 2015 by India and France at COP21 in Paris.
- 2. Its headquarters is located in Gurugram, India.
- 3. It has more than 150 Member and Signatory Countries as of 2025.

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

11. Which of the following are members of Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)?

- 1. France
- 2. Russia
- 3. Germany
- 4. Kazakhstan
- 5. Armenia

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

12. With reference to the World Food Programme (WFP), which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. WFP was established in 1945 after World War II to address global food security concerns.
- 2. WFP was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2020 for its efforts to combat hunger.

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

13. With reference to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), consider the following statements:

- 1. It was created in 1945 and headquarters is in Geneva.
- 2. Its policy-making bodies include the General Conference of all member states and a 35-member Board of Governors.
- 3. It was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005.

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. Which of the following reports is NOT published by the International Monetary Fund (IMF)?

- (a) World Economic Outlook
- (b) Global Financial Stability Report
- (c) Fiscal Monitor
- (d) Global Competitiveness Report

15. With reference to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The IMF was established in the aftermath of the First World War to finance post-war reconstruction.
2. The headquarters of the IMF is located in Geneva, Switzerland.

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

EXPLANATIONS

1. (b)

In News : China and Russia began joint naval drills in the Sea of Japan as they seek to reinforce their partnership and counterbalance what they see as a U.S.-led global order.

The “Joint Sea-2025” exercises would last for three days.

- China and Russia have carried out annual drills for several years, with the “Joint Sea” exercises beginning in 2012.

2. (a)

In News : The first-ever BIMSTEC Traditional Music Festival, titled ‘SaptaSur: Seven Nations, One Melody’ was held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

Statements 1 and 2 are correct : The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a grouping of seven Member States lying in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal.

- It is a unique link connecting South Asia with South-East Asia - five Members from South Asia (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka) and two from South-East Asia (Myanmar and Thailand).
- The organization came into existence on 6 June 1997 through the ‘Bangkok Declaration’.
- It was originally formed with four Member States with the acronym ‘BIST-EC’ (Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand Economic Cooperation).
 - **Following the inclusion of Myanmar in December 1997, it was renamed ‘BIMST-EC’ (Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand Economic Cooperation).** With the inclusion of Nepal and Bhutan in 2004, the name of the grouping was changed to BIMSTEC.

Statement 3 is not correct : BIMSTEC had initially **focused on six sectors in 1997 (trade, technology, energy, transport, tourism, and fisheries)** and **expanded in 2008 to incorporate agriculture, public health, poverty alleviation, counter-terrorism, environment, culture, people-to-people contact, and climate change.**

3. (c)

In News: Recently, the OPEC+ alliance announced that it will increase oil production by 547,000 barrels per day (bpd) starting in September, 2025.

Statement 1 is correct

- **OPEC** was established in **1960 at the Baghdad Conference** by Saudi Arabia, Iran, Venezuela, Kuwait and Iraq.
- It has **12 members**, viz. Algeria, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela.
 - Angola withdrew its membership effective 1 January 2024.
- It is headquartered in Vienna, Austria.

Statement 2 is correct

- OPEC+ is an **extended alliance of OPEC** that was created **to counterbalance US shale oil growth** and stabilize prices amid global volatility.
- It has 22 members, made up of **10 major, non-OPEC oil producing countries** (*Russia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Brunei, Bahrain, Mexico, Oman, South Sudan, Sudan and Malaysia*), **along with the 12 OPEC members.**
- It was formed in 2016 after the adoption of the **'Algiers Accord' by OPEC countries** and signing of the **'Vienna Agreement'** between OPEC and other major oil exporting countries.

4. (b)

In News

- Russia has officially withdrawn from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty.

The Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF)

- The INF Treaty was signed in December 1987 by the United States and the former Soviet Union, and entered into force on 1 June 1988.
- It required both countries to eliminate their ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles that could travel between 500 and 5,500 kilometres by an implementation deadline of 1 June 1991.
- It was crucial to **Euro-Atlantic security for decades** and it eliminated a whole category of nuclear weapons that threatened Europe in the 1980s.

5. (b)

Statement 1 is correct: The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a grouping of **seven Member States** lying in the **littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal.**

- The organization was formed in **1997** with the signing of the **Bangkok Declaration.**

Statement 2 is not correct: Founding Members (1997): Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand.

- **Current Members (7):** Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

Statement 3 is correct: BIMSTEC Secretariat: Dhaka, Bangladesh.

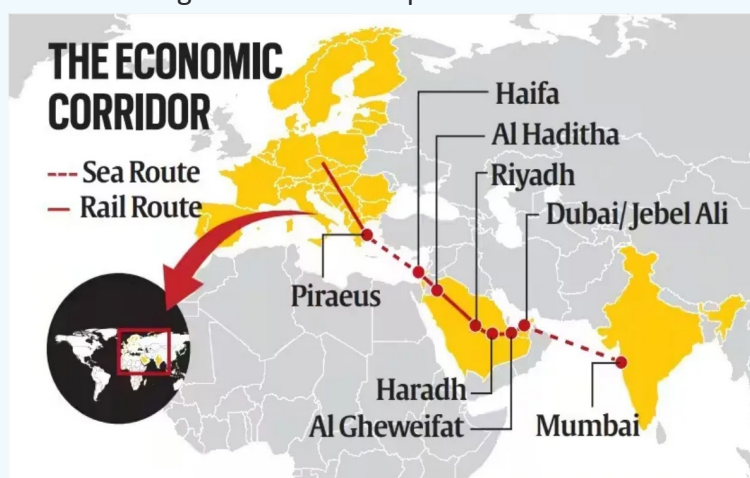
6. (b)

Context

- The India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) is an ambitious project, but progress has stalled due to the Israel–Gaza conflict.

About the IMEC

- Announced at the **2023 G20 Summit** in New Delhi, the IMEC aims to boost economic development by enhancing connectivity and integration between **Asia, the Arabian Gulf, and Europe**.
- **Partners:** India, United States, UAE, Saudi Arabia, France, Italy, Germany, Israel, Jordan and the European Union.
- The IMEC consists of **two corridors**:
 - **East Corridor:** Connecting India to the Gulf
 - **North Corridor:** Connecting the Gulf to Europe



- It is expected to cut shipping time from India to Europe by around 40% compared to the Red Sea route and reduce transit costs by 30%.

7. (b)

Context

- **South Korea and the United States** will conduct major joint military drills under **Ulchi Freedom Shield**.

About

- It is an **annual exercise** designed to reinforce readiness and cooperation across all domains to **defend the Korean Peninsula and the broader region**.
- **These exercises trace back to the 1960s** (Taeguk Exercise) and have evolved through various iterations including Ulchi-Focus Lens and, in 2008, were renamed Ulchi-Freedom Guardian.
- This year's drill will test upgraded responses to heightened North Korean nuclear threats as well as cutting-edge technologies used in modern wars.

8. (b)

Statement 1 is not correct: UNHCR was established in 1950 by the UN General Assembly, not the Security Council. Its headquarters are in Geneva, Switzerland.

Statement 2 is correct: It is the guardian of the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol.

Statement 3 is correct: UNHCR was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1954 and 1981.

9. (c)

Context

- Recently India-China held the **24th round of India-China Special Representative talks**.

Key Outcomes of the Dialogue

- Trade and Connectivity:**
 - Resumption of **direct flights** between India and China, facilitation of visas for tourists, businesses, media, and others.
 - Re-opening** of border trade through **Lipulekh Pass, Shipki La Pass, and Nathu La Pass**.
 - Facilitation of trade and investment flows, with China addressing India's key concerns such as **fertilisers, rare earths, tunnel boring machines**.
- People-to-People Engagement:**
 - Resumption of **Kailash Mansarovar Yatra** and discussion on **cultural exchanges**. (Lipulekh Pass also serves as an entry point for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra).
 - Plan to hold the 3rd High-Level Mechanism on People-to-People Exchanges in India in 2026.

10. (a)

In News

- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) will establish 17 centres of excellence globally and a Global Capability Centre in India to serve as a "Silicon Valley for solar" by the end of 2025.
 - These centres will offer training, testing, and startup support, with potential expansion to 50.

International Solar Alliance

- It is a global initiative launched in **2015 by India and France at COP21 in Paris**.
- It has **123 Member and Signatory Countries**.
- It is **headquartered at Gurugram in India**.
- It partners with global institutions to deploy solar solutions, especially in Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States, aiming to provide clean, affordable energy and drive sustainable development.
 - India has installed 119 GW of solar capacity as of July 2025.

11. (c)

In News: India and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) signed the Terms of Reference (ToR) to launch negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) today in Moscow.

- The Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) is an international organization of regional economic integration with international legal personality.
- It is established by treaty to promote regional economic integration.
- Members:** It comprises **Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic and the Russia**
 - The Union membership is open for any state, which shares the goals and principles of the EAEU, on the terms agreed by Member States.
- Its goal is to enhance cooperation, boost competitiveness, and support the stable development of member economies.
- It ensures the free movement of goods, services, capital, and labor, and pursues coordinated policies among its members.

12. (b)

Context

- The Government of India and the **World Food Programme (WFP)** signed a **Letter of Intent (LoI)** to collaborate in **addressing global hunger**.
 - India will provide **WFP fortified rice** to support nutritional needs of vulnerable populations in food-insecure regions.

About World Food Programme

- The World Food Programme (WFP) is the world's largest humanitarian organization, **established in 1961** by the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** and the **UN General Assembly**.
- **Headquarters:** Rome, Italy.
- **Executive Board:** The Executive Board is WFP's supreme governing body.
 - It consists of **36 Member States** and provides intergovernmental support, direction and supervision of activities.
- **WFP is headed by an Executive Director**, appointed for **fixed five-year terms** and is responsible for the administration of WFP as well as the implementation of its programmes, projects and other activities.
- The WFP operates in over **120 countries and territories**, relying on voluntary contributions from governments, organizations, and individuals to fund its work.
 - The first development programme was launched in **Sudan in 1963**.
 - WFP was awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize in 2020**.

13. (b)

Statement 1 is not correct: The IAEA was created in 1957 as the central intergovernmental forum for nuclear cooperation. Its headquarters is in Vienna, Austria, not Geneva, Switzerland.

Statement 2 is correct: Its policy-making bodies include the General Conference of all member states and a 35-member Board of Governors.

Statement 3 is correct: The IAEA was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005.

14. (d)

The Global Competitiveness Report is published by the World Economic Forum (WEF).

Context

- The Union government has approved the appointment of former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Urjit Patel as Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a period of **three years**.

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

- **Origin:** The IMF was established in **1944** in the aftermath of the Great Depression of the 1930s.
- **Membership:** The organization is currently composed of **191 member** countries. Each member's representation on the Executive Board is determined by its financial contribution (quota).
- **Executive Board:** The Board consists of **25 Executive Directors**, elected by member countries or groups of countries.
 - India belongs to a four-country constituency along with Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan.
- **Headquarters:** Washington, D.C
- **Publications:** World Economic Outlook, Global Financial Stability Report, Fiscal Monitor, Global Policy Agenda.

- The primary goal of the IMF back then was to bring about international economic coordination to **prevent competing currency devaluation** by countries trying to promote their own exports.
- It is regarded as the **global lender of last resort** to national governments, and a leading supporter of exchange-rate stability.

15. (d)

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

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- It is regarded as the **global lender of last resort** to national governments, and a leading supporter of exchange-rate stability.



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

1. With reference to the Darwin Tree of Life (DTOL) project, consider the following statements:
1. Its primary objective is to sequence the genomes of all eukaryotic species in Britain and Ireland.
 2. The project is a key part of the global Earth BioGenome Project (EBP).
 3. The project aims to sequence 70,000 species of eukaryotic organisms.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

2. With reference to the Human Outer Planet Exploration (HOPE) initiative, consider the following statements:
1. It is a high-altitude research station in Ladakh designed to simulate deep space environments.
 2. The initiative includes studies on human physiology, psychology, and epigenetics.
 3. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is solely responsible for running the HOPE station.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

3. With reference to the *BlueBird Communications Satellite*, consider the following statements:
1. It is set to be launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
 2. It is designed to provide direct-to-mobile broadband connectivity from space, targeting underserved regions across the globe.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

4. Consider the following statements regarding the Bharat Forecast System (BharatFS):
1. It provides weather forecasts at a horizontal resolution of 6 km.
 2. The system uses a Triangular Cubic Octahedral (TCO) grid model for improved accuracy.

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 Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), consider the following statements:

- 1. NCDs are also known as chronic diseases and are usually of short duration.
- 2. Cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases, and diabetes are major types of NCDs.
- 3. Unhealthy diet, physical inactivity, tobacco use, and harmful use of alcohol are major behavioural risk factors associated with NCDs.

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 Environmental DNA (eDNA), consider the following statements:

- 1. It can be collected from sources like water, soil, and air.
- 2. It includes DNA from cells, tissues, fluids, and excrement.
- 3. It is a highly sensitive method for biodiversity monitoring.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

7. With reference to Hepatitis D Virus (HDV), consider the following statements:

- 1. HDV can infect individuals even in the absence of Hepatitis B infection.
- 2. There is currently no separate vaccine for HDV.
- 3. HDV infection significantly increases the risk of liver cirrhosis and cancer.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

8. With reference to Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD), consider the following statements:

- 1. HFMD is a viral illness that commonly affects children and spreads rapidly in settings like schools and day care centres.
- 2. It is transmitted through infected droplets, surfaces, and fecal matter.
- 3. There is a widely available vaccine that can prevent HFMD.

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

9. The term '*Prophylaxis*', sometimes appeared in the news, is in the context of:

- (a) Lymphatic Filariasis Care
- (b) Encephalitis & Meningitis Care
- (c) Haemophilia Care
- (d) Treating Plasmodium Falciparum

10. Which of the following best describes TRISO fuel?

- (a) A liquid-based nuclear fuel used in pressurized water reactors
- (b) A high-performance nuclear fuel composed of uranium encapsulated in multiple protective layers
- (c) A fusion-based fuel derived from deuterium and tritium
- (d) A fast-breeder reactor coolant substitute

11. Which of the following statements about Bharat Forecast System (BharatFS) is/are correct?

1. It is developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation.
2. It uses the Triangular Cubic Octahedral (TCO) dynamical grid, enabling a 6 km horizontal spatial resolution.

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

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

12. With reference to the '*Sleeping Sickness*', consider the following statements:

1. It is a vector-borne disease caused by protozoans of the genus *Trypanosoma*.
2. It is endemic in sub-Saharan Africa.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

13. What is the primary function of stem cells in the human body?

- (a) They produce antibodies to mediate an adaptive immune response.
- (b) They transmit nerve signals and crucial for communication
- (c) They play a key role in repair and regeneration.
- (d) They help in food digestion in the intestines.

14. With reference to the Dengue, consider the following statements:

1. It is transmitted primarily by the Aedes aegypti mosquito.
2. The virus has four distinct serotypes.
3. The disease can spread directly from person to person without a mosquito vector.

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

15. With reference to the international legal framework governing activities in outer space, consider the following statements:

1. The Outer Space Treaty (1967) prohibits the placement of nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction anywhere in outer space or on celestial bodies.
2. The Moon Agreement (1979), to which India is a party, recognises the Moon's resources as the "common heritage of mankind."

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

16. Consider the following statements:

1. Satellites in geostationary orbit (GEO) fly above Earth's equator, moving from west to east.
2. International Space Station orbits in Low Earth orbit (LEO) which encompasses Earth-centered orbits with an altitude of 2,000 km.

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

17. With reference to the 'Earth Observation (EO) Satellites', consider the following statements:

1. EO satellites work by capturing electromagnetic radiation reflected or emitted from Earth's surface.
2. These satellites orbit the Earth in Low Earth Orbit (LEO) or Sun-Synchronous Polar Orbit (SSPO).

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

- 18.** With reference to the *Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)*, consider the following statements:
1. It is derived from renewable feedstocks like used cooking oil and agricultural waste.
 2. It can be blended with conventional jet fuel and used in existing aircraft engines without modification.
- 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.** Black Hole in the context of astrophysics, is:
- (a) A star that has completely cooled and emits no radiation
(b) A dense region of space with gravity so strong that not even light can escape
(c) A neutron star in the final stage of stellar collapse
(d) A massive body emitting high levels of electromagnetic radiation
- 20.** With reference to the '*Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM)*', consider the following statements:
1. It is caused by *Naegleria fowleri*, a free-living amoeba found in warm, stagnant freshwater.
 2. It is a contagious disease that spreads from person to person.
- 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 Uranus, consider the following statements:
1. Uranus is the seventh planet from the sun, and the third-largest planet in the solar system.
 2. Uranus now has a total of 20 moons, five of which are considered major moons.
- 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.** PARAM Rudra and PARAM Shavak, recently seen in the news, are associated with which of the following?
- (a) Indigenous Light Combat Aircraft of India
(b) Supercomputing systems
(c) Next-generation satellites for weather forecasting
(d) Advanced missile defence systems of DRDO
- 23.** With reference to Coal Gasification, consider the following statements:
1. It converts coal into synthesis gas consisting of carbon monoxide and hydrogen.
 2. Compared to direct burning of coal, gasification reduces emissions of particulate matter.

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 the Gaganyaan Mission, consider the following statements:

1. Gaganyaan is India's first human spaceflight mission, undertaken by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
2. India plans its first crewed Gaganyaan flight in 2027.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

25. 'Crew Health and Performance Exploration Analog (CHAPEA) habitat' often seen in the news, is related to the exploration of which of the following Celestial bodies?

- (a) Sun
- (b) Moon
- (c) Venus
- (d) Mars

26. *Werewolf Syndrome*, recently seen in the news, is related to which of the following?

- (a) A genetic disorder causing excessive hair growth on the body and face
- (b) A rare zoonotic disease transmitted from wolves to humans
- (c) A psychological condition where individuals believe they are werewolves
- (d) A hormonal disorder caused by excess androgen production

27. Consider the following statements with reference to Glanders.

1. It is caused by the bacterium *Escherichia coli* and can be transmitted to humans.
2. It primarily affects equines such as horses, mules, and donkeys.
3. It is notifiable under the Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals (PCICDA) Act, 2009.

How many of the above are considered as alternative powertrain vehicles?

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

28. With reference to *Parkinson's Disease (PD)*, consider the following statements:

1. It occurs due to the loss of dopamine-producing neurons in the brain.
2. The disease is linked to the abnormal misfolding and aggregation of a protein called α -synuclein.

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

29. Consider the following statements regarding Brown Dwarfs:

1. These objects form like stars from collapsing clouds of gas and dust.
2. They do not have sufficient mass to sustain hydrogen fusion in their cores.
3. They have atmospheres similar to gas giant planets such as Jupiter and Saturn.

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

30. With reference to SpaceX's Starship, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Starship is a two-stage, fully reusable rocket system designed for missions to Earth orbit, the Moon, and Mars.
2. The fuel combination used in Starship is Kerosene and Liquid Oxygen (LOX).

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

31. Consider the following statements:

1. The Deep Ocean Mission was launched in 2015 as a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
2. India's first manned submersible vehicle 'MATSYA 6000' is being developed as part of the Samudrayaan Project.

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. Consider the following statements:

1. National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) is an autonomous and single window nodal agency in the Department of Space.
2. NewSpace India Ltd (NSIL) acts as the commercial arm of the Department of Space.

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)

Statement 1 is correct: The Darwin Tree of Life (DTOL) project's primary objective is to sequence the genomes of all eukaryotic species in Britain and Ireland. This includes animals, plants, fungi, and protists specific to that region.

Statement 2 is correct: The DTOL project is indeed a key part of the global Earth BioGenome Project (EBP), which aims to sequence all complex life on Earth.

Statement 3 is correct: The project aims to sequence approximately 70,000 species of eukaryotic organisms found in Britain and Ireland, aligning with the total expected number of species in those regions.

2. (a)

Context

- To prepare for future manned missions to the **Moon and possibly Mars**, Bengaluru-based space science organisation **Protoplanet** has launched the **Human Outer Planet Exploration (HOPE)** initiative at Tso Kar, Ladakh.

About HOPE

- It is a high-altitude research station designed to simulate **deep space environments** on Earth.
- Selected crew members will undertake **10-day isolation missions** to test human **adaptability and resilience**.
- The mission includes **physiological, psychological, and epigenetic studies** to aid long-duration space travel.
- **Tso Kar's** cold desert and high-altitude conditions closely mimic the environment of the **Moon and Mars**. The location was researched for nearly **nine years** before setup.

3. (c)

In News: India's ISRO gearing up for next US collaboration with BlueBird communications satellite launch, after NISAR.

Statement 1 is correct

- The BlueBird communications satellite, developed by the **US-based AST SpaceMobile Inc.**, is set to be **launched by the ISRO aboard its LVM3 (formerly GSLV Mk III) launch vehicle from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota**.

Statement 2 is correct

- It is designed to provide **direct-to-mobile broadband connectivity** from space, targeting underserved regions across the globe.
- It is part of **AST SpaceMobile's vision** to build a **space-based cellular broadband network** that works with standard mobile phones.

4. (c)

Statement 1 is correct: BharatFS provides weather forecasts at a horizontal resolution of 6 km. This is one of the defining features of the system, offering highly localized and precise predictions—the highest resolution among global operational weather models.

Statement 2 is correct: The system uses a Triangular Cubic Octahedral (TCO) grid model for improved accuracy. BharatFS is explicitly based on the newly implemented TCO dynamical grid, enabling better computational efficiency and increased resolution over the tropics.

5. (b)

Statement 1 is not correct: NCDs also known as **chronic diseases**, tend to be of **long duration** and are the result of a combination of genetic, physiological, environmental and behavioural factors.

Statement 2 and 3 are correct: The main types of NCDs are cardiovascular diseases (such as heart attacks and stroke), cancers, chronic respiratory diseases (such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and asthma) and diabetes.

- **The major NCDs share four behavioral risk factors:** unhealthy diet, lack of physical activity, and use of tobacco and alcohol.

6. (d)

Statement 1 is correct: Environmental DNA (eDNA) can be collected from various sources including water, soil, and air as environmental samples.

Statement 2 is correct: eDNA includes DNA from cells, tissues, fluids, excrement, and other biological material shed by organisms into the environment.

Statement 3 is correct: eDNA is a highly sensitive and non-invasive method for biodiversity monitoring, capable of detecting a wide range of organisms including rare, elusive, or microscopic species, and is increasingly used for ecological and conservation purposes.

7. (a)

Context

- The World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has reclassified the Hepatitis D virus (HDV) as carcinogenic to humans, placing it alongside Hepatitis B and C as known causes of liver cancer.

About HDV and Global Burden

- Hepatitis B, C, and D affect over 300 million people worldwide, contributing to 1.3 million deaths annually, mainly from **liver cirrhosis and cancer**.
 - HDV infects nearly 5% of people with chronic HBV, equating to around 12 million individuals globally.
- **High-Risk Populations:** Residents of Asia, Africa, the Amazon Basin (high HBV prevalence), People who inject drugs, Haemodialysis patients.
- **The virus spreads** through infected blood, unprotected sex, unsafe injections, or occasionally passes from mother to child during birth.
- **Symptoms include** fatigue, nausea, abdominal discomfort, dark urine or yellowing of the skin.
- **Treatment:** HBV can be controlled with life-long antivirals. The antiviral bulevirtide has emerged in Europe as an approved therapy alongside pegylated interferon.

Why is hepatitis D considered dangerous?

- HDV can only infect individuals **who already carry HBV**.
 - Co-infection or superinfection with HBV increases liver cancer risk 2 to 6 times compared to HBV alone.
 - Up to 75% of chronic HDV patients develop liver cirrhosis within 15 years.
- **Prevention:**
 - There is **no separate vaccine** for HDV.
 - The only way to eliminate HDV is through universal HBV vaccination and testing.

8. (a)

In News

- Schools in Delhi have issued advisories urging parents to isolate children showing symptoms of **Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD)**.

Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD)

- About:** HFMD is a common illness that usually causes fever, mouth sores, and skin rash. It can spread quickly at schools and day care centers.
- Transmission:** HFMD spreads through contact with infected droplets, surfaces, blister fluid, or poop.
- Prevention:** There's no specific treatment for hand-foot-and-mouth disease. Most people get better in 7 to 10 days.
 - But certain medicines can ease pain and general discomfort in the meantime.

9. (c)

In News: Haemophilia, a rare inherited bleeding disorder, has long been associated with painful bleeds, joint damage, and life-threatening complications.

- It is caused by a deficiency of clotting factors — most commonly Factor VIII (Haemophilia A) or Factor IX (Haemophilia B).
- India is estimated to have 1 to 1.5 lakh haemophilia patients, but only 29,000 have been diagnosed — just 20% of the expected cases.
- Prophylaxis** refers to the **regular administration of clotting factor concentrates or newer non-factor therapies to prevent bleeding episodes**. Prophylaxis aims to:
 - Maintain clotting factor levels consistently.
 - Prevent joint damage and disability.
 - Enable patients to lead active, pain-free lives.

10. (b)

TRISO fuel stands for TRi-structural ISOtropic particle fuel. It consists of a uranium-based fuel kernel (usually uranium dioxide or uranium carbide) at the center, which is encapsulated by multiple coatings of protective layers. These layers typically include:

- A porous carbon buffer layer
- An inner pyrolytic carbon layer
- A silicon carbide ceramic layer
- An outer pyrolytic carbon layer

This multi-layer coating provides exceptional containment of fission products, structural strength, and the ability to withstand very high temperatures, making TRISO fuel very robust and safer for use in high-temperature gas-cooled reactors (HTGRs) and advanced nuclear reactors.

11. (b)

Context

- India has developed Bharat Forecast System (BharatFS), an advanced weather prediction model that improves extreme rainfall forecasting accuracy by 30% compared to earlier models.

About BharatFS

- BharatFS (Bharat Forecast System)** is India's most advanced real-time global weather prediction model, **developed by IITM-Pune** in collaboration with NCMRWF-Noida and the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

- It is a **flagship product of the “Make in India” initiative** and supports the Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) vision.
- BharatFS uses the **Triangular Cubic Octahedral (TCO) dynamical grid**, enabling ultra-high horizontal spatial **resolution of 6 km**—the highest globally for operational real-time models.
 - This is a leap from the **previous GFS T1534 model (12 km resolution)** and surpasses most leading global models that operate between 9–14 km.
- Its improved resolution allows highly localized forecasts, supporting disaster management and agricultural decision-making down to cluster-of-panchayat/village level.

12. (c)

Context

- WHO has announced that **Kenya has eliminated sleeping sickness** as a public health problem.

About the Sleeping Sickness

- It is a vector-borne disease, also known as **Human African Trypanosomiasis (HAT)**, and is endemic in sub-Saharan Africa.
- It is caused by **protozoans of the genus Trypanosoma**, transmitted to humans by bites of **tsetse flies** (glossina) which have acquired the parasites from infected humans or animals.
- Rural populations dependent on **agriculture, fishing, animal husbandry or hunting** are deemed most at risk of exposure.
- **Symptoms** include fever, headaches, joint pain, and, in advanced stages, neurological symptoms like confusion, disrupted sleep patterns, and behavioral changes.
- Without treatment, it is generally **fatal**. Common treatments include **Pentamidine and Nifurtimox**.

13. (c)

India’s first-of-its-kind state-of-the-art Animal Stem Cell Biobank and Animal Stem Cell Laboratory opened at the National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NIAB), Hyderabad. **Stem cells** are special cells capable of developing into various cell types in the body and play a key role in repair and regeneration.

- The two main types are embryonic stem cells and adult stem cells.

India’s first Animal Stem Cell Biobank and Laboratory will focus on **regenerative medicine** and **cellular therapies for livestock**.

- **It is equipped** with a stem cell culture unit, 3D bioprinter, bacterial culture lab, cryostorage, autoclave rooms, advanced air handling systems, and uninterrupted power backup.
- It is supported by the **National Biopharma Mission (NBM)** of DBT–BIRAC.

14. (a)

Statement 1 and 2 are correct: Dengue is a **mosquito-borne viral disease** caused by the **Dengue virus (DENV)**, which has **four serotypes** (DENV-1, DENV-2, DENV-3, and DENV-4).

- It is transmitted primarily by the **Aedes aegypti mosquito**.

Statement 3 is not correct: Spread: The virus **does not spread person-to-person directly**.

- A mosquito becomes infected by biting a person already infected with the virus, and then can **transmit the virus to another person through a subsequent bite**.

15. (a)

Statement 1 is correct: Outer Space Treaty (1967):

- **Permissible:** It permits peaceful purposes on the Moon and other celestial bodies and bans nuclear weapons/WMD anywhere in space or on celestial bodies.
- **Article IX:** States must act with due regard to the interests of others; hence, no territorial claims can be made.

Statement 2 is not correct: Moon Agreement (1979) (few parties; not widely accepted): It adds environmental and rescue duties on the Moon; recognizes the Moon's resources as the "**common heritage**". Applies only to its Parties.

- **India is a signatory to the Outer Space Treaty, but not to the Moon Agreement.** India is also a signatory to the Artemis Accords (2023), in which parties commit to transparency, establishing safety zones, and sharing data.

16. (d)

In News: Various countries across the globe are increasingly viewing the Satellite internet as a new dimension of strategic power.

Statements 1 and 2 are correct:

- **Satellite Internet** is a type of internet connection that uses satellites to provide broadband service.
- It works by transmitting data between a satellite dish installed at the user's location and an orbiting satellite, which then communicates with a network operations center on the ground. Satellites are deployed in three main orbits: **the Geostationary Earth Orbit (GEO), the Medium Earth Orbit (MEO), and the Low Earth Orbit (LEO).**
 - Satellites in geostationary orbit (GEO) fly above Earth's equator, moving from west to east, exactly matching Earth's rotation: taking 23 hours 56 minutes and 4 seconds to complete one full orbit, i.e. the duration of a sidereal day.
- **Low Earth Orbit (LEO) refers to Earth-centered orbits up to 1,200 miles (2,000 km) in altitude.** It is close enough for easy transportation, communication, observation, and resupply. The International Space Station orbits in LEO, and many future space platforms are planned for this region.

17. (c)

In News: Recently, India launched its **first fully indigenous commercial Earth Observation (EO) satellite** constellation.

- It is the **first time a private Indian consortium**, led by PixxelSpace, will design, build, launch, and operate under a **PPP model**.

Statement 1 is correct

- **Earth Observation (EO) Satellites** work by **capturing electromagnetic radiation** reflected or emitted from Earth's surface.
- They use specialized sensors to detect and record data across various spectral bands—visible, infrared, microwave, and more.

Statement 2 is correct

- These satellites **orbit the Earth in Low Earth Orbit (LEO) or Sun-Synchronous Polar Orbit (SSPO)**, allowing them to **revisit the same location at regular intervals** and capture high-resolution imagery.

18. (c)

In News: The Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) expects to start producing Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) on a commercial scale at its Panipat refinery by the end of 2025.

Statement 1 is correct

- **Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)** is a **biofuel** that mimics the chemistry of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) but is produced from sustainable sources such as:
 - Used cooking oil;
 - Agricultural residues;
 - Forestry waste;
 - Municipal solid waste;
 - Sugarcane molasses and ethanol (alcohol-to-jet pathway)
- It offers up to 80% lower carbon emissions compared to conventional jet fuel.

Statement 2 is correct

- **Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)** is a '**drop-in**' fuel, meaning it can be blended with conventional jet fuel and used in existing aircraft engines without modification.
- **India's National Biofuel Coordination Committee (NBCC)** has set indicative SAF blending targets:
 - 1% blending for international flights by 2027;
 - 2% blending by 2028;
 - Domestic flight mandates are expected to follow after international adoption begins.

19. (b)

Context

- Astronomers have recently observed a previously unknown type of supernova, in which a massive star exploded under the gravitational influence of a black hole companion.

What is a Black Hole?

- A black hole is an **extremely dense object** whose gravity is so strong that nothing, not even light, can escape it.
- **Characteristics:** A black hole **does not have a surface**, like a planet or star. Instead, it is a region of space where matter has collapsed in on itself, resulting in a huge amount of mass being concentrated in an incredibly small area.
 - The center of a black hole is a **gravitational singularity**, a point where the general theory of relativity breaks down. A black hole's great **gravitational pull emerges** as if from the singularity.
 - **Event horizon** is the boundary around a black hole. It marks the point beyond which nothing can return.
- The concept of black holes was theorized by **Albert Einstein in 1915** through his **General Theory of Relativity**.
 - The term "black hole" was later coined by **John Archibald Wheeler** in the 1960s.

20. (a)

In News: Recently, the Health Department in Kozhikode, Kerala, has issued a public health alert following the detection cases of **primary amoebic meningoencephalitis (PAM)** — a rare but deadly brain infection.

Statement 1 is correct

- ‘**Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM)**’ is caused by **Naegleria fowleri**, a free-living amoeba found in warm, stagnant freshwater.
- It occurs when contaminated water enters the body through the nose, allowing the amoeba to travel to the brain.

Statement 2 is not correct

- It is **not transmitted from person to person**, but has a very high mortality rate. PAM is **not contagious**; it occurs when *Naegleria fowleri* enters the body through the nose, typically from contaminated water.

21. (a)

Statement 1 is correct: Uranus is the seventh planet from the sun, and the third-largest planet in the solar system.

- **Discovery:** First identified as a planet by Sir William Herschel in 1781 (previously mistaken for a star).
- **Composition:** An ice giant, made mostly of hydrogen, helium, water, methane, and ammonia.

Statement 2 is not correct: While Uranus now has a total of **29 moons**, five of them are considered major moons: Miranda, Ariel, Umbriel, Titania, and Oberon.

- **Exploration:** Only visited once—by Voyager 2 in 1986.

22. (b)

Context

- National Supercomputing Mission Powers India’s Research Ecosystem with 37 supercomputers with a total computing power of 40 Petaflops.

Indigenous Technological Achievements

- India has developed end-to-end capabilities in designing, developing, and manufacturing HPC hardware and software stacks.
- **PARAM Rudra:** Deployed at GMRT Pune, IUAC Delhi, and S.N. Bose Centre Kolkata.
 - Built with Rudra servers, the first indigenously designed HPC-class servers at par with global standards.
 - Strengthens local electronics manufacturing under Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- **Trinetra Network:** High-speed interconnect achieving 40–100 Gbps, enabling faster communication between computing nodes.
- **PARAM Shavak:** A compact desktop supercomputer designed for educational and research institutions.

23. (c)

Context

- The Union Minister of Coal and Mines stated that while coal remains vital for India’s energy security, the government is pushing coal gasification to reduce environmental concerns from traditional combustion.

What is Coal Gasification?

- Coal gasification is a process that converts coal into synthesis gas (a mixture of **carbon monoxide**, **hydrogen**, and other hydrocarbons).
 - This syngas can be used to produce power, liquid fuels, chemicals, and fertilizers.
 - Compared to direct burning, gasification **reduces emissions of particulate matter** and other pollutants.

24. (c)

Both statements are correct: Gaganyaan is India's first human spaceflight mission, undertaken by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

- **Aim:** To demonstrate India's capability to send humans to space, ensure safe return, and establish long-term capacity for human space exploration.
- **Objectives:**
 - **Human Spaceflight:** Send a crew of 2–3 astronauts to low-earth orbit (LEO) at an altitude of ~400 km.
 - **Mission Duration:** Around 3 days in orbit before safe return to Earth.
- India plans its first crewed Gaganyaan flight in **2027**, followed by Chandrayaan-4 in 2028, a Venus mission, and the proposed Bharat Antariksh Station by 2035.

25. (d)

NASA has unveiled the **second Crew Health and Performance Exploration Analog (CHAPEA) habitat**, designed for a series of analogue missions simulating year-long stays on the surface of Mars.

- The mission consists of **four crew members living in the CHAPEA habitat**, an isolated 1,700 square foot, 3D-printed structure.
 - The **CHAPEA mission** is part of NASA's ongoing efforts to prepare for **future manned missions to Mars**.
- **Objective:** Study the physical and psychological effects of long-duration space missions.
- **Activities:** Scientific tasks, growing vegetables, maintaining habitat, and simulated "Marswalks."

26. (a)

Context: Lalit Patidar, an 18-year-old from India who holds the Guinness World Record for having the hairiest face in the world, suffers from Werewolf Syndrome.

About

- This rare condition, scientifically known as Hypertrichosis, is so uncommon that only about 50 cases have ever been recorded since the Middle Ages (500-1500 AD).
- The nickname 'Werewolf Syndrome' comes from the thick facial hair that resembles the mythical werewolf.
- There are two main types: **generalized hypertrichosis**, which occurs over the entire body, and **localized hypertrichosis**, which is restricted to a certain area.

27. (b)

A revised National Action Plan on Glanders was recently issued by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying.

- **Statement 1 is not correct but Statements 2 and 3 are correct :** Glanders, caused by the bacterium **Burkholderia mallei**, primarily affects equines such as horses, mules, and donkeys, and poses risks to other animals as well as humans.
 - The disease is notifiable under the Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals (PCICDA) Act, 2009.

28. (d)

Context

- Researchers at the Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST), Mohali, have developed a nanotechnology-based biosensor that could **detect Parkinson's Disease (PD)** even before any symptoms appear.

What is Parkinson's Disease?

- Parkinson's Disease (PD) is a **progressive neurodegenerative disorder** affecting movement and motor control.
- It occurs due to the **loss of dopamine-producing neurons** in the brain.
- The disease is linked to the abnormal **misfolding and aggregation of a protein called α -synuclein**, which forms toxic clumps in the brain, leading to **neuronal damage**.
- **Symptoms include** tremors, rigidity, slowness of movement, and postural instability.

29. (d)

All three statements are correct: Brown dwarfs are celestial bodies that share some similarities with stars and others with planets.

- These objects form **like stars from collapsing clouds of gas and dust**. However, they do not have enough mass to consistently fuse hydrogen, a process that heats a star and makes it shine. That is why they are often known as **"failed stars"**.
- They have **atmospheres similar to gas giant planets** such as Jupiter and Saturn.
 - Their atmospheres can consist of clouds and molecules like H₂O.
 - Brown dwarfs can also be up to **70 times more massive than Jupiter**.
- **Significance:**
 - They help astronomers better understand the conditions that are necessary for the formation of stars and planets.
 - Determining the abundance and distribution of brown dwarfs gives key information on the distribution of mass in the universe to astronomers.

30. (a)

Context

- Recently SpaceX's Starship Flight 10 reached a milestone by deploying payloads into orbit and surviving re-entry, marking a breakthrough for the world's most ambitious rocket project.

What is Starship?

- Starship is a **two-stage, fully reusable** super heavy-lift rocket system designed to transport both crew and cargo to Earth orbit, the Moon, Mars, and beyond.
- **The system consists of two stages:** the Super Heavy booster and the Starship upper stage spacecraft.
- **Super Heavy Booster:**
 - Powered by **33 Raptor engines**, producing **74 meganewtons of thrust**.
 - Fully reusable, designed to return to the launch pad after separation.
- **Starship Upper Stage:**
 - Equipped with **6 Raptor engines and four landing fins**.
 - Capable of re-entering Earth's atmosphere and landing vertically.
- **Fuel: Methane and Liquid Oxygen (LOX)**, at a 3.6:1 oxidiser-to-fuel ratio, more efficient and sustainable than kerosene-based rockets.

31. (b)

[SOL]In News: Recently, two Indian 'aquanauts' travelled deep into the Atlantic Ocean as part of preparations for the upcoming Samudrayaan Project, under which India aims to send three humans to depths of 6,000 metres by 2027.

Statement 1 is not correct : The Deep Ocean Mission was launched in **2021**, as a **Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Earth Sciences with the approval of the Cabinet**.

- It aims to explore and sustainably utilize the deep sea's resources—both living and non-living.
- It is aligned with the **UN's Decade of Ocean Science (2021–2030)**, it aims to address global challenges like climate change.

Statement 2 is correct : **Samudrayaan** is a project under the **Deep Ocean Mission** and will place India among the few nations—like the US, Russia, China, Japan, and France—with deep-sea exploration technology.

- It is led by the National Institute of Ocean Technology,
 - India's first manned submersible vehicle '**MATSYA 6000**' is being developed as part of the **Samudrayaan Project**.

32. (c)

Both statements are correct: National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe): It is an **autonomous and single window nodal agency** in the Department of Space for the promotion, encouragement, and regulation of space activities of both government and private entities.

- **NewSpace India Ltd (NSIL):** Acts as the **commercial arm** of the Department of Space:
 - Commercialises space technologies developed by ISRO.
 - Manufactures and procures space assets.
 - Serves both government and private sector clients on commercial terms.



ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

1. The Victoria Falls Declaration was adopted at which of the following global events?
 - (a) UN Climate Change Conference (COP29)
 - (b) Ramsar Convention COP15 on Wetlands
 - (c) Convention on Biological Diversity COP16
 - (d) World Water Forum 2025
2. The Kyoto Protocol is based on which of the following principles?
 - (a) Polluter Pays Principle
 - (b) Intergenerational Equity
 - (c) Precautionary Principle
 - (d) Common but Differentiated Responsibilities
3. With reference to the '*Pollution Control Boards (PCBs)*', consider the following statements:
 1. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) was established under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
 2. Each state has its own State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) or Pollution Control Committee (PCC) in Union Territories.

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 Asian Giant Tortoise, consider the following statements:
 1. They are found in Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, Bangladesh, and Indonesia.
 2. They are listed as vulnerable under the IUCN red list of threatened species.

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. The "Rhisotope Project" recently seen in the news, is related to which of the following?
 - (a) Conservation of coral reefs through genetic modification.
 - (b) Use of radioactive isotopes to curb rhino horn trafficking.
 - (c) Satellite tracking of migratory birds for biodiversity mapping.
 - (d) Biotechnological development of disease-resistant rhinos.

6. With reference to Sea Buckthorn, consider the following statements:
1. It is a pioneer species that helps in soil improvement and conservation.
 2. It is a coniferous tree that is well-adapted to tropical climates.
 3. Its berries are a rich source of Vitamin C and have antioxidant properties.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
7. With reference to the Starfish, which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. Starfish are not true fish as they lack backbones, gills, and fins.
 2. They can extend their stomach outside their body to digest food externally.
- 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
8. With reference to the Krill, which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. Krill are small, shrimp-like crustaceans belonging to the order Euphausiacea.
 2. Krill oil is a popular dietary supplement rich in omega-3 fatty acids.
- 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
9. With reference to potential of biochar, consider the following statements:
1. It is produced from agricultural residue and organic municipal solid waste.
 2. It offers a sustainable alternative to manage waste and capture carbon.
 3. It can improve water retention, particularly in semi-dry and nutrient-depleted soils.
- How many of the above are considered as alternative powertrain vehicles?
- (a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All the three
(d) None
10. Which of the following protected areas are part of the Asiatic Lion's distribution range?
1. Paniya Wildlife Sanctuary
 2. Mityala Wildlife Sanctuary
 3. Barda Wildlife Sanctuary
 4. Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

11. With reference to the '*Orbiting Carbon Observatory (OCO) Program*', consider the following statements:

- 1. It aims to monitor carbon emissions only in the American & European Continents.
- 2. OCO satellites measure methane emissions from livestock and wetlands.

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. With reference to otters in India, consider the following statements:

- 1. Otters are mainly active around dawn and dusk, being, what is known as, crepuscular.
- 2. India is home to 3 of the 13 species of otters found worldwide.
- 3. Sea otters are one of the few non-human animals to use tools—they crack open shellfish with rocks.

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

13. *Bombax ceiba* (Simalu) and *Lagerstroemia speciosa* (Ajar), recently seen in the news, are:

- (a) Newly discovered frog species in Arunachal Pradesh
- (b) Endangered mangrove species along the Sundarbans
- (c) Native tree species now emerging as grassland invaders in Assam
- (d) Commercial timber species planted in central India

14. With reference to the uranium contamination, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. The World Health Organization (WHO) and BIS prescribe the same safe limit of uranium in drinking water, i.e., 0.03 mg/L.
- 2. Rajasthan is the only Indian state where uranium contamination has been reported in groundwater.

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

15. With reference to the 'Draft Framework of India's Climate Finance Taxonomy', consider the following statements:
1. It was released by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC)
 2. It is legally binding and enforceable across all states in 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
16. With reference to the Sundarban Biosphere Reserve (SBR), which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. It is the largest delta and mangrove forest in the world.
 2. It is situated south of the Tropic of Cancer.
- 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
17. With reference to the Palm Civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*), consider the following statements:
1. It is an omnivore that feeds mainly on fruits and berries.
 2. It is currently listed as *Vulnerable* on the IUCN Red List.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
18. Consider the following statements about the Palmyra Palm (*Borassus flabellifer*):
1. It is native to tropical Africa and is the State Tree of Tamil Nadu.
 2. It can grow in diverse soil types, including sandy, red, black, and alluvial soils, as well as in arid and wasteland areas.
 3. The tree requires annual rainfall of more than 1500 mm and is confined to humid tropical regions.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 only
(d) 1 and 3 only
19. With reference to the Saltwater Crocodiles, which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. Saltwater Crocodiles are the largest living reptile on earth.
 2. In India it is found only in coastal regions of Odisha and West Bengal.

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

20. With reference to the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA), consider the following statements:

1. It was launched in 2023 in India during the event commemorating 50 years of Project Tiger.
2. It has been established by the Government of India through the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), under the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.
3. The Alliance aims at conservation of only five big cats, Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, and Cheetah.
4. The headquarters of IBCA is located in India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

21. Consider the following statements regarding Tigers (*Panthera tigris*):

1. They are found naturally in countries including Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, and India.
2. Tigers are classified as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

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. With reference to Royal Bengal Tiger, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. They are strong swimmers and are known to cross rivers and lakes while hunting.
2. Each tiger has a unique stripe pattern, similar to human fingerprints.

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

23. With reference to the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA), consider the following statements:

1. The IBCA was established in 2023 through the National Tiger Conservation Authority under the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change.
2. Its mandate covers the conservation of seven big cats—the Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma.

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 the New World Screwworm (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*), which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a type of blowfly commonly found in South America and the Caribbean.
2. The larvae feed only on dead tissue, causing minimal or no harm to the host.

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

25. With reference to the National Green Tribunal (NGT), consider the following statements:

1. It was established in 2010 under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.
2. It is mandated to dispose of applications or appeals finally within six months of filing.
3. The NGT is not bound by the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, but is guided by the principles of natural justice.

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

26. With reference to the Kuttiyadi coconut, consider the following statements:

1. It is known to be a high-yielding variety that starts yielding within five years of planting.
2. The trunk of this tree is too strong compared to other coconut varieties and resists most pests and draught.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

27. With reference to regarding Burmese pythons (*Python bivittatus*), consider the following statements:

1. It primarily inhabits mangroves and is only found in Indonesia.
2. The IUCN Red List of threatened species classifies it as Least Concern.

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)

The 15th Ramsar COP, held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, concluded on July 31 with the adoption of key resolutions on wetland restoration, protection of migratory birds, and equitable governance.

- The conference brought together global stakeholders under the theme “Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future” to address threats to freshwater ecosystems. A major outcome was the **Victoria Falls Declaration**, highlighting the need for stronger political commitment, increased funding, and investment in wetland management.

2. (d)

Context

- In a landmark ruling, the **International Court of Justice** just said, the Kyoto Protocol is still **legally alive**, despite no new commitment period after the **Paris Agreement**.
 - The court ruled, countries that were part of Kyoto Protocol remain obligated to meet its provisions, and failure to do so may be considered an **internationally wrongful act**.

About

- The Kyoto Protocol which was adopted in **1997** and came into effect in **2005**, is an international agreement under the **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**.
- It legally binds developed countries to reduce **greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions** through specific targets, based on the principle of “**common but differentiated responsibilities**”, acknowledging their greater historical contribution to global emissions.
- The Kyoto Protocol’s first commitment period ran from 2008 to 2012, and the second from 2012 to 2020.

3. (b)

In News: Recently, the Supreme Court of India has affirmed that **Pollution Control Boards (PCBs)** possess the authority to impose restitutionary and compensatory damages under the **Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974** and the **Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981**.

Statement 1 is not correct

- The **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)**, established under the **Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974**, and later **empowered by the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981** and the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**.

Statement 2 is correct

- Each state has its own **State Pollution Control Board (SPCB)** or **Pollution Control Committee (PCC) in Union Territories**. These bodies perform four key functions:
 - Granting and managing consents to establish and operate industries;
 - Setting emission and effluent standards;
 - Monitoring compliance through inspections and data collection;
 - Enforcing standards via closure orders, penalties, and legal action.

4. (a)

Statement 1 is correct: Asian giant tortoises are also known as the **small elephants of the forests**.

- **Distribution:** Found in Northeast India (especially Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Assam).
 - Also present in Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Indonesia.

Statement 2 is not correct: IUCN Status: Critically Endangered.

5. (b)

Rhisotope Project: University of the Witwatersrand, supported by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), formally launched the Rhisotope Project.

- Five rhinos were administered radioactive isotope injections in the **Waterberg Biosphere Reserve, South Africa.**
- **Need:** South Africa, home to the world's largest rhino population, had lost over 10,000 rhinos to poaching over the last decade.
- **Method:** The radioactive isotopes or radioisotopes are the unstable form of an element that emits radiation to transform into a more stable form.
 - The radiation can be traced, and typically causes changes in the substance it falls upon.
 - Rhino horns are tagged with low-dose radioactive isotopes through a non-invasive method, making them easily detectable by radiation monitors at borders, ports, and airports.
- **Significance:** The method is harmless for the rhinos and allows customs agents to detect trafficked horns.

6. (a)

Statement 1 is correct: Sea Buckthorn is a pioneer species that helps in soil improvement and conservation. It has a strong root system that prevents soil erosion, increases soil fertility by fixing atmospheric nitrogen, promotes soil biodiversity, and helps in reclaiming degraded lands and fragile slopes.

Statement 2 is not correct: Sea Buckthorn is not a coniferous tree and it is not well-adapted to tropical climates. It typically grows in cold mountainous and dry temperate regions such as the Himalayas, Ladakh, and Spiti, showing high tolerance to harsh, cold conditions rather than tropical ones.

Statement 3 is correct: Its berries are a rich source of Vitamin C and possess antioxidant properties among other vitamins (A, E, K), carotenoids, and bioactive substances. The berries and leaves have nutritional and medicinal value.

7. (c)

Context

- Since 2013, **over 5 billion sea stars** have died along North America's Pacific coast due to **Sea Star Wasting Syndrome (SSWS)**. Scientists have now identified the bacterium **Vibrio Pectenicida** as the cause.

About

- **Starfish, also known as sea stars,** are star-shaped **marine invertebrates** belonging to the class **Asteroidea**.
 - **Not True Fish:** Despite the name, starfish are not fish as they **lack backbones, gills, and fins.**
- **Habitat:** Found in all oceans, from tidepools to deep-sea floors.
- **Regeneration:** They can regenerate lost arms, and in some cases, a severed arm can regenerate into a new starfish.
- **Carnivorous Diet:** Starfish are carnivorous, feeding on a variety of marine invertebrates, including bivalves, coral, and other small animals.



- **Unique Digestive System:** They can extend their stomach outside their body to digest food externally.
- **Water Vascular System:** A unique hydraulic system used for locomotion, feeding, and gas exchange.

8. (c)

Context

- The krill fishery in the Southern Ocean was shut down earlier than scheduled after the seasonal catch limit of 620,000 metric tonnes was surpassed, marking the first-ever breach of the quota.

About Krill

- Krill are small, shrimp-like **crustaceans** belonging to the order **Euphausiacea**, found in oceans worldwide.
- **Habitat:** Found across all oceans; Antarctic krill dominate the Southern Ocean ecosystem.
- **Krill are keystone species.** It acts as a **trophic bridge**, as they **feed on phytoplankton** and are in turn consumed by larger marine animals like; **Baleen whales, Seals, penguins, squid, seabirds, and fish.**

Significance

- Krill oil is a popular dietary supplement rich in **omega-3 fatty acids** like DHA and EPA, which krill obtain from their algae-rich diet.
- A study found that krill **removes 20 million tons of carbon** from the atmosphere each year.



9. (c)

In News : With the Indian carbon market set to be launched in 2026, CO₂ removal technologies such as biochar are expected to play a crucial role.

Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct : Biochar is a type of charcoal rich in carbon and is produced from **agricultural residue and organic municipal solid waste**. It offers a sustainable alternative to **manage waste and capture carbon**. Biochar can hold carbon in the soil for 100-1,000 years due to its strong and stable characteristics, making it an effective long-term carbon sink. Its application across different sectors provides scalable opportunities for reducing emissions.

In agriculture, **applying biochar can improve water retention, particularly in semi-dry and nutrient-depleted soils**. This, in turn, can abate nitrous oxide emissions by 30-50%. Notably, nitrous oxide is a greenhouse gas with 273-times the warming potential of CO₂, making its mitigation a crucial benefit of biochar.

- Biochar can also enhance soil organic carbon, helping restore degraded soils.
- In carbon capture applications, modified biochar can adsorb CO₂ from industrial exhaust gases.
- In the construction sector, biochar can be explored as a low-carbon alternative to building materials. In wastewater treatment, biochar offers a low-cost and effective option to reduce pollution. India generates more than 70 billion litres of wastewater every day, of which 72% is left untreated.

10. (b)

Context

- On World Lion Day (**August 10**), Gujarat celebrated a record **891 Asiatic lions**, as per the 2025 Lion Census, with over half living outside Gir.

Asiatic Lion (*Panthera leo persica*)

- It is one of the **five big cat species** found in India.
- **Physical Characteristics:** Asiatic lions are slightly **smaller than African lions**.
 - Males have **less developed manes**, leaving their ears visible.
 - Prominent **longitudinal fold of skin** along the belly (a distinguishing feature from African lions).
- **Distribution:** In India, concentrated in the state of Gujarat in and around the Gir Forest mainly in;
 - Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary
 - Paniya Wildlife Sanctuary
 - Mityala Wildlife Sanctuary
 - Barda Wildlife Sanctuary
- **Conservation Status:**
 - **IUCN Red List status:** Endangered
 - **CITES:** Appendix I
 - **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** Schedule I

11. (d)

In News: NASA is reportedly planning the unauthorized shutdown of key **carbon monitoring satellites**, including the **Orbiting Carbon Observatory-2 (OCO-2)** and **OCO-3**.

- The original OCO satellite, launched in 2009, was designed to provide high-resolution, space-based measurements of **atmospheric CO₂**.
 - Unfortunately, the mission failed to reach orbit due to a launch vehicle malfunction.
- OCO-2 became **NASA's first dedicated Earth remote sensing satellite** focused **solely on atmospheric carbon dioxide**, followed by OCO-3, installed on the International Space Station in 2019 to expand observational capabilities.

Statement 1 is not correct: The **Orbiting Carbon Observatory (OCO)** satellites collect global data on atmospheric CO₂, not limited to any one country.

Statement 2 is not correct: The **Orbiting Carbon Observatory (OCO)** program is specifically designed to measure carbon dioxide (CO₂), not methane.

12. (d)

All three statements are correct: Otters are members of the **mammalian family called Mustelidae**.

- **Otters** are mainly active around dawn and dusk, being, what is known as, **crepuscular**.



- **Distribution:** They are found the world over, except in **Australia, New Zealand, Madagascar, and other oceanic islands**.
 - India is home to **3 of the 13 species** of otters found worldwide, these are - Eurasian Otter (*Lutra lutra*); Smooth-coated Otter (*Lutra perspicillata*) and Small-clawed otter (*Aonyx cinereus*).

- **Habitat:** Rivers, lakes, coastal areas, and kelp forests.
- **Diet:** Carnivorous—eat fish, crustaceans, molluscs, and sometimes small mammals or birds.
- Sea otters are one of the **few non-human animals to use tools**—they crack open shellfish with rocks.

13. (c)

Context

- A new study has found that two native plant species, **Bombax ceiba (Simalu)** and **Lagerstroemia speciosa (Ajar)**, have emerged as “grassland invaders” in Assam’s Dibru-Saikhowa National Park (DSNP).

The Native Grassland Invaders

- **Bombax ceiba:** A deciduous tree with **large, red, cup-shaped flowers** that are rich in nectar.
 - It is **native to India and tropical Asia**. The tree is known for its large size and the silky floss produced from its seeds.
 - Traditionally native to Assam’s forests but now colonising grasslands.
- **Lagerstroemia speciosa:** A tree known for its beautiful, showy flowers that can be **pink, purple, or white**. It is also known as the “**Queen Crape Myrtle**”.



14. (a)

Context

- The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources raised concern over the continued presence of uranium contamination in drinking water sources in Punjab and called for urgent solutions to safeguard public health.

What is uranium contamination?

- Uranium contamination refers to the presence of excessive levels of uranium in the environment, primarily in water and soil, exceeding safe limits.
- **Safe Limits Prescribed:**
 - **World Health Organization (WHO):** Uranium safe limit: 0.03 mg/L.
 - **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS):** Also follows 0.03 mg/L as permissible limit.
- **Health Impacts:** Uranium contamination poses risks due to both its radioactivity and chemical toxicity.
 - Ingestion of contaminated water or food can lead to **Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD), skeletal damage, cancers, reproductive health issues**.

Uranium contamination in India

- **According to the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB)** survey of 2019–20, out of nearly 16,000 groundwater samples, around 450 exceeded the World Health Organization’s (WHO) permissible limit.

- Uranium contamination is reported to be **more prevalent in northwest India's alluvial aquifers** and in **southern India's hard-rock aquifers**.
 - The states of **Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat** were found to be the most affected.

15. (d)

India's taxonomy is designed to complement instruments like **green bonds, the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme, and SEBI's ESG norms**, creating a unified climate finance ecosystem. It aims to:

- define climate-aligned activities across sectors;
- guide public and private investments toward low-carbon and climate-resilient development;
- prevent greenwashing by establishing clear eligibility criteria;
- support India's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement;

Statement 1 is not correct

- The **Draft Framework of India's Climate Finance Taxonomy** released by the **Union Ministry of Finance**, is aimed to create a unified classification system for climate-aligned investments, ensuring transparency, credibility, and alignment with national and global climate goals.

Statement 2 is not correct

- The draft is **currently a voluntary framework** and does **not have binding legal status for now**.

16. (c)

Sundarban Biosphere Reserve (SBR)

- Sunderban is the **largest delta (Ganges–Brahmaputra–Meghna delta) and mangrove forest** in the world.
- **Location:** The Sundarbans Biosphere Reserve or Indian Sundarbans is situated in West Bengal and covers an area of **9,630 square kilometers**.
 - The region is situated **south of the Tropic of Cancer**.
- **River system:** It is bounded on the west by **river Muriganga** and on the east by rivers **Harinbaha and Raimangal**.
 - Other major rivers flowing through this eco-system are Saptamukhi, Thakuran, Matla and Goasaba.
- **Ecological Significance:** It is home to 34 mangrove species, including true mangroves like **Heritiera fomes** and **Excoecaria agallocha**.
 - **Fauna:** Royal Bengal Tiger, Fishing Cat, Olive Ridley Turtles, Irrawaddy Dolphins etc.
 - **Ecosystem Services:** Carbon sink, storm surge buffer, nursery for fisheries.

17. (a)

Context

- **Civet** problem forces Kerala High Court to adjourn for the day.

About Palm Civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*)

- **Common names:** Asian palm civet, common palm civet, and toddy cat.
- **Appearance:** Often mistaken for a cat; **known for its pungent urine**, making its presence noticeable in enclosed spaces.
- **Ecological role:** Important for forest ecosystems as a **seed disperser**, supporting biodiversity.
- **Diet:** It is an **omnivore** and feeds mostly on fruits and berries and occasionally small mammals and insects.

- **Habitat and Activity:** It is widely found in **south and southeast Asia**, and is known to be most active between night and dawn.
- **Threats:** Deforestation, land conversion for agriculture, and wildlife trafficking.
- **Conservation status:** **Least Concern** (IUCN).

18. (a)

Statement 1 is correct: Palmyra palm is native to tropical Africa and is the State Tree of Tamil Nadu.

Statement 2 is correct: It is highly adaptable to sandy, red, black, alluvial soils, and also grows in arid/wasteland areas

Statement 3 is not correct: It is best suited for semi-arid regions with less than 750 mm rainfall, not humid regions with >1500 mm rainfall. It is considered one of the most resourceful trees in India as every part is useful—for housing, food, medicine, shade, and cultural uses.

19. (a)

Context

- A recent report titled “Population Assessment and Habitat Ecology Study of Saltwater Crocodiles in Sundarbans 2025” highlights an increase in the population of saltwater crocodiles in the **Sundarban Biosphere Reserve (SBR)**.

Estuarine or Saltwater crocodile (*Crocodylus Porosus*)

- In India, saltwater crocodiles are distributed across the swamplands, rivers, mangroves of **Odisha and West Bengal** and the coastal areas of the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**.
 - They are the largest living reptile on earth.
- **Ecological Significance:** It maintains ecological balance as a hypercarnivorous species and keeps flowing water clean by feeding on carcasses and wild remains.
- **Conservation status:**
 - **IUCN Status:** Least Concern
 - It is listed under **Schedule 1** of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

20. (a)

Statement 1 is correct: The International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) was launched by India’s Prime Minister on April 9, 2023, at the 50th anniversary of Project Tiger event in Mysuru.

Statement 2 is correct: IBCA has been established through the NTCA, under the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.

Statement 3 is not correct: IBCA aims to conserve seven big cat species: Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma.

Statement 4 is correct: The headquarters and secretariat of IBCA are located in New Delhi, India.

21. (a)

In News

- The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has reversed its earlier stance by limiting tiger corridors to 32 “least cost pathways” from 2014, despite previously supporting a broader, science-based definition.

Tiger (*Panthera tigris*)

- Tigers are highly adaptable and can inhabit a diverse range of natural environments, including forests, grasslands, mangrove swamps, and even cold, snowy regions.

- **Distribution:** Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russia, and Thailand.
- **Protection Status:** Tigers are classified as **Endangered** on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.
- **Status In India :** India's tiger population rose to 3,682 in 2022 from 2,967 in 2018, growing at 6.1% annually in consistently monitored areas
 - The country has 58 tiger reserves covering about 2.5% of its land.
 - The Sundarbans Tiger Reserve in West Bengal has become India's second-largest tiger reserve after the National Board for Wildlife approved an expansion of 1,044.68 sq km.

22. (c)

Context

- Recently, the National Zoological Park, Delhi, witnessed the death of four out of six cubs born to tigress Aditi, a **wild-origin Royal Bengal tigress**.

Royal Bengal Tiger

- The Royal Bengal Tiger (**Panthera tigris tigris**), also known as the Indian Tiger, is a subspecies of tiger found in the Indian subcontinent.
 - It is the **national animal of India** and also the national animal of **Bangladesh**.
- **Physical Characteristics:** They have a striking yellow to light orange coat with dark brown to black stripes. Each tiger has a **unique stripe pattern**, similar to human fingerprints.
 - They are **strong swimmers** and are known to cross rivers and lakes while hunting.
- **Distribution:** They are primarily found in **India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, and Myanmar**. India is home to the largest population of Royal Bengal tigers.
- **Reproduction:** The gestation period for Bengal tigers is around 3 months, and females typically give birth to a litter of 4-5 cubs.
- **IUCN Status:** Endangered
- **Conservation efforts:** India's **Project Tiger**, launched in **1973**, is a major conservation effort focused on protecting tiger habitats and increasing their population.

23. (c)

Both statements are correct: The IBCA was established through the nodal organisation, viz. **National Tiger Conservation Authority, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, 2023**.

- The IBCA became a legal entity after **five countries**—Nicaragua, Eswatini, India, Somalia, and Liberia—had signed the Framework Agreement to formally become members of the IBCA.
 - It is a coalition of **95 range countries**.
- The IBCA primarily **aims for the conservation of seven big cats**, namely **the Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma**.
- **Objectives:**
 - Facilitation of collaboration and synergy amongst the concerned stakeholders,
 - consolidation of successful conservation practices;
 - and expertise to achieve conservation of big cats around the globe.
- The initiative seeks to **foster international collaboration** for the sustainable future of big cats, as well as underscores India's leadership and commitment to global wildlife conservation.

24. (a)

Context

- The Department of Health and Human Services reported the first human case of the flesh-eating parasite, the New World screwworm, in the United States.

What is a New World screwworm?

- Screwworms (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*)** are a type of **blue-grey blowfly**, typically found in **South America and the Caribbean**.
- Screwworms, specifically females, are attracted to and **lay eggs on open wounds** or another entry point like a nasal cavity in **warm-blooded animals** and rarely humans.
 - These eggs hatch into larvae** (known as maggots), which burrow into the wound to feed on the living flesh, leading to infestation.
 - After feeding, the larvae fall into the ground, burrow into the soil and emerge as adult screwworm flies.
- Causes myiasis:** When its larvae (maggots) **infest living tissue**, it's known as myiasis.
- New World screwworm infestations are painful, especially in humans, with a **high mortality rate if left untreated**.



25. (b)

Statement 1 is not correct: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) was established in 2010 but under the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010, not the Environment Protection Act, 1986. So, statement 1 is not correct.

Statement 2 is correct: NGT is mandated to dispose of applications or appeals within six months of filing.

Statement 3 is correct: The NGT is not bound by the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, but follows the principles of natural justice.

26. (c)

Context

- Kuttiyadi coconut** from Kerala is seeking a **Geographical Indication (GI)** tag.

About the Kuttiyadi Coconut

- The Kuttiyadi coconut, cultivated mainly in the **Kuttiyadi region of Kozhikode**, is known to be a **high-yielding variety** that starts yielding within **five years of planting**.
- The trunk of this tree is too strong compared to other coconut varieties and **resists most pests and draught**.
- The tree even has a life expectancy of **more than 100 years**. The fruit is larger and heavier while the kernel is thicker than other varieties and hence produces more oil too.

27. (d)

In News: Florida authorities are deploying robotic rabbits as bait to help locate and capture invasive Burmese pythons, which are hard to spot and endanger native wildlife.

Statements 1 and 2 are not correct: Burmese pythons are among the longest snakes in the world.

- It primarily inhabits forested areas like mangroves and rainforests but is also found in grasslands, marshes, wetlands, and near streams and rivers.
- It is a widely distributed species found throughout Southeast Asia, with evidence of extensive and widespread population declines.
 - It is found in isolated areas of northeast India, Nepal, Indonesia, and China
 - It is also an invasive, established population in southern Florida, USA, where it has severely impacted native wildlife
- The IUCN Red List of threatened species classifies it as **Vulnerable**.

■■■■



MISCELLANEOUS

1. Which one of the following Indian states recently has unveiled the '*State Policy for Transgender Persons, 2025*'?
 - (a) Maharastra
 - (b) Tamil Nadu
 - (c) Assam
 - (d) West Bengal
2. With reference to the National Film Awards (NFA), consider the following statements:
 1. The National Film Awards were established in 1954 to promote cinematic excellence in India.
 2. The Best Actress award was initially known as 'Urvashi', while the Best Actor award was called 'Bharat'.

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. Which of the following were established for empowerment of Denotified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (DNTs)?
 1. Ayyangar Committee
 2. Punchhi Commission
 3. Kalelkar Committee
 4. Idate Commission
 5. Kothari Commission

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

 - (a) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
 - (b) 1, 3 and 4 only
 - (c) 2, 4 and 5 only
 - (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
4. The CIP-South Asia Regional Centre (CSARC), is established in which of the following Indian States?
 - (a) Uttar Pradesh
 - (b) Himachal Pradesh
 - (c) Uttarakhand
 - (d) West Bengal

5. With reference to the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. One of its primary functions is to promote in-situ and ex-situ conservation of medicinal plants.
 2. It was established in 2000 under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

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
6. Which of the following statements is correct about Necropolitics?
- (a) It refers to the use of political power to promote universal healthcare and life expectancy.
 - (b) It is synonymous with biopolitics and focuses on optimizing life through sanitation and vaccination.
 - (c) It is the deliberate exposure of certain populations to death through structural neglect and abandonment.
 - (d) It is a political system in which government is exercised by the people as a whole.
7. The '*Hague-Visby Rules*', sometimes appeared in the news, is related to:
- (a) Regulation of fishing quotas in international waters.
 - (b) International maritime law governing the carriage of goods by sea.
 - (c) Guidelines for naval warfare and maritime defense strategy.
 - (d) Protocols for underwater mineral exploration and seabed mining rights.
8. He was awarded the first World Food Prize in 1987, received the Ramon Magsaysay Award in 1971, and the Albert Einstein World Science Award in 1986.
- Which of the following personalities has been described above?
- (a) A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
 - (b) Verghese Kurien
 - (c) Norman Borlaug
 - (d) M.S. Swaminathan
9. Consider the following statements:
1. The UNDP Equator Initiative Award is presented annually to recognize community efforts to reduce poverty through biodiversity conservation.
 2. The Bibi Fatima SHG was recently honored for its work in establishing a community seed bank and promoting millet-based mixed cropping systems.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

- 10.** With reference to the '*SHRESTH – State Health Regulatory Excellence Index*', consider the following statements:
1. It is a national ranking system for hospital infrastructure and patient satisfaction across states.
 2. It is a digital platform for citizens to report health violations in government clinics.

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

- 11.** With reference to the National Anubhav Awards, consider the following statements:
1. They were launched in 2015 to encourage retired government employees to share their work experiences.
 2. Only employees who retired in the past year are eligible to participate.
 3. In 2023, the number of awards was increased to 15 annually.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

- 12.** Which of the following statements is correct about "Dhirio"?
- (a) It is a traditional form of bullfighting popular in parts of Goa
 - (b) It is a martial art associated primarily with the Sikhs of the Punjab
 - (c) It is a harvest festival which is celebrated with great enthusiasm in Nagaland
 - (d) It is a classical Indian dance form originating from Andhra Pradesh

- 13.** Operation Sadbhavana, launched in 1998 and recently in the news, is primarily related to:
- (a) Counter-insurgency operations along the India-China border
 - (b) Welfare and development initiatives by the Indian Army in conflict-affected areas
 - (c) Promotion of sustainable agriculture in Northeast India
 - (d) Establishment of Indian Army training academies

- 14.** With reference to the Technology Development Board (TDB), consider the following statements:
1. It was established in 1996 as a statutory body under the Technology Development Board Act, 1995.
 2. Its primary mandate is to promote the development and commercialization of indigenous technologies as well as adaptation of imported technologies.
 3. It provides only equity capital support to industrial concerns engaged in technology innovation.
 4. The financial assistance provided by TDB in the form of loans carries a simple interest rate of 5% per annum.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

15. With reference to Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) in India, consider the following pairs:

<i>Agricultural Heritage Systems</i>	<i>Related Places</i>
1. Koraput's diverse paddy cultivation	Kerala
2. Kuttanad's below-sea-level fishing system	Odisha
3. Traditional saffron farming system	Kashmir

How many of the pairs are correctly matched?

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

16. Recently, Indian Railways piloted India's first removable solar panels installed between railway tracks. Where was this initiative launched?

- (a) Secunderabad, Telangana
- (b) Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
- (c) Nagpur, Maharashtra
- (d) Howrah, West Bengal

17. With reference to the fitness assessments introduced by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), consider the following statements:

- 1. The Bronco Test is aimed at assessing continuous aerobic endurance.
- 2. The Yo-Yo Test, introduced in 2017, measures a player's interval recovery ability and requires a minimum score of 17.1 to pass.

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

18. Term 'Sustainable Power 1404' was sometimes appeared in the news, is in the context of:

- (a) A renewable energy summit hosted by the United Nations (UN).
- (b) Military drill conducted by Iran in the Gulf of Oman and the northern Indian Ocean.
- (c) India's national policy framework for sustainable urban infrastructure development.
- (d) A climate change awareness campaign launched by Greenpeace.

19. Piprahwa Relics, recently seen in the news, is related to which of the following?

- (a) Jain Tirthankaras
- (b) Lord Buddha

- (c) Adi Shankaracharya
- (d) Guru Nanak

20. With reference to the '*Learning Outcomes-based Curriculum Framework (LOCF)*', consider the following statements:

1. It is implemented across undergraduate and postgraduate levels to standardize and enhance curriculum quality.
2. It eliminates core subjects and focuses on extracurricular activities.

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. National Space Day is observed in India to commemorate which of the following events?

- (a) Launch of India's first satellite Aryabhata in 1975
- (b) Successful launch of the Mars Orbiter Mission (Mangalyaan)
- (c) Successful soft landing of the Vikram lander of Chandrayaan-3 on the lunar surface
- (d) Establishment of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

22. '*Chendamangalam Handloom*' belongs to which of the following Indian States?

- (a) Karnataka
- (b) Tamil Nadu
- (c) Andhra Pradesh
- (d) Kerala

23. With reference to the Registrar General of India (RGI), consider the following statements:

1. The RGI was established in 1961 and functions under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
2. It is responsible for conducting the decennial Census of India, which has been held regularly since 1951.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

24. Who among the following is regarded as the Father of Indian Archaeology and was instrumental in the establishment of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)?

- (a) John Marshall
- (b) Mortimer Wheeler
- (c) Alexander Cunningham
- (d) James Prinsep

25. The *Salwa Judum* judgement, recently seen in the news, is primarily related to which of the following?
- Reservation in promotions for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes
 - Legality of state-backed tribal militias in anti-Maoist operations
 - Environmental clearances for mining in tribal areas
 - Rights of displaced persons due to dam construction
26. With reference to the '*Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025*', consider the following statements:
- It bans all real money games (RMGs), regardless of whether they are skill-based or chance-based.
 - It makes a clear legal distinction between games of skill and games of chance.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
27. With reference to the National Youth Award, consider the following statements:
- It is conferred during the National Youth Festival to individuals and organisations.
 - The award is open to individuals aged between 18 to 35 years.
 - The maximum number of awards given each year is fixed at 20 for individuals and 5 for organisations, without exception.
- Which of the statements given above are not correct?
- 1 and 2 only
 - 2 and 3 only
 - 1 and 3 only
 - 1, 2, and 3
28. Indrajit Gupta Committee (1998), recently seen in the news, is related to:
- Electoral reforms and state funding of elections
 - Reforms in the banking sector
 - Reservation policy for backward classes
 - Police and criminal justice reforms
29. Operation Rainbow, recently in the news, is related to which of the following?
- Cyber security operations led by CERT-In
 - Anti-narcotics operation by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)
 - Counter-terror operations coordinated by National Investigation Agency (NIA)
 - Coastal security exercise led by the Indian Coast Guard
30. The term *Arogyapacha*, recently seen in the news, is related to which of the following?
- A medicinal plant traditionally used by the Kani tribe of Kerala for its rejuvenating properties
 - A government health insurance scheme for Below Poverty Line (BPL) families in Tamil Nadu
 - A mobile application launched by the Ministry of Health for telemedicine services in rural areas
 - A new initiative under Ayushman Bharat for preventive healthcare in schools

31. Project Aarohan, recently seen in the news, is related to:
- Promotion of organic farming in tribal areas
 - Scholarship support for children of toll plaza employees
 - Skill training for highway construction workers
 - Road safety awareness among school students
32. With reference to the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), which of the following statements is/are correct?
- It was constituted under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
 - It functions under the Ministry of Defence.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
33. With reference to National Sports Day in India, which of the following statements is/are correct?
- It is celebrated annually to commemorate the birth anniversary of Milkha Singh.
 - It was first declared by the Government of India in 2012.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
34. Approach like 4Es (*Engineering, Education, Enforcement & Emergency*) primarily addresses the concern related to:
- Agricultural Productivity in Rural Areas
 - Road Safety and Traffic Management
 - Cybersecurity Protocols For Financial Institutions
 - Disaster Management in Hilly Regions

EXPLANATIONS

1. (b)

In News: Recently, the **State of Tamil Nadu** has unveiled the **State Policy for Transgender Persons, 2025**, which includes a bold proposal of **amending the Hindu Succession Act to ensure transgender and intersex persons** have equal rights to inheritance.

- Tamil Nadu has long been a pioneer in transgender welfare:
 - first state to set up a **Transgender Welfare Board**;
 - first to offer a third gender option in college applications;
 - recognizes transgender persons as socially and educationally disadvantaged, eligible for affirmative action.

2. (c)

Both the statements are correct: The National Film Awards (NFA) were established in **1954** to promote cinematic excellence in India.

- They are presented **every year** by the Government to celebrate **excellence in filmmaking**.
 - These awards recognise the best films, performances, and technical achievements across various languages and genres.
- **Eligibility:** Films certified by the **Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)** between January 1 and December 31 of the previous year are eligible.
- The awards are announced by a **jury appointed by the Directorate of Film Festivals** and are **presented by the President of India**.
- **The first Best Actor and Best Actress awards** were given to Uttam Kumar and Nargis, respectively, in **1968**.
 - The Best Actress award was initially called '**Urvashi**' and the **Best Actor award was called 'Bharat'**.

3. (b)

In News : Calls are growing for the establishment of a **permanent national commission for Denotified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Tribes** at the national conference of Denotified Tribes (DNTs).

- **Ayyangar Committee (1949-50):** It was set up to review the Criminal Tribes Act, it recommended its repeal and emphasized the need for welfare and rehabilitation of these communities.
 - The Act was repealed in 1952.
- **Kalelkar Committee (1953):** It was The first Backward Class Commission which was appointed on 29 January 1953 under the Chairmanship of Mr. Kakasaheb Kalelkar.
 - It suggested dropping the term "Criminal Tribes" and instead using "Denotified Communities."
 - It also recommended their integration into mainstream society through dispersed settlement.
- **Idate Commission (2014-2017):** It was Tasked with identifying and listing Denotified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (DNT/NT/SNT), assessing their development, and recommending systematic welfare measures.
 - Based on its report, the Development and Welfare Board for DNTs (DWBDNC) was established in 2019.

4. (a)

The CIP-South Asia Regional Centre (CSARC) is established in **Agra, Uttar Pradesh**.

- It will not only serve farmers in **potato-belt states like UP, Bihar and West Bengal but also cater to South Asian countries**.
- **Objective:** To increase food and nutrition security, farmers income, and job creation by improving potato and sweetpotato productivity, post-harvest management and value-addition.
- **Governance:** By a coordination committee that comprises the Secretaries of Agriculture of India, Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh.

5. (a)

Statement 1 is correct: The National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) focuses on the conservation of medicinal plants both in their natural habitats (in-situ) and in controlled environments (ex-situ) to ensure sustainability.

Statement 2 is not correct: NMPB was established in 2000, but it functions under the Ministry of AYUSH, not the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

6. (c)

In News : Necropolitics is highlighting how states expose marginalised groups to violence and neglect, normalising their suffering.

The concept of necropolitics explores how political power determines whose lives are protected and whose deaths are normalized or even orchestrated.

- It was coined by **Cameroonian scholar Achille Mbembe**.
- It was built on **Michel Foucault's idea of biopolitics** — which manages life through institutions and public health.
- It focuses on the governance of death, exposing how certain populations, such as refugees, the poor, racialized groups, and queer communities, are systematically abandoned or targeted.

7. (b)

In News: Recently, the Parliament of India has passed the '**Merchant Shipping Bill, 2025**' and the '**Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2025**' to overhaul India's maritime legal framework.

- The *Hague-Visby Rules* define the rights, responsibilities, and liabilities of carriers and shippers under a bill of lading. These rules are an updated version of the original **Hague Rules of 1924, amended by the Visby Protocol in 1968**, and further refined by the SDR Protocol in 1979.
- India has adopted these rules through the **Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2025**, aligning its maritime law with global standards.

8. (d)

Context

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated **M.S. Swaminathan Centenary International Conference on August 7** to mark the **birth centenary of M.S. Swaminathan**.

M.S. Swaminathan

- He was known as the **Father of India's Green Revolution**. The term 'Green Revolution', **was coined by William S Gaud in 1968**.
 - M.S. Swaminathan researched fertilizers conducive to the Indian soil for growing wheat, different high-yielding wheat varieties, and efficient farming techniques.
 - He pioneered the Green Revolution, tripling wheat harvest in the first year itself.
- **International Recognition:** In 1982, he became Director General of the **International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines** – the first Asian to hold the post.
 - He was awarded the **first World Food Prize in 1987**.
 - He has received the Ramon Magsaysay Award in 1971, the Albert Einstein World Science Award in 1986, UNESCO Gandhi Gold Medal in 1999, the Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Award in 2000 to name a few.
- **Awards in India:** National awards like the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award, and the Indira Gandhi Prize all three civilian awards- Padma Shri in 1967, Padma Bhushan in 1972, Padma Vibhushan in 1989, and Bharat Ratna in 2024.

9. (c)

Statement 1 is correct: The UNDP Equator Initiative Award, also known as the Equator Prize, is presented annually to recognize community efforts that reduce poverty through biodiversity conservation and promote sustainable development and ecological resilience.

Statement 2 is correct: The Bibi Fatima Women's Self-Help Group (SHG) from Karnataka, India, was recently honored as one of the 10 winners of the Equator Prize 2025. They were recognized for their work in establishing a community seed bank and promoting millet-based mixed cropping systems, among other nature-based solutions.

10. (d)

In News: The '**SHRESTH – State Health Regulatory Excellence Index**' is initiated by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) and launched by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW).

Statement 1 is not correct

- The SHRESTH initiative is India's first national benchmarking framework designed to:
 - Evaluate and improve the performance of state drug regulatory authorities;
 - Ensure the safety, quality, and efficacy of medicines across all states;
 - Promote best practices in drug manufacturing and distribution;
 - Strengthen collaboration between central and state health agencies;

Statement 2 is not correct

- SHRESTH is a benchmarking index, **not a public grievance portal** for citizens to report health violations in local clinics.

11. (b)

Context

- The National Anubhav Awards 2025 is going to be held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, marking the 10th anniversary of the awards.

About the Awards

- **Launch Year:** 2015
- **Purpose:** To **incentivise and encourage retired government employees** to share their work experiences and administrative insights.
- **Eligibility:**
 - Employees who are retiring within the next **8 months**, or who have retired within the past **3 years**, can submit their write-ups on the **Anubhav Portal**, which are then evaluated by the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW).
- **Evolution**
 - **2015:** Started with **5 National Anubhav Awards**.
 - **2023:** Introduced **10 Anubhav Jury Awards**, increasing total awards to **15 annually** for wider participation.

12. (a)

Goa MLAs across party lines recently called for the legalisation of bull fighting, known locally as dhirio or dhiri, arguing it is a vital part of the state's cultural heritage.

Dhirio is also spelled Dhiri and refers to traditional bullfighting events in Goa, where two bulls are pitted against each other.

- The bulls fight head-to-head until one retreats or is injured.
- It is historically tied to post-harvest festivities and church feasts.
 - Bulls were named (e.g., Tyson, Rambo) and had fan followings.
- It was banned in 1996 by the Bombay High Court at Goa under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 due to concerns over animal welfare.

13. (b)

About Operation Sadbhavana

- **Operation Sadbhavana (Goodwill)** is a welfare initiative launched by the Indian Army in 1998 to win the "**hearts and minds**" of people affected by terrorism, insurgency, and slow development primarily in Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, and select parts of Northeast India.

- The programme aims to address aspirations of local people through holistic **societal development**: education (Army Goodwill Schools), health camps, women's empowerment, employment generation, and infrastructure development.

14. (b)

Statement 1 is correct: TDB was established in 1996 as a statutory body under the Technology Development Board Act, 1995.

Statement 2 is correct: Its objective is indeed to promote commercialization of indigenous technology and adaptation of imported technology.

Statement 3 is not correct: TDB provides both equity capital and loans to industrial concerns; not just equity support.

Statement 4 is correct: The loans provided by TDB carry a simple interest rate of 5% per annum, which is concessional compared to market rates.

15. (a)

India hosts three Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems: **Koraput in Odisha**, known for diverse paddy cultivation and medicinal plants; **Kuttanad in Kerala**, a unique below-sea-level farming and fishing system; and **Kashmir's Saffron Heritage**, featuring traditional saffron farming and organic practices that support biodiversity and soil health.

16. (b)

Context

- Indian Railways has just piloted India's first **removable solar panels** between railway tracks in Varanasi.

About

- The Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) has installed a **70-meter solar panel system** using 28 **bifacial monocrystalline panels** that can generate around **70–80 units of electricity daily**.
- Designed with epoxy adhesives and rubber pads, the panels are durable, vibration-resistant, and removable for easy maintenance.
- This is more than clean energy, it's about transforming India's transport backbone into a **renewable energy grid**, a big step towards the **net-zero 2030 goal**.

17. (c)

Both statements are correct: The Bronco Test is a high-intensity aerobic running drill designed to measure a player's stamina, speed, and cardiovascular conditioning.

- It involves shuttle runs of 20, 40, and 60 meters, the goal is to finish the test within six minutes.
- **The Yo-Yo Test** has been a key component of India's fitness regime since 2017, it involves running between two cones placed 20 metres apart, with the pace increasing at each level.
 - Players are allowed a 10-second recovery period after every 40-metre run. To pass, a minimum score of **17.1 is required**.
- **While the Yo-Yo Test** focuses on interval recovery and agility, the Bronco Test is designed to assess continuous aerobic endurance.
 - Together, the two tests offer a **more comprehensive assessment** of a player's overall fitness.

18. (b)

In News: Recently, **Iran launched its first major military exercise** titled '**Sustainable Power 1404**', aiming to project strength and readiness amid rising regional tensions.

- It was held in the **Gulf of Oman and the Indian Ocean**, showcasing Iran's naval capabilities and its resolve to counter future threats.

19. (b)

During a recent Assembly session, CM Yogi Adityanath announced that the **Piprahwa relics**, repatriated to India after 127 years, will be returned to their original site in Piprahwa, Uttar Pradesh, with restoration plans underway.

About

- The relics—Buddha’s ash, bone fragments, gold ornaments, and gems—were **excavated in 1898 by W.C. Peppé**.
- The government now plans to develop the **20-hectare area into a theme park** with a stupa for the relics, meditation zones, and attractions depicting Buddha’s early life.
 - The proposed theme park at Piprahwa will be built in front of the **ASI-protected Piprahwa stupa**, linked to the **Shakya kingdom and Kapilvastu**, Buddha’s childhood home.
- **Piprahwa village** is located in **Uttar Pradesh’s Siddharthnagar district**, near **Lumbini**—the birthplace of Lord Buddha.
 - It is a lesser-known site on the state’s Buddhist circuit.

20. (a)

In News: The **University Grants Commission (UGC)** has unveiled a new draft of its **Learning Outcomes-based Curriculum Framework (LOCF)**, placing a strong emphasis on integrating **Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS)** across disciplines.

Statement 1 is correct and Statement 2 is not correct

- The draft LOCF spans subjects such as **anthropology, chemistry, commerce, economics, geography, home science, mathematics, physical education, and political science**.
 - Each curriculum now includes elements of Indian heritage, philosophy, and cultural practices.
- It emphasizes core academic disciplines while integrating broader learning outcomes. It is designed to promote flexibility and interdisciplinary approaches, especially under the NEP 2020.
- It is **implemented across undergraduate and postgraduate levels** to standardize and enhance curriculum quality.

21. (c)

Context

- India is celebrating its second National Space Day on August 23, 2025 with the theme **“Aryabhatta to Gaganyaan: Ancient Wisdom to Infinite Possibilities”**.
- August 23rd was declared as “National Space Day” to honour the success of the Chandrayaan-3 mission, which achieved a safe and soft landing of the **Vikram Lander** at the **‘Shiv Shakti’ point** and deployed the **Pragyaan Rover** on the lunar surface.

India’s Recent Milestones in Space

- **Human Spaceflight Progress:** Group Captain **Shubhanshu Shukla** became the first Indian to visit the ISS as part of **Axiom Mission-4**.
 - It is seen as a **precursor to Gaganyaan**, India’s maiden human space mission.
- **The NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite** was launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.
 - NISAR is the first satellite mission to collect radar data in two microwave bandwidth regions, called the **L-band and the S-band**.

- **Chandrayaan Programme:**
 - Chandrayaan-1 (2008): Confirmed water molecules on the Moon.
 - Chandrayaan-2 (2019): Valuable orbiter data despite lander failure.
 - Chandrayaan-3 (2023): Soft-landing near the south pole, first in the world.
- **Mars Orbiter Mission (2013–2021):**
 - First Asian mission to reach Martian orbit in the first attempt.
 - Provided atmospheric & terrain data for over 7 years.

22. (d)

Chendamangalam (Ernakulam, Kerala) is famed for its traditional handloom products, especially in demand during Onam.

- **Crisis in the Weaving Sector:** Weavers have declined from ~5,000 in the 1980s to ~500 now (spread across 5 cooperative societies).
- **Causes:** Lure of employment guarantee schemes, perception of low wages, and youth disinterest.
 - Remuneration is viable if adapted to new designs/market needs.

23. (d)

Context

- The **Registrar General of India (RGI)** asked States to take steps towards achieving universal registration of births and deaths.

The Registrar General of India (RGI)

- **Established in 1961** by the Government of India.
- Works under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**.
- **Major Functions:**
 - Census of India.
 - Conducts the decennial Census of India (since 1872; regular since 1881).
 - Responsible for planning, coordinating, and supervising census operations.
- **Civil Registration System (CRS):** Oversees the registration of births and deaths across India.
 - Ensures uniformity and accuracy in vital statistics collection.
- **Vital Statistics:** Collects, compiles, and publishes data on births, deaths, causes of death, and population dynamics.
 - Provides crucial demographic data for policy planning.
- **Sample Registration System (SRS):** Launched in 1969 to provide reliable annual estimates of birth rate, death rate, and infant mortality rate (IMR).
 - Uses a dual record system (continuous enumeration & independent survey).

24. (c)

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), functioning under the Ministry of Culture, is the apex body responsible for archaeological research, conservation, and preservation of monuments and heritage sites in India.

Established in **1861 by Alexander Cunningham, known as the Father of Indian Archaeology**, it has since evolved into a key institution safeguarding India's tangible heritage.

It is headquartered in **New Delhi and headed by the Director General of Archaeology**, the ASI operates through about 36 regional circles and several specialised branches such as epigraphy,

prehistory, excavation, science, museums, and conservation. It maintains over 3,600 centrally protected monuments, including temples, forts, caves, mosques, and colonial structures, besides managing site museums and supporting the nomination of **UNESCO World Heritage Sites**.

The ASI also enforces heritage-related laws such as the **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958** and the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972.

25. (b)

Context

- A group of retired judges has termed Home Minister Amit Shah's attack on Opposition Vice-Presidential candidate B Sudershan Reddy over the Salwa Judum judgement "unfortunate" and said it would be wise to refrain from "name-calling".

About

- Justice B. Sudershan Reddy, along with Justice S.S. Nijjar, delivered the 2011 Nandini Sundar vs State of Chhattisgarh judgment, declaring *Salwa Judum* illegal and unconstitutional.
- *Salwa Judum* began in 2005 as a "**Jan Jagran**" movement in Bijapur, Chhattisgarh. It soon turned into a state-backed tribal militia to counter Maoists in Bastar, but was widely criticized for human rights violations.

26. (a)

In News: Recently, the Parliament of India has passed the '**Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025**', to regulate and prohibit certain gaming formats having social and economic concerns.

Statement 1 is correct

- The **Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025** bans all real money games (RMGs), regardless of whether they are skill-based or chance-based. It prohibits advertising of real money games, especially those involving monetary stakes.

Statement 2 is not correct

- The Act does not distinguish between skill and chance; eroding the legal precedent and potentially **violating Article 19(1)(g)**, which protects the **right to trade and occupation**.

27. (b)

Statement 1 is correct: The National Youth Award, usually conferred during the **National Youth Festival**, is given in **two categories**: Individual and organisation.

Statements 2 and 3 are not correct: The Award is designed to inspire young individuals **aged 15 to 29** to strive for **excellence in national development and social service**.

- The **maximum number of awards** given each year is **20** for individual categories and **5** for organisational categories.
 - It may, however, vary at the **discretion of the sanctioning authority** in deserving cases.

28. (a)

Context

- An analysis of MPs and MLAs across India shows that **31% of Members of Parliament (MPs) and 29% of Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs)** have declared **serious criminal charges** against them.

Key Committee Recommendations

- **The Law Commission's 244th Report (2014)** recommended disqualifying politicians from contesting elections as soon as charges are framed against them for offenses that carry a maximum punishment of **five years or more**.
 - The report specifically recommended **expediting trials for sitting MPs and MLAs** by establishing fast-track courts.

- The **National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution** in its **2002** report recommended measures to enhance the accountability of political parties, including the statutory audit of party expenses and the disclosure of candidates' assets and liabilities.
- **Indrajit Gupta Committee (1998) & 2nd ARC (2007)** recommended partial state funding of elections to curb the use of black money and reduce corruption.

29. (b)

Context

- The **Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)** has recently seized nearly 9 kilograms of narcotic substances in Delhi, under **Operation Rainbow**.

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)

- The DRI was **founded in December 1957**, with the primary objective of gathering intelligence and combating smuggling activities at an all-India level.
 - While initially focused on addressing gold smuggling, its mandate has expanded significantly to counter a wide range of economic and narcotics-related crimes.
- It **operates** under the **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)** within the **Ministry of Finance**.
- **Headquarters:** The DRI is headquartered in New Delhi and led by a Director General.

30. (a)

In News

- Kuttimathan Kani, a member of Kani tribe in Kerala's Agasthya hills, who first revealed the medicinal plant Arogyapacha to researchers has passed away.

About Arogyapacha

- Arogyapacha (*Trichopus zeylanicus*), often called "Kerala Ginseng," is a rare medicinal herb native to the Western Ghats of India, especially in the Agasthya hills of Kerala.
- Kani tribes historically consumed its fruits for instant energy, especially during strenuous activities, asserting it kept people youthful and resistant to illness.
- Studies highlight pharmacological benefits such as antioxidant, anti-fatigue, aphrodisiac, anti-diabetic, anti-ulcer, antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, immunomodulatory, cardioprotective, and hepatoprotective activities.

31. (b)

Context

- **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** has launched a **Project Aarohan** to support the educational aspirations of toll plaza employees.

Project Aarohan

- It aims to remove financial barriers and provide equal access to quality education for students from economically weaker sections.
- It will cover **five hundred students** from Class 11 to the final year of graduation.
- Each student will receive an **annual scholarship of 12 thousand rupees** during the **financial year 2025-26**.
- Additionally, **fifty bright students** aspiring for **postgraduate and higher studies** will be supported with scholarships of **50 thousand rupees each**.

32. (a)

Context

- A Supreme Court-appointed committee has given conditional approval for the construction of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) headquarters on an ecologically sensitive plot in the Morphological Ridge area of Delhi.

National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)

- NDRF is a specialized force under the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** dedicated to disaster response in India.
- It was constituted under the **Disaster Management Act, 2005**, following the establishment of the **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)**.
- **Composition:** 16 battalions, drawn on deputation from the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) such as BSF, CISF, CRPF, ITBP, SSB, and Assam Rifles.
- **Mandate & Role:**
 - It responds to **natural and man-made disasters**, such as **floods, earthquakes, and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN)** emergencies.
 - Focus on **“proactive deployment”** and **“pre-positioning”** during imminent disasters to minimize loss of life and property.
- **Motto:** “Aapda Seva Sadaiv Sarvatra” (Disaster service always, everywhere).

33. (b)**Context**

- On National Sports Day, India honors Major Dhyan Chand, celebrated as one of the greatest hockey players in history.

Statement 1 is not correct but statement 2 is correct : The Indian Government declared August 29 as National Sports Day in **2012** to commemorate the birth anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand.

- This year’s celebrations include a **three-day Sports Movement** under the theme **“Ek Ghanta, Khel ke Maidan Main”**.
- India has several campaigns to promote **health, sports, and fitness**, including **‘Khelo India’** and **‘Fit India Movement’**.
 - **The International Sports Day**, on the other hand, is celebrated on **April 6** to mark the **first Olympic Games held in Athens**.

Major Dhyan Chand is known as the **“Wizard of Hockey”** for his exemplary display of sportsmanship.

- **Achievements:** Won Olympic Gold medals in **1928 (Amsterdam)**, **1932 (Los Angeles)**, and **1936 (Berlin)**.

34. (b)

In News: Recently, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) released its **‘Road Accidents in India 2023’** report following a Supreme Court’s direction after several delays.

- The **4Es approach—Engineering, Education, Enforcement, and Emergency care** — is a cornerstone of India’s national road safety strategy, as outlined by MoRTH and various government bodies.
- It was formalized through working groups set up by the **National Road Safety Council**, and it continues to guide both short-term and long-term safety initiatives across India.

