

DAILY MCQs COMPILATION *with* **EXPLANATIONS**

JULY 2025

NEXT IAS

Table of Contents

• HISTORY, ART & CULTURE.....	1
• ECONOMY.....	16
• INDIAN POLITY & CONSTITUTION	31
• GEOGRAPHY	47
• GOVERNMENT SCHEMES/INITIATIVES.....	67
• DEFENSE/ INTERNAL SECURITY	79
• INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	87
• SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	99
• ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY.....	114
• MISCELLANEOUS	128

HISTORY, ART & CULTURE

1. With reference to the Santhal Hul of 1855, consider the following statements:
 1. The revolt was led by Sidho, Kanho, Chand, and Bhairav Murmu along with women leaders Phulo and Jhano.
 2. The Santhals revolted against British imperialists only, and not against Indian feudal structures.
 3. The uprising contributed to later enactments like the Santhal Parganas Tenancy Act, 1876 and the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act, 1908 to protect tribal rights.Which of the statements given above are correct?
 - (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
2. With reference to the Mahabodhi Temple, consider the following statements:
 1. The Mahabodhi Temple is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
 2. It is considered a significant milestone in the development of brick architecture.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 Bajirao Peshwa I, which of the following statements is/are correct?
 1. He was the first Peshwa of the Maratha Empire.
 2. He served under Chhatrapati Shahu I and is known for expanding the Maratha Empire through successful military campaigns.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. Which of the following rebellions is primarily associated with Alluri Sitarama Raju?
 - (a) Indigo Rebellion
 - (b) Santhal Rebellion
 - (c) Rampa Rebellion
 - (d) Moplah Rebellion

5. Which of the following best describes the instrumental and stylistic uniqueness of Chautal?
- (a) It is played on the tabla with a fixed theka and is common in Khayal performances.
 - (b) It uses pakhawaj and supports improvisational play over a 16-beat structure.
 - (c) It is played on the pakhawaj, emphasizes thapi over fixed theka, and follows a 12-beat cycle.
 - (d) It follows a 14-beat cycle, is played on the mridangam, and is used primarily in Carnatic music.
6. 'Dhammacakkappavattana Divas' is a religious event related to which of the following?
- (a) Jainism
 - (b) Sikhism
 - (c) Hinduism
 - (d) Buddhism
7. "The Nationalist" and "Bang Wani" are literary works associated with which of the following personalities?
- (a) Mahatma Gandhi
 - (b) Bipin Chandra Pal
 - (c) Syama Prasad Mookerjee
 - (d) Madan Mohan Malaviya
8. Dhammachakra Pravartana Divas is celebrated to commemorate which of the following events?
- (a) The birth of Gautama Buddha
 - (b) The enlightenment of Gautama Buddha
 - (c) The first sermon of Gautama Buddha after enlightenment
 - (d) The Mahaparinirvana of Gautama Buddha
9. Which of the following forts is known as the "Gibraltar of the East" due to its strong coastal defense system?
- (a) Sinhagad Fort
 - (b) Raigad Fort
 - (c) Rajgad Fort
 - (d) Vijaydurg Fort
10. With reference to the 'Maratha Military Landscapes of India' recently added to the UNESCO World Heritage List, which of the following statements is/are correct?
- 1. These forts are spread across the states of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.
 - 2. They were primarily built between the 17th and 19th centuries.
 - 3. This marks India's 54th UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Select the correct answer using the code below:
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
11. Who among the following Indian leaders was popularly known as the 'Young Turk'?
- (a) Jawaharlal Nehru
 - (b) Chandra Shekhar

- (c) Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- (d) Lal Bahadur Shastri

- 12.** With reference to the Jarawa tribe in India, which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. The tribe has traditionally lived as nomadic hunter-gatherers in the dense forests of the Nilgiri Hills of Tamil Nadu.
 2. They are classified as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG).

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 Behdienkhlam Festival, which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. It is celebrated by the Pnar tribal community in the state of Telangana.
 2. It involves a traditional religious ceremony to drive away evil spirits and diseases.

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 Machilipatnam, which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. It is a historic port town at the mouth of the Krishna River on the Bay of Bengal.
 2. It served as a gateway to the Deccan, facilitating trade with Roman, Arab, and Southeast Asian traders.

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.** His act of resistance at the Barrackpore Cantonment served as a catalyst for the broader uprising that followed. He played a crucial role in sparking the Revolt of 1857 – often regarded as India's first war of independence – a turning point that eventually led to the end of East India Company rule and the beginning of direct governance by the British Crown under the Government of India Act, 1858.

Which of the following personalities described above ?

- (a) Veer Kuwar Singh
- (b) Mangal Pandey
- (c) Subhas Chandra Bose
- (d) V.D. Savarkar

- 16.** Consider the following statements regarding the Khejri tree (*Prosopis cineraria*):
1. It is native to the Thar Desert region of Rajasthan.
 2. It requires high amounts of water to thrive, making it unsuitable for arid regions.
 3. Its edible pods, known as sangri, serve as a crucial food source during droughts.

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

17. By whom was the Chola Gangam Lake, also known as Ponneri Lake, constructed?

- (a) Kulothunga Chola I
- (b) Rajaraja Chola I
- (c) Vijayalaya Chola
- (d) Rajendra Chola I

18. Consider the following statements with reference to Paikas

- 1. They were essentially the peasant militias of the Gajapati rulers of Odisha.
- 2. They rebelled against the British under the leadership of Bakshi Jagabandhu.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

19. With reference to the 'Rajendra Chola I' of Indian history, consider the following statements:

- 1. He was the founder of the Chola dynasty in India.
- 2. He assumed the title Gangaikonda Cholan after his victorious expedition to the Gangetic plains.
- 3. He shifted the imperial capital from Thanjavur to Gangaikonda Cholapuram.

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

20. Which of the following works were authored by Bal Gangadhar Tilak?

- 1. Srimad Bhagavadgita Rahasya
- 2. The Arctic Home in the Vedas
- 3. Hind Swaraj
- 4. The Orion

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

21. He was involved in the 1925 Kakori Train robbery, an attempt to blow up the Viceroy's train, and the shooting of British police officer JP Saunders in 1928 to avenge the killing of the great freedom fighter, Lala Lajpat Rai.

Which of the following personalities has been described above?

- (a) Jatindranath Mukherjee
- (b) Ram Prasad Bismil

- (c) Chandrashekhar Azad
- (d) Prafulla Chaki

22. With reference to the Khasi Tribe, consider the following statements:

1. They are majorly found in the eastern part of Meghalaya, in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills.
2. The Khasi community follows a matrilineal system where lineage and inheritance are traced through the mother's line.
3. Only the eldest daughter or "Ka Khadduh" is eligible to inherit the ancestral property.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

23. With reference to Thoothukudi Port City, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is situated on the Coromandel Coast of the Bay of Bengal.
2. Thoothukudi gained prominence due to the launch of Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company by V.O. Chidambaram Pillai.

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 pairs:

	Paintings	Related states
1.	Sohrai	Jharkhand
2.	Pattachitra	Odisha
3.	Patua	Rajasthan

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

25. Which Indian festival, celebrated primarily by women across North India, especially in Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab, marks the advent of the monsoon season and honors the reunion of Goddess Parvati with Lord Shiva?

- (a) Maha Shivratri
- (b) Karva Chauth
- (c) Gangaur
- (d) Teej

26. Consider the following statements about Paithani sarees:

1. Paithani sarees originated over 2000 years ago tracing back to the Satavahana dynasty.
2. They were traditionally woven using fine silk and pure gold and silver zari threads employing the tapestry weaving technique.
3. Paithani sarees have been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag since 2010.

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

27. Consider the following statements with reference to Piprahwa relics.

1. They were discovered in 1948 by British civil engineer William Claxton Peppé in Rajasthan.
2. They are believed to be associated with the mortal remains of Vardhamana Mahavira.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

28. Consider the following pairs:

	Harrappan Site	Present Day Location
1.	Dholavira	Gujarat
2.	Lothal	Rajasthan
3.	Rakhigarhi	Haryana
4.	Alamgirpur	Uttar Pradesh

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

EXPLANATIONS

1. (c)

Statement 1 is correct: June 30 is observed as **Hul Diwas**, marking the anniversary of the **1855 Santhal rebellion/ Santhal Hul**, one of the earliest peasant uprisings against the British.

- **Santhal Hul of 1855** was a revolt against imperialism led by four brothers, **Sidho, Kanho, Chand, and Bhairav Murmu**, along with sisters **Phulo and Jhano**.

Statement 2 is not correct: The Santhals rose against **British colonial forces** as well as **Indian oppressors** like zamindars, moneylenders, and police officials (collectively called dikus).

Statement 3 is correct: The rebellion led to the enactment of the **Santhal Parganas Tenancy Act of 1876** and the **Chotanagpur Tenancy Act of 1908**, which aimed to safeguard tribal land rights and cultural autonomy.

2. (c)

Context

- The Supreme Court recently refused to entertain a plea seeking exclusive control of the **Mahabodhi Temple** in Bodh Gaya, Bihar, by the Buddhist community, and asked the petitioner to approach the High Court.

About the Mahabodhi Temple

- The Mahabodhi Temple is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** and one of the four holy sites associated with the life of the Buddha, especially his attainment of Enlightenment under the Bodhi Tree.
- The **Mahabodhi Temple Complex** was the first temple built by **Emperor Ashoka** after his conversion to Buddhism in the 3rd century B.C., and the present temple dates from the 5th–6th centuries.
- It is among the earliest Buddhist temples built entirely in brick and is considered a significant milestone in the development of **brick architecture**.
- The temple was historically managed by Buddhists until the 13th-century invasion by Bakhtiyar Khilji.
- In the late 16th century, Hindu monk **Ghamandi Giri** established the **Bodh Gaya Math** at the site.
- **Post-Independence (1949):** The Mahabodhi Temple is administered under the **Bodh Gaya Temple Act, 1949**, which entrusts control to a management committee overseen by the Bihar government, with representation from both Hindus and Buddhists.

3. (b)

Context

- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation unveiled the statue of Bajirao Peshwa I in Pune, Maharashtra.

About

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Peshwa Bajirao, also known as **Bajirao I**, was the **7th Peshwa** of the Maratha Empire. He was the son of **Balaji Vishwanath**, the first Peshwa.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** He served under **Chhatrapati Shahu I** and is renowned for his military campaigns and expansion of the Maratha kingdom.

Military Achievements

- Bajirao Peshwa fought **41 battles** in a span of 20 years and emerged victorious in all of them.
- **Major Campaigns:**
 - **Battle of Palkhed (1728):** Defeated the **Nizam of Hyderabad**, demonstrating swift cavalry movement and encirclement tactics.
 - **Battle of Dabhoi (1731):** It was a conflict between Peshwa Bajirao I and the Dabhade clan, led by **Trimbak Rao Dabhade**, over the authority to collect revenue from the province of Gujarat.
 - **Invasion of Delhi (1737):** Successfully marched on the Mughal capital and forced the Mughals to cede territories without directly capturing Delhi.

4. (c)

Alluri Sitarama Raju is best known for leading the **Rampa Rebellion**, also known as the Manyam Rebellion.

- This was a tribal uprising against the British, largely fueled by the oppressive **Madras Forest Act of 1882**.
- This act restricted the free movement of Adivasis in their forest habitats and prevented them from practicing their traditional form of **agriculture called 'podu,'** which threatened their way of life.

5. (c)

About Chautal

- **Chautal (also spelled Chowtal or Chartal)** is a significant and ancient rhythmic cycle (tala) in Hindustani classical music.
- It is primarily associated with the **Dhrupad style**, the oldest surviving form of Indian classical music, and is traditionally **played on the pakhawaj**, a barrel-shaped percussion instrument that pre-dates the tabla.
- The name **“Chautal”** means “four claps,” referring to its division structure.
- It consists of **12 beats (matras)**. There are two primary interpretations of its divisions:
 - Four divisions of 4, 4, 2, 2 beats (all claps, no waves).
 - Six divisions of 2 beats (clap-wave alternation), similar to Ektal.
- It emphasizes powerful, weighty playing, often using a more fluid, improvisational structure called **“thapi” rather than a fixed “theke.”**
- It is strongly associated with the ancient Dhrupad tradition, reflecting spiritual depth, tradition, and power in its rhythmic expression.

6. (d)

The International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), under the aegis of the **Ministry of Culture**, in collaboration with the Mahabodhi Society of India, will commemorate Āshāḍha **Pūrṇimā—Dhammacakkappavattana Divas.**

About

- Āshāḍha **Pūrṇimā** marks the **First Turning of the Wheel of Dhamma**, the day when **Lord Buddha delivered his first sermon** to the **pañcavargiya** (five ascetic companions) at Sarnath.
- This sacred occasion also heralds the beginning of **Varsha Vassa** (Rainy Season Retreat), observed **by monks and nuns across the Buddhist world.**

7. (c)

Context

- The Ministry of Culture announced a two-year official commemoration of the **125th birth anniversary of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee.**

About

- Initially a member of the **Indian National Congress**; later joined the **Hindu Mahasabha in the 1930s.**
- He became the **youngest Vice-Chancellor** of Calcutta University at age **33 in 1934.**
- He served as Finance Minister of Bengal (1941–42) in the Fazlul Haq ministry.
- He founded the English daily **“The Nationalist”** and the Bengali journal **“Bang Wani”.**
- **Founder of Bharatiya Jana Sangh:** In 1951, founded the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, the ideological predecessor of today’s Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).
 - Advocated for national unity, cultural nationalism, and economic self-reliance.
- **Legacy:** He is remembered as a staunch nationalist, educationist, and advocate of cultural unity.
 - The Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port in Kolkata and several institutions are named in his honor.

8. (c)

Context

- The International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), under the aegis of the Ministry of Culture, celebrated Ashadha Purnima—the day that marks the Dhammachakra Pravartana Divas.

About Dhammachakra Pravartana Divas

- Celebrated on **Ashadha Purnima (full moon day of Ashadha month)**, it commemorates the **first discourse of Lord Buddha** after attaining enlightenment.
- The sermon was delivered to his **five ascetic disciples (Pañcavargiya)** at **Deer Park (Rishipatana Mrigadaya)** in **Sarnath**, near Varanasi.
- The day symbolizes the **“Turning of the Wheel of Dharma”** (Dhammachakra Pravartana), initiating the propagation of Buddhist teachings.

9. (d)

Context

- UNESCO has added the ‘Maratha Military Landscapes of India’ — 12 iconic forts of the Maratha Empire — into the World Heritage List.

About Maratha Forts

- Spread across the states of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, these sites include **Salher, Shivneri, Lohgad, Khanderi, Raigad, Rajgad, Pratapgad, Suvarnadurg, Panhala, Vijaydurg, and Sindhudurg in Maharashtra**, along with **Gingee Fort in Tamil Nadu**.
- Built between the **17th and 19th centuries**, this extraordinary network of forts demonstrates the strategic military vision and architectural ingenuity of the Maratha Empire.

Major Forts of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

- **Raigad Fort:** It was the capital of the Maratha Empire from **1674 to 1818**.
 - It is located on a hilltop in the **Sahyadri Mountains**.
- **Rajgad Fort:** First capital of Shivaji Maharaj before shifting to Raigad.
- **Pratapgad Fort:** It is the site of the famous battle between Shivaji Maharaj and Afzal Khan in **1659**.
- **Sindhudurg Fort:** It is located on an island off the **Konkan coast**.
- **Vijaydurg Fort:** It is known as the **‘Gibraltar of the East’** due to its strong coastal defense.

10. (a)

Context

- UNESCO has added the ‘Maratha Military Landscapes of India’ — 12 iconic forts of the Maratha Empire — into the World Heritage List.

About

- This historic recognition was granted at the **47th Session of the World Heritage Committee in Paris**.
- This marks India’s **44th UNESCO World Heritage Site**, ranking the country **6th** globally and **2nd** in the Asia-Pacific region for the highest number of heritage sites.

About Maratha Forts

- Spread across the states of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, these sites include **Salher, Shivneri, Lohgad, Khanderi, Raigad, Rajgad, Pratapgad, Suvarnadurg, Panhala, Vijaydurg, and Sindhudurg in Maharashtra**, along with **Gingee Fort in Tamil Nadu**.
- Built between the **17th and 19th centuries**, this extraordinary network of forts demonstrates the strategic military vision and architectural ingenuity of the Maratha Empire.

11. (b)

Context: The nation paid tribute to former Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar on his death anniversary (July 8).

About: Chandra Shekhar

- He served as the 8th Prime Minister of India, between 10 November 1990 and 21 June 1991.
- He founded and edited Young Indian, a weekly publication from Delhi, in 1969.
- He is also known as 'Young Turk'.

12. (b)**Context**

- The upcoming **2027 Census** will include efforts to count the six main indigenous tribes of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, including the Jarawa tribe.

Jarawas Tribes

- The Jarawa tribe is one of the **world's oldest surviving indigenous communities** and has traditionally lived as **nomadic hunter-gatherers** in the dense forests of the Middle and South Andaman Islands.
 - They were historically hostile to outsiders and resisted contact until the late **1990s**.
- They typically move in small bands of **40–50 people**, relying on forest and marine resources.
- The Jarawas are officially **classified as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)** under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

13. (b)**Context**

- The sacred Behdeinkhlam Festival was celebrated in **Jowai, Meghalaya**.

The Behdienkhlam Festival

- **Meaning:** The word Behdeinkhlam means "driving away the plague", referring to expelling diseases like **cholera** and other evils from society.
- **Timing:** It is held **annually in July**, after the sowing season, symbolizing a prayer for a good harvest and protection from illness.
- **It is predominantly celebrated** by the **Pnars**, a sub-tribe of the **Jaintia** ethnic group in Meghalaya.
- **Preservation of Indigenous Faith:** The festival is an important means to preserve the **Niamtre** religion.

14. (c)**Context**

- Machilipatnam (Masulipatnam), a historic port town is witnessing a revival.

Machilipatnam in Ancient India

- Machilipatnam (Masulipatnam), is a historic port town at the mouth of the **Krishna River** on the Bay of Bengal.
- **Early Maritime Significance:**
 - The region was known as **Masulipatnam or Maisolos** (as per **Periplus of the Erythraean Sea, 1st century CE**), and it flourished as an ancient seaport on the Coromandel Coast.
 - It served as a gateway to the Deccan, facilitating trade with **Roman, Arab, and Southeast Asian traders**.
- **Satavahana Period:**
 - **Under the Satavahanas (1st century BCE to 3rd century CE)**, Masulipatnam emerged as a vibrant port for the **export of muslin, spices, pearls, and textiles**.
 - It was linked to inland cities like **Amaravati and Dharanikota**, which were major centres of Buddhism and commerce.

- **Medieval and Colonial Revival:**

- In the **16th to 18th centuries**, the port regained prominence under the Golconda Sultanate.
- It became a key trading post for the **Dutch, British, and French East India** Companies, however shifted focus to Madras (Chennai) in the 18th century, diminishing Machilipatnam's importance.

15. (b)

In News : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday paid rich tributes to freedom fighter Mangal Pandey on his birth anniversary, describing him as a “pioneering warrior” who stood up to British rule and remains a symbol of courage and patriotism.

- Mangal Pandey played a crucial role in sparking the Revolt of 1857 – often regarded as India's first war of independence – a turning point that eventually led to the end of East India Company rule and the beginning of direct governance by the British Crown under the Government of India Act, 1858.
- Born in Nagwa village in Ballia district of present-day Uttar Pradesh, Mangal Pandey joined the Bengal Army in 1849 and was serving as a sepoy in the 34th Bengal Native Infantry when he famously defied colonial authority in March 1857. His act of resistance at the Barrackpore Cantonment served as a catalyst for the broader uprising that followed.

16. (b)

In News

- Efforts are being made to secure a Geographical Indication (GI) tag for sangri to protect the legacy of the khejri tree and support the farmers who rely on it.

The khejri tree

- It is known by many names, including *Prosopis cineraria*, shami, jand and ghaf.
- It is believed to have **originated in Rajasthan's Thar Desert**.
- It thrives in **extreme heat with minimal water**.
- It is a symbol of resilience, sustenance, and cultural heritage.
- It supports **desert communities** through its edible pods, sangri, which are vital during droughts.

17. (d)

The Chola Gangam Lake, also known as Ponneri Lake, was constructed by Rajendra Chola I, one of the greatest rulers of the Chola dynasty. It is a historically significant reservoir located near Gangaikonda Cholapuram in Tamil Nadu, which was Rajendra Chola's capital. Rajendra Chola I built this lake as a symbol of his military conquest, particularly after his victorious expedition to the Ganges River in North India. He brought sacred water from the Ganga and mixed it with the lake water. The lake was supplied by a canal built from the Kollidam River to ensure continual water replenishment.

18. (c)

In News : Former Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik criticized the exclusion of the 1817 Paika Rebellion from NCERT's new Class VIII history textbook, calling it a “huge dishonour” to the Paikas.

- NCERT clarified that the rebellion will be included in the textbook's second volume, to be released in September-October.

Statements 1 and 2 are correct The Paikas (pronounced “paiko”, literally “foot soldiers”) were a class of **military retainers** who had been recruited from various social groups by the **Gajapati rulers of Odisha** since the 16th century.

- They would render martial services to the king in return for hereditary rent-free land (nish-kar jagirs) which they would cultivate during peacetime.

- Paika Rebellion was an armed uprising in Odisha against **British rule, led by Bakshi Jagabandhu, a military chief of King Mukund Dev II.**
- In 1803, the British annexed Odisha after Colonel Harcourt's largely uncontested march from Madras to Puri, making an agreement with King Mukunda Deva II for compensation and land that was only partly honored.
- British policies, including new land revenue systems, currency changes, and control over salt, caused widespread economic hardship, particularly for the Paikas who lost their hereditary rent-free lands.
- This mounting discontent culminated in the **1817 Paika Rebellion**, led by **Bakshi Jagabandhu** and joined by Kondh tribals, involving attacks on British officials and government property.

19. (c)

In News: Recently, the Ministry of Culture is aiming to celebrate the birth anniversary of the great Chola emperor **Rajendra Chola I with the Aadi Thiruvathirai** Festival at Gangaikonda Cholapuram, Tamil Nadu.

Statement 1 is not correct

- **Vijayalaya Chola**, the **founder of the Chola Empire**, established the dynasty in the 9th century by **capturing the city of Thanjavur** from the Mutharaiyar rulers around 850 CE.

Statement 2 is correct

- Rajaraja Chola I assumed the **title Gangaikonda Cholan** after his victorious expedition to the Gangetic plains, symbolizing his pan-Indian military dominance.

Statement 3 is correct

- Rajaraja Chola I shifted the imperial capital from Thanjavur to Gangaikonda Cholapuram, a city he built to commemorate his northern conquests.

20. (a)

Context

- PM Modi has paid tributes to **Lokmanya Tilak** on his birth anniversary.

Early Life

- Born on **July 23, 1856**, in Maharashtra's Ratnagiri, he was a freedom fighter, social thinker, philosopher, teacher, one of the **first and strongest advocates of Swaraj ("self-rule")** who had played an important role in India's freedom movement.
- He organized two important festivals, **Ganeshotsav in 1893** and **Shiv Jayanti in 1895**.

Literary Work

- He launched two weeklies, **Kesari (in Marathi)** and **Mahratta (in English)**, which criticized British policies of the time.
- He published **The Orion or Researches into the Antiquity of the Vedas (1893)** and **The Arctic Home in the Vedas (1903)**.
- In the **Mandalay jail**, he wrote the **Srimad Bhagavadgita Rahasya (Secret of the Bhagavadgita)**, an original exposition of the most sacred book of the Hindus.

21. (c)

In News

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has paid tributes to Chandra Shekhar Azad on his birth anniversary.

Chandra Shekhar Azad

- He was born in 1906 in present-day Madhya Pradesh, grew up in poverty and became involved in the freedom struggle as a teenager during the Non-Cooperation Movement.

- He was Arrested for protest activities, he famously declared his name as “Azad” and vowed never to be captured alive.
- He was Disillusioned by Gandhi’s withdrawal of the movement in 1922

Role in Freedom struggle

- He joined the Hindustan Republican Army (HRA), later transforming it with Bhagat Singh into the more radical **Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA)**.
- He was involved in the **1925 Kakori Train robbery**, an attempt to blow up the India Viceroy’s train, and the shooting of British police officer JP Saunders in 1928 to avenge the killing of the great freedom fighter, Lala Lajpat Rai.
- After the Central Assembly bombing in 1929 and the subsequent British crackdown, Azad remained underground, trying to free Bhagat Singh.

22. (a)

Statement 1 and 2 are correct: Khasis: The Khasis inhabit the **eastern part of Meghalaya**, in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills. They also reside in parts of **Assam and Bangladesh**.

- **Lineage:** The Khasi community follows a **matrilineal system** where lineage and inheritance **are traced through the mother’s line**.

Statement 3 is not correct: Only the **youngest daughter** or “**Ka Khadduh**” is eligible to inherit the ancestral property.

23. (c)

Context

- PM Modi will inaugurate the newly extended runway and terminal building at Thoothukudi airport.

About

- **Thoothukudi**, also known as **Tuticorin**, is a significant port and industrial city in the Thoothukudi district of **Tamil Nadu**, India.
 - It is situated on the Coromandel Coast of the **Bay of Bengal**.
- Thoothukudi is known as the “**Pearl City**” due to its historical pearl fishing activities. It’s a crucial seaport, often referred to as the “**Sea Gateway of Tamil Nadu**”.
- The port was officially renamed **V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust in 2011**.

Thoothukudi’s Significance in Ancient Times

- **Thoothukudi**, along with the nearby ancient port of **Korkai**, was a major maritime center as early as the **6th century BCE**, renowned for **pearl fisheries and trade with Rome, Greece, and Southeast Asia**.
- Under the **Pandya (7th–9th century AD) and Chola (9th–12th century AD) dynasties**, it emerged as a hub for international trade and naval expeditions, linking Tamilakam with Southeast Asia.
- In the colonial era, **Portuguese (1532)**, followed by the **Dutch and British**, capitalized on its natural harbor.
 - Thoothukudi rose to prominence during the Swadeshi Movement when **V.O. Chidambaram Pillai** launched the **Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company in 1906** to break the British monopoly on the Tuticorin-Colombo shipping route.

24. (b)

In News : The indigenous mural tradition of Sohrai Art took centre stage at the second edition of Kala Utsav 2025 – Artists in Residence Programme, held at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

- President Droupadi Murmu met with artists of Sohrai, Pattachitra, and Patua art forms

Sohrai Art is a **ritualistic wall-painting tradition** practised by **tribal communities in Jharkhand**.

- It is typically created by women during harvest and festive seasons.
- It deeply rooted in the cultural tapestry of communities like the Kurmi Mahto,
- Santhals, Oraons, and Mundas.

Pattachitra is a traditional cloth-based painting from Odisha which is rooted in religious and folk traditions.

- It is traditionally drawn by the **Mahapatra or maharanas**, the original artiste caste in Odisha.

Patua painting is also known as scroll painting, and stands as a vibrant testament to the rich cultural heritage of West Bengal.

- It is rooted in the traditions of the Patua community.

25. (d)

Context

- The Ministry of Tourism, through its Indiatourism Delhi office, organized a vibrant celebration of the **Teej Festival** at 88 Janpath, New Delhi.

About the festival

- Teej, **celebrated primarily by women** across North India, especially in **Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab**, marks the advent of the **monsoon season** and honors the reunion of **Goddess Parvati with Lord Shiva**.
- The festival is known for its traditional music, dance, **henna (mehndi)**, **swings**, festive attire, delectable cuisine, prosperity and happiness.

26. (d)

About Paithani Sarees

- **Origin and History:** Paithani sarees originated over 2000 years ago in Paithan, a town near Aurangabad in Maharashtra, on the **banks of the Godavari River**.
 - The weaving tradition can be traced back to the **Satavahana dynasty (2nd century BCE)**.
- **Royal Patronage:** Paithani sarees were woven for and worn by royalty and aristocrats, including the Satavahanas, the Peshwas of Pune, the Nizams of Hyderabad, and Mughal rulers.
- **Material and Craftsmanship:** Traditionally made from fine silk with pure gold and silver zari (metallic thread), Paithani sarees are handwoven using the tapestry weaving technique. They are renowned for their intricate **floral and peacock motifs**. **GI Tagging:** Paithani sarees have been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2010.



27. (d)

In News :Jewels from the sacred Piprahwa Buddha relics, recently auctioned at Sotheby's Hong Kong, were repatriated to India on Wednesday, 127 years after being taken during colonial rule.

Statements 1 and 2 are not correct: The Piprahwa relics were discovered in 1898 by British civil engineer William Claxton Peppé in Piprahwa, Uttar Pradesh.

- They include bone fragments, soapstone and crystal caskets, a sandstone coffer, and offerings such as gold ornaments and gemstones,
- They are **believed to be associated with the mortal remains of Lord Buddha.**
 - An inscription in the **Brahmi script** on one of the caskets confirms these as relics of the Buddha deposited by the Sakya clan
- They are excavated from the Piprahwa Stupa—widely recognized as the ancient **city of Kapilavastu, the birthplace of Lord Buddha.**

28. (c)

Major Harappan Sites

Site	Present Day
• Harappa	• Punjab, Pakistan
• Mohenjo-Daro	• Sindh, Pakistan
• Dholavira	• Kutch district of Gujarat,
• Kalibangan	• Rajasthan
• Lothal	• Gujarat
• Rakhigarhi	• Haryana
• Chanhudaro	• Sindh, Pakistan
• Ganweriwala	• Punjab, Pakistan
• Sutkagendor	• Baluchistan Province, Pakistan
• Alamgirpur	• Uttar Pradesh

■■■■■

ECONOMY

1. With reference to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a constitutional body established under Article 279A of the Indian Constitution
2. The Union Finance Minister is the Chairperson of the GST Council.

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 India's Digital Economy, consider the following states:

1. India ranks second in the world for digitalisation of the economy after the US.
2. The digital economy is growing fast, contributing 11.74% to the national income in 2022–23.

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. What is the main purpose of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Compensation Cess?

- (a) To fund central government infrastructure projects
- (b) To compensate exporters for tax paid
- (c) To compensate states for revenue loss due to GST implementation
- (d) To reduce the prices of luxury goods

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

1. The area under agroforestry in India covers about 8.65% of the country's total geographical area.
2. Madhya Pradesh has the highest concentration of agroforestry area 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

5. Which of the following statements is correct regarding Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI)?

- (a) It classifies a mobile number to have been associated with risk of financial fraud.
- (b) It indicates the legal status of a debtor as unable to repay debts.

- (c) It is expressed numerically that reflects credit profile and loan eligibility.
- (d) It shows a software package containing malicious code that appears legitimate.

6. With reference to the Global Liveability Index, consider the following statements:

1. The index scores cities on a scale of 1 to 100, where 100 indicates ideal liveability, and 1 means it is intolerable.
2. Vienna has claimed the top spot in the Global Liveability Index 2025.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

7. Woolah Tea, which was recently granted a 20-year patent as India's first bagless tea brand, is primarily associated with which of the following states?

- (a) West Bengal
- (b) Assam
- (c) Kerala
- (d) Tamil Nadu

8. With reference to the Gini Index and Lorenz Curve, consider the following statements:

1. The Gini Index is calculated as the area between the Lorenz curve and the line of perfect inequality.
2. A higher Gini Index value indicates greater inequality in a country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

9. Consider the following statements regarding the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act (FEOA), 2018:

1. An individual can be declared a Fugitive Economic Offender (FEO) if an arrest warrant is issued for a scheduled offence and the total value of such an offence is ₹50 crore or more.
2. Once declared an FEO, the individual is disentitled from filing or defending any civil claim before any court or tribunal 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

10. With reference to the India's Bioeconomy sector, consider the following statements:

1. India is among the Top 12 destinations for biotechnology worldwide and 3rd largest destination for biotechnology in Asia Pacific.
2. India has a target of achieving a \$300 billion bioeconomy by 2045.

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 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. The SDGs came into force on 1st January 2016 and are to be achieved by 2030.
- 2. The SDGs are legally binding on member states.

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

12. With reference to the North Eastern Region (NER) District Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index Report 2023–24, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. All districts in Mizoram, Sikkim, and Tripura fall in the Front Runner category.
- 2. The highest-scoring district in the region is Longding in Arunachal Pradesh.

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. Consider the following statements regarding maize cultivation in India:

- 1. Maize is predominantly a Rabi crop in India.
- 2. India aims to more than double its maize production by 2047 from its recent levels.
- 3. Maize can be grown in a wide range of soils, from very sandy to heavy clay, due to its high adaptability.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

14. Consider the following statements:

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

- 15.** With reference to the Green Revolution, consider the following statements:
1. The term Green Revolution was coined by Norman Borlaug in 1964.
 2. It equally benefited all regions and crops across India.
- Which of the statements given above are not correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
- 16.** With reference to the Natural Rubber Production in India, which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. Natural rubber is derived from the latex of *Hevea brasiliensis*, a tree native to the Amazon Basin.
 2. Assam is the leading state in rubber production, contributing over 70% of India's total 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
- 17.** Arrange the following sectors under the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) in decreasing order of their weightage:
1. Electricity
 2. Mining
 3. Manufacturing
- Select the correct order using the code below:
- (a) 1 – 2 – 3
 - (b) 3 – 2 – 1
 - (c) 2 – 3 – 1
 - (d) 2 – 1 – 3
- 18.** With reference to the Global Capability Centers (GCCs), consider the following statements:
1. These are offshore units established by multinational corporations.
 2. These are wholly owned subsidiaries of global firms.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
- 19.** Consider the following statements about the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR):
1. It is the apex body for coordinating, guiding, and managing research and education in agriculture and allied sectors in India.
 2. It is an autonomous body and is headquartered in New Delhi.

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

20. Consider the following statements with reference to the Financial inclusion index (The FI-Index):

1. It is released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in collaboration with the World Bank.
2. It captures data from banking, insurance, postal, and pension sectors.
3. It provides a comprehensive score between zero and 100, where zero represents total financial exclusion and 100 denotes full inclusion.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

21. Which of the following sectors in India primarily uses the 'wet limestone scrubbing' method?

- (a) Cement Industry
- (b) Thermal Power Sector
- (c) Textile Industry
- (d) Steel Manufacturing

22. Which state is the largest contributor to India's total natural rubber production?

- (a) Tamil Nadu
- (b) Assam
- (c) Tripura
- (d) Kerala

23. With reference to Intellectual Property, which of the following statements is/are not correct?

1. Patent is an exclusive right granted for an invention, which is a product or a process.
2. Copyright is a legal term used to describe the rights that creators have over their literary and artistic works.

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. With reference to the 'SHAKTI Policy', consider the following statements:

1. It was launched under the Union Ministry of Power to deliver three-phase electricity to major urban centres in India.
2. It replaced the earlier Letter of Assurance (LoA)–Fuel Supply Agreement (FSA) regime.

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.** Which one of the following Indian airports is first to set up under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model?
- (a) Chennai International Airport (MAA), Chennai
 - (b) Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL), Cochin
 - (c) Kempegowda International Airport (BLR), Bangalore
 - (d) Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (HYD), Hyderabad
- 26.** Consider the following statements
1. The Gini index determines a nation's level of income inequality across its population.
 2. A Gini index of 0 represents perfect equality, while an index of 100 implies perfect inequality.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
- 27.** Consider the following statements regarding the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA):
1. It was established under the Companies Act, 1956.
 2. It functions under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
 3. It is responsible for protecting unclaimed dividends and shares.
- 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
- 28.** With reference to Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) in India, consider the following statements:
1. AIFs are privately pooled investment instruments that invest in non-traditional asset classes.
 2. AIFs are regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
 3. AIFs typically require high investment amounts and are ideal for High Net-worth Individuals (HNIs).
- 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

EXPLANATIONS

- 1. (c)**

In Context

- India has completed **eight years** since the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on **July 1, 2017**, a significant reform aimed at creating a **“One Nation, One Tax”** regime.

Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council

- The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council is a **constitutional body established under Article 279A** of the Indian Constitution through the **101st Amendment Act of 2016**.
- **The Union Finance Minister** is the Chairperson of the GST Council.
- The GST Council makes recommendations to the Union and the States on key GST-related issues, including:
 - Taxes, cesses, and surcharges to be subsumed under GST
 - Goods and services to be subject to or exempt from GST
 - Model GST laws, principles of levy, and apportionment of IGST
 - Tax rates, thresholds, special provisions, and any other matter relating to GST
- **Dispute resolution:** The Council also serves as a platform to resolve disputes between the Centre and the States or among the States themselves on GST-related matters.
- The Centre has one-third of the total voting power, while the States collectively have two-thirds.

2. (b)

Statement 1 is not correct: According to the State of India's Digital Economy Report 2024, released by ICRIER, India now ranks **third in the world for digitalisation of the economy**.

- India is the third-largest digital economy after the US and China.

Statement 2 is correct: The digital economy is growing fast, contributing **11.74%** to the national income in 2022–23 and expected to reach **13.42% by 2024–25**.

- **By 2030**, India's digital economy is projected to contribute nearly **one-fifth of the country's overall economy**, outpacing the growth of traditional sectors.

3. (c)**In Context**

- India has completed **eight years** since the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on **July 1, 2017**, a significant reform aimed at creating a **"One Nation, One Tax" regime**.

Key Aspects of GST

- **Destination-Based Indirect Tax:** GST is a destination-based tax, meaning the tax revenue accrues to the State **where the goods or services are consumed**, not where they are produced.
 - This is a key shift from the earlier origin-based taxation system.
- **Input Tax Credit (ITC):** GST enables seamless flow of input tax credit across the supply chain. Businesses can claim credit for taxes paid on inputs used to supply taxable goods/services, thereby avoiding cascading of taxes.
- **The current GST structure** consists of **four main rate slabs**: 5 percent, 12 percent, 18 percent and 28 percent.
 - **There are three special rates:** 3 percent on gold, silver, diamond and jewellery, 1.5 percent on cut and polished diamonds and 0.25 percent on rough diamonds.
 - **A GST Compensation Cess** is also levied on select goods such as tobacco products, aerated drinks and motor vehicles at varying rates. **It is used to compensate states for any revenue loss resulting from the transition to the GST system.**

4. (a)**Context**

- The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has issued the **'Model Rules for Felling of Trees in Agricultural Lands'**, with the objective of supporting States and Union Territories in simplifying regulatory frameworks and promoting agroforestry.

What is Agroforestry?

- Agroforestry is a combination of **practising agriculture and forestry together** on the same unit of land.
- Agroforest trees in India are **remnant trees from forests cleared for agricultural use**, offer shade, soil fertilization and other benefits to the land.

Agroforestry in India

- The area under agroforestry in India covers about **8.65%** of India's total geographical area.
 - About 56% of India is covered by farmland and 20% by forest.
- The highest concentration is in the states of Uttar Pradesh (1.86 million ha), followed by **Maharashtra** (1.61 million ha), **Rajasthan** (1.55 million ha) and **Andhra Pradesh** (1.17 million ha).

5. (a)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has advised all banks to integrate the Financial Fraud Risk Indicator tool .

The Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI)

- It was launched by the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT) Intelligence Unit** in May 2025.
- It is a **risk-based metric** that classifies a mobile number to have been associated with Medium, High, or Very High risk of financial fraud.
 - This classification is an outcome of inputs obtained from various stakeholders including reporting on Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C's) National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP), DoT's Chakshu platform, and Intelligence shared by banks and financial institutions
- It **helps banks, NBFCs, and UPI providers prioritize** actions against high-risk numbers by declining suspicious transactions and issuing alerts.

6. (a)**Context**

- The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) has released the **Global Liveability Index 2025**, assessing the quality of life across major cities worldwide.

About the Index

- **Methodology:** Assesses **173 cities** globally using **30 indicators** grouped under **five broad categories:** Stability, Healthcare, Culture and environment, Education, and Infrastructure.
 - The index scores each city on a scale of **1 to 100**, where 100 indicates ideal liveability, and 1 means it is intolerable.
- **Most liveable cities:** Copenhagen (Denmark) has claimed the **top spot** (98/100), Zurich (Switzerland) ranks 2nd (97.1/100), tied with Vienna (Austria).
 - **Copenhagen** has ended Vienna's three-year dominance by achieving perfect scores in stability, education, and infrastructure.
- **Least liveable cities:** **Damascus (Syria)** remains the least liveable city (30.7/100), followed by Tripoli (Libya) (40.1/100) and Dhaka (Bangladesh) (41.7/100).
- **India's Performance:** Delhi & Mumbai both scored 60.2, sharing 141st rank.

7. (b)**Context**

- Assam's Woolah Tea has secured a **20-year patent** for India's first **bagless tea** innovation.

About Woolah Tea

- Woolah Tea has been granted **Patent No. 567895** for its invention: 'Compressed true whole leaf tea dips and method thereof' (patent name).
- Founded by **Upamanyu Borkotoky** and **Ansuman Bharali** from **Sibsagar district**, showcasing **local entrepreneurship** rooted in Assam's rich tea heritage.
- Uses a **compressed bundle** of 'eti koli duti paat' (one bud and two leaves), tied with a **natural string**, removing the need for conventional tea bags.
- The innovative **bagless concept** adds value and sustainability to India's tea exports and **avoids microplastics** that often leach from typical tea bags.
- Woolah Tea plans to **export** to the **US, UK, UAE, Australia, and New Zealand**, expanding India's tea market globally.

8. (b)

Statement 1 not correct: Lorenz Curve: Graphically Gini Index can be explained by the **Lorenz curve**.

- A Lorenz curve plots the **cumulative percentages** of total income received against the cumulative number of recipients, starting with the poorest individual or household.
- A perfectly equal distribution will be shown by a diagonal line, while the actual distribution will be shown by the Lorenz curve.
- The Gini index measures the **area between the Lorenz curve and a hypothetical line of absolute equality**.
- **The bigger the gap, the more unequal the income.**

Statement 2 is correct: The Gini Index shows **how equally** income, wealth or consumption is distributed across households or individuals in a country.

- It ranges in value from **0 to 100**. A **score of 0 means perfect equality** and a score of 100 means absolute inequality.
 - **The higher the Gini Index the more unequal the country.**

9. (b)

Statement 1 is not correct: The threshold for the total value of the scheduled offence to declare an individual as an FEO is ₹100 crore or more, not ₹50 crore. The Fugitive Economic Offenders Act (FEOA) specifies that a Court of Session designated as a Special Court under the Prevention of Money-laundering Act, 2002, is the authority to declare an individual as an FEO.

Statement 2 is correct: A significant consequence of being declared an FEO under the Act is that the individual loses the right to file or defend any civil claim before any court or tribunal in India.

10. (a)

Statement 1 is correct: India is among the **Top 12 destinations** for biotechnology worldwide and **3rd largest destination** for biotechnology in Asia Pacific.

- India's bioeconomy has grown sixteen-fold from **\$10 billion in 2014 to an impressive \$165.7 billion in 2024**.
- **Contributing 4.25%** to the national GDP, the sector has demonstrated a robust compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of **17.9%** over the past four years.

Statement 2 is not correct: India's Biotechnology sector is **categorised into Biopharmaceuticals, Bio agriculture, Bio IT and Bio Services**.

- **Future Goals:** Target of achieving a **\$300 billion bioeconomy by 2030**.
 - India also seeks to lead globally in bio-pharma, including vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics.

11. (a)

Context

- The second edition of the North Eastern Region (NER) District Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index Report (2023-24) was released by NITI Aayog.

About

- The Index is developed by **NITI Aayog** and the **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MoDoNER)**, with support from the **United Nations Development Programme**.
- The Index, builds upon the momentum of the first edition released in 2021, measures the performance of districts across eight North Eastern States on the SDGs.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- **Adoption:** The United Nations General Assembly, during its 70th Session in 2015, adopted the document titled “Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”
 - This document outlines **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 associated targets**.
- The SDGs, also known as the Global Goals, **came into force with effect from 1st January 2016**.
- **Aim:** The SDGs serve as a comprehensive blueprint aimed at achieving a better and more sustainable future for all.
 - The goals call for action on addressing global challenges such as poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice.
- **Applicability:** The SDGs are universal, applying to all nations—developed, developing and least developed countries.
 - Countries are primarily responsible for following up and reviewing the progress made in implementing the goals and targets at the national level until 2030.
- **Legality:** The SDGs are **not legally binding**, but they have effectively become international obligations and have the potential to reorient domestic spending priorities in countries.
 - Countries are expected to take ownership and develop a national framework to monitor these goals.

12. (a)

Context

- The second edition of the North Eastern Region (NER) District Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index Report (2023-24) was released by NITI Aayog.

About

- The Index is developed by **NITI Aayog** and the **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MoDoNER)**, with support from the **United Nations Development Programme**.
- The Index, builds upon the momentum of the first edition released in 2021, measures the performance of districts across eight North Eastern States on the SDGs.

Key Findings

- Districts are categorised into **four categories**:
 - **Achiever:** Score equals 100 (achieved the targets set for identified indicators);
 - **Front Runner:** Score between 65 and 99 (excluding 100);
 - **Performer:** Score between 50 and 65 (excluding 65); and
 - **Aspirant:** Score less than 50.
- All districts in **Mizoram, Sikkim and Tripura** have **achieved Front Runner status**, with no districts falling in the Aspirant or Achiever categories.

- **Mizoram** has the highest-scoring district in the entire Northeast region (Hnahthial at 81.43) and Arunachal Pradesh has the lowest-scoring district in the entire region (Longding at 58.71).

Top 10 Districts			
State	District	Score	Rank
Mizoram	Hnahthial	81.43	1
Mizoram	Champhai	79.86	2
Tripura	Gomati	78.79	3
Nagaland	Mokokchung	78.43	4
Tripura	West Tripura	77.64	5
Nagaland	Kohima	76.93	6
Tripura	South Tripura	76.71	7
Sikkim	Gangtok	76.64	8
Mizoram	Kolasib	76.50	9
Nagaland	Dimapur	76.29	10

13. (c)

Statement 1 is not correct: Maize is a rainfed Kharif crop primarily grown in regions with semi-arid conditions (25 – 75 cm rainfall). While it is grown as a Rabi crop in specific regions like Tamil Nadu, its predominant nature across India is Kharif and rainfed. In Tamil Nadu, maize is a Rabi crop sown before the onset of the winter rainy season in September and October, as rains occur mostly in November and December in eastern Tamil Nadu.

Statement 2 is correct: India's maize production has grown from 10 Mn MT in the 1990s to 42.3 Mn MT in recent years, with a projected target of 86 Mn MT by 2047. The target of 86 Mn MT is indeed more than double the recent production of 42.3 Mn MT.

Statement 3 is correct: It adapts well to a wide range of soils, but thrives best in well-drained fertile loams. It can tolerate sandy to clayey soils, as long as drainage is okay.

14. (b)

Statement 1 is not correct: 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.

Statement 2 is correct: 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.

15. (d)

In News: India is facing both a responsibility and a historic opportunity — to repay the debt owed to regions that fueled India’s food security, and to reimagine agriculture for a sustainable future.

Statement 1 is not correct

- The term ‘**Green Revolution**’ was coined by William S. Gaud, then Administrator of the **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)**, in **1968**.
- It turned a famine-prone nation into a food-secure one, ushering in self-sufficiency in grain production and empowering millions of farmers.

Statement 2 is not correct

- In India, the Green Revolution benefited **Punjab, Haryana, and western Uttar Pradesh** (not all regions in India) with its focus on high-yielding rice and wheat varieties (not all crop varieties in India), irrigation expansion, and intensive chemical input.

16. (a)

Context

- Experts have projected that India’s natural rubber (NR) consumption will reach **20 lakh tonnes by 2030**, highlighting the urgent need to accelerate domestic production to meet rising demand and reduce import dependency.

Status of Natural Rubber in India

- Natural rubber is derived from the **latex of Hevea brasiliensis**, a tree native to the **Amazon Basin**.
- In the financial year **2024–25 (FY25)**, India’s domestic production of natural rubber stood at **8.7 lakh tonnes**.

Geographical Conditions for Rubber production

- **Climate:** Hot and humid conditions with temperatures between 25-35°C.
- **Rainfall:** Annual precipitation between 1,800-2,500 mm.
- **Soil Type:** Deep, well-drained loamy or lateritic soils with good water-holding capacity.
- **Altitude:** Generally grown up to 300 meters above sea level.

Rubber Production in India

- **Kerala:** The leading state in rubber production, contributing over 70% of India’s total output.
- Other states are **Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Tripura, and Assam**.

17. (b)

Context

- **The Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI)** released the monthly growth rate of the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**, which has slowed to a **nine month low of 1.2%**.

Index of Industrial Production (IIP)

- It is one of the prime indicators of economic development for the measurement of trends in the **behavior of Industrial Production** over a period of time with reference to a chosen base year.
 - It indicates the **relative change of physical production** in the field of industries during a specified year as compared to previous year.
- **Released by:** National Statistical Office (NSO).
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
- **Frequency:** Monthly.

- **Base Year (as of now):** 2011–12.
- **IIP is composed of three broad sectors:**
 - Manufacturing (77.6% weight);
 - Mining (14.4% weight);
 - Electricity (8.0% weight).
- **Another classification is based on the use of goods, which includes:** Primary Goods, Capital Goods, Intermediate Goods, Infrastructure/Construction Goods, Consumer Durables and Consumer Non-Durables.

18. (c)

In News: India is working on comprehensive policy interventions to accelerate the growth of **Global Capability Centers (GCCs)**.

Statement 1 is correct

- **Global Capability Centers (GCCs)** are **offshore units** established by **multinational corporations** to manage a wide range of business functions like software development, data analytics, cybersecurity, cloud computing, and customer experience management.
 - They differ from traditional outsourcing by focusing on value creation, innovation, and digital transformation.

Statement 2 is correct

- **Global Capability Centers (GCCs)** are **wholly owned subsidiaries of global firms**, offering strategic control and alignment with corporate goals.
- GCCs have evolved from **cost-saving BPO units** to strategic innovation hubs driving digital transformation, AI, and R&D.

19. (d)

Context

- The 97th foundation of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) organised was observed recently.

About ICAR

- It is an **autonomous body** under the **Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE)**, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India.
- ICAR is the apex body for coordinating, guiding, and managing research and education in agriculture and allied sectors in India.
- **Established in 1929**, it was earlier known as the **Imperial Council of Agricultural Research**.
- It is **headquartered** at NASC Complex, **New Delhi**.

20. (b)

Statement 1 is not correct : The Reserve Bank of India's Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index) rose by **4.3% in FY25**.

Statements 2 and 3 are correct : **Financial inclusion index(The FI-Index)** is a comprehensive index incorporating details of banking, investments, insurance, postal, as well as the pension sector in consultation with government and respective sectoral regulators.

- It captures information on various aspects of financial inclusion in a single value ranging between **0 and 100**, where **0 represents complete financial exclusion** and **100 indicates full financial inclusion**.

21. (b)

MoEFCC mandated the **installation of Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD) systems** to curb SO₂ emissions.

- In 2015, India introduced **revised emission norms**, requiring **mandatory FGD installation across thermal plants** by 2017.
- It is a **set of technologies** used **to remove SO₂** from exhaust flue gases of fossil fuel plants.
- **Wet limestone scrubbing** is widely used in **India's coal-based thermal power plants to control sulphur dioxide (SO₂) emissions**.
 - It involves passing flue gases through a slurry of limestone, where SO₂ reacts chemically to form gypsum.
- However, **Cement Industry** may emit SO₂ but doesn't primarily rely on wet limestone scrubbing.
 - The **Textile Industry** is not a major source of SO₂; focuses more on chemical and water pollution control.
 - **Steel Manufacturing** uses other methods for emissions control, mainly targeting particulate and NO_x pollutants.

22. (d)

Rubber Production in India

- Natural rubber is derived from the **latex of Hevea brasiliensis**, a tree native to the **Amazon Basin**.
- **Kerala**: The leading state in rubber production, contributing over 70% of India's total output.
 - Other states are **Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Tripura, and Assam**.
- **India** is the **sixth-largest producer** of rubber globally, and the **second-highest** in terms of productivity.

23. (d)

Context

- The IP filings in India in the last five years have increased by 44%, rising from 4,77,533 in 2020–21 to 6,89,991 in 2024–25.

What is Intellectual Property?

- Intellectual property (IP) refers to **creations of the mind**, such as inventions; literary and artistic works; designs; and symbols, names and images used in commerce.
- **IP is protected in law by patents, copyright and trademarks**, which enable people to earn recognition or financial benefit from what they invent or create.

Types of intellectual property

- **Patent**: A patent is an exclusive right **granted for an invention**, which is a product or a process that provides, in general, a new way of doing something, or offers a new technical solution to a problem.
- **Copyright**: It is a legal term used to describe the **rights that creators** have over their literary and artistic works.
- **Trademark**: It is a sign capable of distinguishing the goods or services of one enterprise from those of other enterprises.
- **Industrial design**: It constitutes the ornamental or aesthetic aspect of an article.

24. (b)

In News: Recently, the Government has unveiled the **Revised SHAKTI Policy 2025** — a transformative update to the **Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala (Coal) Transparently in India**.

Statement 1 is not correct

- SHAKTI Policy is India's flagship framework, launched in 2017 by the Ministry of Coal, for transparent coal allocation to the power sector.

Statement 2 is correct

- It replaced the earlier **Letter of Assurance (LoA)–Fuel Supply Agreement (FSA)** regime (nomination-based system) with a more structured, auction-based system to ensure fairness, efficiency, and affordability in coal distribution.

25. (b)

Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL), the first Indian airport set up under a **Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model**, is embarking on a major expansion drive focused on green energy, smart tech and integrated growth.

- **Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL)** is situated in **Nedumbassery, near Kochi, Kerala**, and serves as a major gateway to southern India, and positioned to become a **hub for international cargo and passenger traffic**.
- CIAL is building the **world's first airport-based green hydrogen production plant**, in partnership with **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL)**, scheduled for inauguration by **August 2025**.

26. (c)

The Gini Index ranked India among the world's most equal societies, by giving the country a score of 25.5.

Statements 1 and 2 are correct : The Gini index measures the extent to which the distribution of income or consumption among individuals or households within an economy deviates from a perfectly equal distribution.

- It ranges in value from **0 to 100. A score of 0 means perfect equality**.
 - A score of 100 means one person has all the income, wealth or consumption and others have none, hence absolute inequality. The higher the Gini Index the more unequal the country.

27. (b)**In News**

- The Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) has launched a 100-day campaign titled "Saksham Niveshak", running from 28th July to 6th November 2025.

The Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA)

- The Government of India established the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) in 2016 under section **125 of the Companies Act, 2013**, to administer the **Investor Education and Protection Fund**.
- It was established under the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs**.
- It is committed to promoting financial literacy, safeguarding investor interests, and **protecting unclaimed dividends and shares**.
 - Through initiatives like Niveshak Didi, Niveshak Panchayat, and Niveshak Shivir, IEPFA strives to build a financially informed and empowered investor base across the country.

28. (b)**In News**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued new guidelines capping investments by Regulated Entities (REs) in Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) schemes.

Alternative Investment Fund (AIF)

- It is a privately pooled investment which collects money from investors and invests it in non-traditional asset classes.
- These Funds are ideal for High Net-worth Individuals (HNIs) because they need a high amount of investment.
- AIFs in India are controlled by SEBI.

INDIAN POLITY & CONSTITUTION

1. Which of the following are considered exceptions to disqualification under the Anti-Defection Law?
 1. A merger of the original party with another party supported by two-thirds of the members.
 2. A split in a political party involving one-third of its members.
 - (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
2. 'K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India' is related to which of the following?
 - (a) Right to Freedom of Religion
 - (b) Right to Education
 - (c) Right to Privacy
 - (d) Abolition of Untouchability
3. With reference to the removal of judges in India, which of the following statements is/are correct?
 1. A motion for the removal of a judge can be introduced in either House of Parliament.
 2. For admission of such a motion, a minimum of 100 MPs in the Rajya Sabha must support it.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. The Supreme Court case Sanjay Prakash & Others vs Union of India (2025) is primarily related to which of the following?
 - (a) Appointment process of judges in the Supreme Court
 - (b) Deputation of IPS officers to senior posts in Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)
 - (c) Protection of civil liberties under preventive detention laws
 - (d) Electoral reforms and model code of conduct
5. With reference to the 'National Commission for Minorities (NCM)', consider the following statements:
 1. It is a statutory body that protects the rights and interests of India's religious minority communities.
 2. It functions under the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
 3. It has quasi-judicial powers, similar to a civil court.

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. Under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, which of the following is true regarding detention and arrest procedures?
- (a) BNSS removes the requirement to present the accused before a magistrate within 24 hours.
 - (b) BNSS mandates electronic documentation of arrests and detention-related actions.
 - (c) BNSS legalizes third-degree interrogation in exceptional cases.
 - (d) BNSS has no provisions related to custodial detention.
7. Which of the following serves as the common chairman of all the Zonal Councils of India?
- (a) Prime Minister of India
 - (b) Vice-President of India
 - (c) President of India
 - (d) Union Minister of Home Affairs
8. Consider the following statements regarding Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) in India:
1. ADCs are constitutional bodies established under the Sixth Schedule in certain tribal areas of Northeast India.
 2. Their functions include legislating on matters like land and social customs, and establishing village courts based on customary laws.
 3. The Governor of the respective state nominates the majority of members to an Autonomous District Council.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

9. Consider the following statements regarding Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls:
1. SIR is conducted exclusively through summary revision, without any house-to-house verification.
 2. The legal basis for SIR includes Section 21(3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

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 Simultaneous Elections in India, consider the following statements:
1. Simultaneous Elections refer to the idea of holding Lok Sabha and State legislative assembly elections together.
 2. Post Independence, Simultaneous Elections were never held 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

11. Consider the following statements regarding the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956:

1. The Act was enacted under Article 262 of the Constitution to provide a legal framework for the adjudication of disputes relating to the use, distribution, or control of inter-state rivers and river valleys.
2. The decision of a Water Disputes Tribunal constituted under the Act is final and binding on the parties involved, and no court, including the Supreme Court, has jurisdiction over such disputes.
3. The Act empowers the Union Government to set up River Boards for the regulation and development of inter-state river basins.

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

12. With reference to the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), consider the following statements:

1. The AAIB is a statutory body under the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India.
2. The AAIB has unrestricted access to all relevant evidence, without needing prior permission from judicial or other government authorities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

13. Consider the following statements regarding the nomination of members to the Rajya Sabha:

1. As per Article 80 of the Constitution, 12 members are nominated by the President of India to the Rajya Sabha.
2. The nominated members are primarily selected for their contributions in the fields of literature, science, art, and social service.
3. Nominated members serve a six-year term and have all the powers and rights of elected members, including voting in the election of the President of India.

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

- 14.** With reference to the office of the Governor in India, consider the following statements:
1. The Governor is appointed by the President and holds office during the President's pleasure.
 2. The same person can be appointed as Governor for more than one State.
 3. To be eligible for appointment as Governor, a person must be an Indian citizen and at least 40 years old.
- 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 District Mineral Foundation (DMF), consider the following statements:
1. It is a constitutional body created under the 73rd Amendment.
 2. It aims to work for the welfare of mining-affected people and regions.
 3. Contributions to DMF are made by the Union Government from the Consolidated Fund of India.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 2 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 2 and 3 only
- 16.** With reference to "Parole and Furlough in India", consider the following statements:
1. Parole is granted as a matter of legal right to all convicted prisoners.
 2. Furlough is an incentive-based release granted for good conduct in prison.
 3. Both parole and furlough are governed by the Union Government under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.
- Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
- 17.** With reference to the President's Rule in India, consider the following statements:
1. The proclamation must be ratified by both Houses of Parliament within two months.
 2. It can be extended every six months for up to three years.
- 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 functioning of the Indian Parliament, consider the following statements:
1. During the Question Hour, Members of Parliament can ask questions on matters of public interest and government functioning.
 2. The Zero Hour follows the Question Hour and allows MPs to raise urgent matters without prior notice.
 3. The Government is constitutionally bound to respond to issues raised during Zero Hour.

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

19. With reference to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the Indian Parliament, consider the following statements:

1. The PAC is constituted annually and consists of 22 members—fifteen elected from the Lok Sabha and seven from the Rajya Sabha.
2. The Chairperson of the PAC is appointed by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and has always been from the opposition since its inception.
3. A minister cannot be appointed as a member of the PAC.

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

20. In which of the following cases did the Supreme Court hold that the right to vote is a statutory right and not a fundamental right?

- (a) Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala
- (b) S.R. Bommai v. Union of India
- (c) Golaknath v. State of Punjab
- (d) Kuldip Nayar v. Union of India

21. With reference to the Electoral college of Vice-President of India, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It consists of both elected and nominated members of the Parliament.
2. It does not include the members of the State Legislative Assemblies.

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

22. With reference to the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, consider the following statements:

1. The Act applies only to government offices and public sector undertakings.
2. An Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) must be constituted in every office with 10 or more employees, and it must be headed by a woman.
3. The Act permits financial settlement as a mode of conciliation between the complainant and the respondent.

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

- 23.** The minimum age for voting in India was reduced from 21 years to 18 years by the Constitutional Amendment?
- (a) 42nd Amendment Act, 1976
 - (b) 44th Amendment Act, 1978
 - (c) 52nd Amendment Act, 1985
 - (d) 61st Amendment Act, 1989
- 24.** With reference to Article 143 of the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:
1. The President is bound by the advisory opinion of the Supreme Court under Article 143(1).
 2. The Supreme Court is obligated to answer every question referred to it under Article 143(1).
 3. The Supreme Court can go beyond the scope of the question referred to it under Article 143(1), if it deems necessary.
- 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
- 25.** With reference to the 'National Sports Governance Bill, 2025', consider the following statements:
1. It aims to establish the National Sports Tribunal.
 2. It replaces lower courts for sports disputes and allows final appeals in the Supreme Court of India.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
- 26.** Which of the following judicial developments reaffirmed the strict implementation of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989 without diluting procedural safeguards?
- (a) Subhash Kashinath Mahajan v. Union of India, 2018
 - (b) Indra Sawhney v. Union of India, 1992
 - (c) Prathvi Raj Chauhan v. Union of India, 2020
 - (d) Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India, 2018
- 27.** With reference to the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, consider the following statements:
1. It provides a pathway to Indian citizenship for undocumented migrants belonging to six specified non-Muslim communities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan.
 2. It reduced the required period of stay in India for these migrants from 11 years to 5 years.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

28. With reference to the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC), consider the following statements.
1. The POSH Act mandated the constitution of ICCs at all workplaces which employed more than 10 people.
 2. It has powers similar to a civil court and must complete inquiries within 90 days.
 3. It must be headed by a Supreme Court Judge and it includes members with legal and social work experience.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 3 only
 - (c) 1 and 2
 - (d) 2 and 3
29. With reference to the India's Legal Aid System, consider the following statements:
1. Right to legal representation and a speedy trial comes under Right to life under Article 21 of Indian Constitution.
 2. Article 39A of Indian Constitution directs the State to ensure that the legal system promotes justice on the basis of equal opportunity.
 3. State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs) and District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) are statutory bodies.
- 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
30. The emergency provisions in Part XVIII of the Indian Constitution are inspired by the Constitution of which of the following countries?
- (a) United States
 - (b) Canada
 - (c) Germany
 - (d) United Kingdom

EXPLANATIONS

1. (a)

In News

- Recently, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister highlighted the anti-defection law's key role in protecting democracy during a 2024 political crisis.

Anti-defection Law

- The **Tenth Schedule of the Constitution**, commonly known as the anti-defection law introduced in India in **1985** through the **52nd Constitutional Amendment**.
- It was aimed at **curbing rampant party-switching by legislators** that often destabilised elected governments and undermined democratic mandates.
- The infamous "**Aaya Ram, Gaya Ram**" phenomenon epitomised the **unethical political culture**, where legislators frequently switched allegiances for personal gain undermining voter trust and destabilising governments.

Exceptions

- Originally, the Tenth Schedule allowed two exceptions to disqualification: a split by one-third of a legislature party and a merger approved by two-thirds of the members.
 - Change by the 91st Amendment (2003):** To strengthen the anti-defection law and prevent its misuse, the provision allowing for “splits” (the one-third exception) was removed.

2. (c)

K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017): Declared **right to privacy as a fundamental right**.

- Article 21 of the Constitution** guarantees right to life and personal liberty, under which the **right to privacy has been read in**.
- Any infringement must satisfy the 3-fold test:** Legality (sanctioned by law), Necessity (for a legitimate aim), and Proportionality (least restrictive means).

3. (a)**Context**

- The Union Government is preparing to initiate the constitutional process for the removal of Justice Yashwant Varma of the Allahabad High Court.

Mechanism for Removal of Judges

- The Constitution of India provides for the removal of judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts under **Article 124(4)** and **Article 217** on grounds of “**proved misbehavior or incapacity.**”
- Initiation of Motion:** A motion for the removal of a judge must be introduced in either House of Parliament. To admit the motion;
 - A minimum of **100 Members of Parliament (MPs)** is required in the **Lok Sabha**.
 - A minimum of **50 MPs** is required in the **Rajya Sabha**.
- Admission of Motion:** Once the required number of MPs support the motion, it is submitted to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha or the Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha for admission.
- Constitution of Inquiry Committee:** Upon admission, a three-member inquiry committee is formed under the **Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968**, comprising:
 - The Chief Justice of India or a Supreme Court judge,
 - The Chief Justice of a High Court, and
 - A distinguished jurist.
- Investigation and Report:** The committee investigates the charges and submits its report within three months (extension possible).
 - If the charges are not proved, the matter ends here.
- Parliamentary Voting:** If the charges are proved, the motion is taken up in both Houses. It must be passed by a special majority:
 - A majority of the total membership, and
 - A majority of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting.
- Presidential Order:** Once both Houses pass the motion, it is sent to the President of India, who then issues an order for the judge’s removal.

4. (b)**Context**

- Despite a recent Supreme Court directive to reduce IPS depositions in CAPFs, the Ministry of Home Affairs continues such appointments, reigniting concerns about the autonomy of Group A CAPF officers.

Background

- In the case of **Sanjay Prakash & Others vs Union of India, 2025**, the Supreme Court ruled that:
 - **Group A officers of CAPFs** are to be treated as “**Organised Services**” for all purposes.
 - The deputation of IPS officers to Senior Administrative Grade (SAG) posts i.e., up to the rank of Inspector General (IG), in CAPFs should be progressively reduced within an outer limit of two years.
- **Purpose of the Ruling:** The decision aimed to ensure fair career progression for CAPF cadre officers and to curb the longstanding dominance of deputed IPS officers within CAPFs.

5. (c)

Statement 1 is correct

- The **National Commission for Minorities (NCM)** was established by the **National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992**, thus, it is a **statutory body**.
- It plays a pivotal role in protecting the rights and interests of India’s religious minority communities.
- Initially, five religious communities were notified as minorities: Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Zoroastrians (Parsis).
 - Jains were added to this list in 2014.

Statement 2 is not correct: The **National Commission for Minorities (NCM)** functions under the **Ministry of Minority Affairs**. It is both a watchdog and a bridge between the government and minority citizens.

- It is composed of **seven members**, including a **Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and five members**, each representing one of the six notified minority communities.

Statement 3 is correct: The NCM has **quasi-judicial powers**, similar to a **civil court**, allowing it to summon individuals, examine evidence, and requisition public records.

6. (b)

Statement (a) is not correct: The BNSS retains the fundamental requirement (inherited from the CrPC) to produce an arrested person before a magistrate within 24 hours, excluding the time necessary for the journey from the place of arrest to the Magistrate’s court. This is a constitutional safeguard.

Statement (b) is correct: A key reform in the BNSS is the emphasis on electronic modes for various procedures, including recording of arrests, search and seizure memos, and other detention-related actions, aiming to enhance transparency and accountability.

Statement (c) is not correct: Third-degree interrogation (which involves physical or psychological torture) is illegal and unconstitutional. The BNSS, like its predecessor, does not legalize such practices.

Statement (d) is not correct: The BNSS is the primary procedural criminal law in India and contains extensive provisions governing all aspects of arrest, police custody, judicial custody (custodial detention), bail, and trials.

7. (d)

Context

- Union Home Minister chaired the **27th meeting of the Eastern Zonal Council** in Ranchi, Jharkhand.

What are Zonal Councils?

- The Zonal Councils are the **statutory bodies** established under the **States Reorganisation Act of 1956**.

- The act divided the country **into five zones** (Northern, Central, Eastern, Western and Southern) and provided a zonal council for each zone.
- **Members:** Each zonal council consists of the following members:
 - **Home minister** of the Central government, the common chairman of the five zonal councils.
 - **Chief ministers** of all the States in the zone.
 - Two other ministers from each state in the zone.
 - **Administrator** of each union territory in the zone.
- **Each chief minister acts** as a **vice-chairman** of the council by rotation, holding office **for a period** of one year at a time.
- **North-Eastern Council:** In addition to the above Zonal Councils, a North-Eastern Council was created by a separate Act of Parliament **the North-Eastern Council Act of 1971**.
 - Its members include **Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Tripura and Sikkim**.

8. (b)

Statement 1 is correct: ADCs are “administrative bodies, established under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, to govern tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.” This confirms their constitutional basis and location.

Statement 2 is correct: The functions listed for ADCs include: “Enact laws on matters like land, forests, social customs, etc.” and “Establish village or district Council Courts to adjudicate disputes based on customary laws.”

Statement 3 is not correct: The structure of ADCs states: “Not more than thirty members (in general), of which four (maximum) can be nominated by the Governor.” This indicates that only a minority (maximum four out of thirty) are nominated by the Governor, not the majority. The majority of members are typically elected.

9. (b)

Statement 1 is not correct: SIR is not conducted exclusively through summary revision without any house-to-house verification. While summary revision is a common method, SIR can also involve intensive house-to-house verification, especially when significant demographic changes or discrepancies are suspected. Therefore, stating that it’s exclusively without house-to-house verification is incorrect.

Statement 2 is correct: The legal basis for SIR is indeed provided by Section 21(3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950. This section empowers the Election Commission to order a special revision of electoral rolls at any time, if it deems it necessary.

10. (a)

Statement 1 is correct: Simultaneous Elections (One Nation One Election) refer to the idea of holding Lok Sabha and State legislative assembly elections **together**, with the aim of **reducing the frequency of elections and their associated costs**.

Statement 2 is not correct: Simultaneous elections in India to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies were held in the years **1951-52, 1957, 1962 and 1967**.

- Thereafter, the schedule could not be maintained and the elections to the Lok Sabha and the State legislative assembly have still not been realigned.

11. (a)

In News: Centre grants yet another extension to Ravi Beas Water Tribunal that was constituted under the Inter-State River Water Disputes (ISRWD) Act, 1956.

Statement 1 is correct: The Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956 was enacted under Article 262 of the Constitution to provide a legal framework for the adjudication of disputes relating to the use, distribution, or control of inter-state rivers and river valleys.

Statement 2 is correct: The decision of a Water Disputes Tribunal constituted under the Act is final and binding on the parties involved, and no court, including the Supreme Court, has jurisdiction over such disputes as per Article 262(2) and the provisions of the Act.

Statement 3 is not correct: The Act does not empower the Union Government to set up River Boards for regulation and development of inter-state river basins. This power is provided under the River Boards Act, 1956, not the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956.

12. (c)

Context

- The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) has released its 15-page preliminary report on the investigation into the recent Air India plane crash in Ahmedabad that claimed 260 lives.

What is the AAIB?

- The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) is a **statutory body** under the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India, responsible for investigating civil aviation accidents and serious incidents in the country.
- Under **Rule 3 of the Aircraft (Investigation of Accidents and Incidents) Rules, 2017**, its sole objective is to prevent future accidents and incidents — **not to apportion blame or liability**.
- The AAIB has **unrestricted access** to all relevant evidence, without needing prior permission from judicial or other government authorities.

13. (a)

Statement 1 is correct: As per the Article 80 of the Constitution, out of the maximum 250 members in the Rajya Sabha, 12 are nominated by the President of India on the recommendation of the Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister.

Statement 2 is correct: The nominated members are “chosen for their special knowledge or practical experience in areas such as literature, science, art, and social service.”

Statement 3 is not correct: While nominated members do serve a six-year term and enjoy the same rights as other Rajya Sabha members, however, they cannot vote in the election of the President of India.

14. (a)

In News

- Kavinder Gupta (former Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir) has been appointed Lieutenant **Governor** of Ladakh, replacing Brig. (retd.) B.D. Mishra

Governor : Appointment and Eligibility

- The **Governor** is the constitutional head of a State and acts as a link between the **Union and the State governments**.
- Article 153** provides that each State shall have a Governor, and the same person can be appointed for more than one State.
- The Governor is **appointed by the President (Article 155)** and holds office **during the President's pleasure**, though his tenure is generally five years (**Article 156**).
- Eligibility** : To be eligible, one must be an Indian citizen aged 35 or above (**Article 157**), and cannot be a member of Parliament or a State Legislature, nor hold any other office of profit (**Article 158**).

15. (a)

DMF is a statutory body under the MMDR Act, not a constitutional body. Its main objective is the welfare of mining-affected areas and people. Contributions to the DMF are made by lease holders, not the government or Consolidated Fund.

16. (c)

Statement 1 is not correct: Parole is a conditional release granted to a prisoner **for a specific purpose or emergency for a short duration**. It is not a right, but a **privilege** granted under defined conditions.

- It is granted to maintain social relations with family and the community in order to fulfil familial and social obligations and responsibilities.
- The prisoner has to spend extra time in prison for the period spent by him outside the Jail on parole.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Furlough means release of a prisoner for a short period of time after a gap of a certain qualified number of years of incarceration by way of motivation for him maintaining **good conduct and remain disciplined in the prison**.
 - This is purely an **incentive for good conduct in the prison**.
- **Statement 3 is not correct:** Prison is a **State Subject under the Seventh Schedule**; hence, parole and furlough are governed by **State Prison Rules**, not by the Union Government.

17. (c)

In News: Recently, the Union Government has **appointed Puneet Kumar Goel** as the new **Chief Secretary of Manipur**, amid ongoing ethnic tensions and political uncertainty in the State, which was placed under **President's Rule** on February 13, 2025.

- **Constitutional Basis and Procedure:** **Article 356** empowers the President to impose central rule if a state government fails to function in accordance with constitutional provisions.
- The proclamation **must be ratified by both Houses of Parliament** within two months, and **can be extended every six months** for up to three years [Article 356(3)], subject to conditions like a national emergency or Election Commission certification.

18. (a)

Statement 1 and 2 are correct: **Question Hour:** Generally, the **first hour** of a sitting of the Lok Sabha is devoted to Questions called the Question Hour.

- Members can ask questions on every aspect of administration and governmental activity.
- MPs raise questions during Question Hour to hold the government accountable for its policies and actions.
- **'Zero Hour':** The Zero Hour follows the Question Hour and allows MPs to raise urgent matters without prior notice. It is an Indian parliamentary innovation and is not regulated by formal parliamentary rules.

Statement 3 is not correct: The Government is **under no obligation** to respond to the matters raised during the 'Zero Hour'.

19. (b)

Statement 1 is correct: The PAC is constituted annually and has up to 22 members: 15 from Lok Sabha, 7 from Rajya Sabha, selected by proportional representation.

Statement 2 is not correct: While the Chairperson of the PAC is appointed by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, it has not always been from the opposition since its inception. This convention (Chairperson from opposition) started in 1967. Prior to that, the Chairperson was usually from the ruling party.

Statement 3 is correct: A minister is not eligible to be a member of the Public Accounts Committee. The PAC scrutinizes government expenditure, and having a minister on the committee would create a conflict of interest.

20. (d)

Context

- The Supreme Court is examining the legality of **Bihar's Special Intensive Revision** of electoral rolls, raising questions about the legal status of the right to vote.

India's Commitment to Universal Adult Suffrage

- India after independence adopted universal adult suffrage regardless of gender, caste, religion, education, or property.
- **Article 326** of the Constitution guarantees voting rights to all citizens aged 18 and above, following the **61st Constitutional Amendment, 1989**.
- **Status of the Right to Vote in India:**
 - In the **N.P.Ponnuswami case (1952)**, a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court held that the right to vote is a statutory right.
 - The Supreme Court in **Kuldip Nayar v. Union of India (2006)** held that the 'right to elect' is a **statutory right** under **Section 62 of the RPA, 1951**, and not a fundamental or constitutional right.
 - In **Anoop Baranwal v. Union of India (2023)**, the Supreme Court declined to reopen the settled position.
 - In the **Jyoti Basu case (1982)**, the court reiterated that the right to vote is neither a fundamental right nor a common law right but a **statutory right**.

21. (c)

Context

- The Vice-President of India, Jagdeep Dhankhar becomes the **third Vice-President** in India's history to resign before completing his term, after **V.V. Giri** and **R. Venkataraman** in accordance with **Article 67(a)** of the Constitution of India.

Election of Vice-President of India

- The Vice-President of India is elected by the method of **indirect election**, with the system of **proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote** and the voting is by **secret ballot (Article 66)**.
- **Eligibility criteria:**
 - He should be a citizen of India and have completed **35 years** of age
 - He should be **qualified for** election as a **member of the Rajya Sabha**.
 - He should **not hold any office of profit** under the Union government.
- **Electoral college:**
 - It consists of **both elected and nominated members** of the Parliament.
 - It does **not include** the members of the **state legislative assemblies**.
- **The nomination** of a candidate for election to the office of Vice-President must be subscribed by at least **20 electors as proposers** and **20 electors as seconders**.
- All doubts and disputes in connection with the election of the Vice President are inquired into and decided by the **Supreme Court**, whose decision is final (**Article 71**).

22. (c)

Statement 1 is not correct: Definition of Sexual Harassment includes physical contact, demands for sexual favors, making sexually colored remarks, showing pornography, and any other unwelcome physical, verbal or non-verbal conduct.

- **Applies to all workplaces in India**, including the private sector, government offices, NGOs, educational institutions, and the unorganized sector.

Statement 2 is correct: Constitution of Internal Complaints Committee (ICC): Employers are required to constitute an ICC at each office or branch with **10 or more employees**.

- It has to be **headed by a woman**, have at least two women employees, another employee, and a third party such as an NGO worker with five years of experience.

Statement 3 is not correct: Procedure for Filing Complaints: Woman can file a written complaint **within three to six months** of the sexual harassment incident.

- There are two ways to resolve the issue by the committee- **through conciliation** between the complainant and the respondent (**which cannot be a financial settlement**), or committees could **initiate an inquiry**, taking appropriate action based on what it finds.

23. (d)

Context

- The Supreme Court is examining the legality of **Bihar's Special Intensive Revision** of electoral rolls, raising questions about the legal status of the right to vote.

India's Commitment to Universal Adult Suffrage

- India after independence adopted universal adult suffrage regardless of gender, caste, religion, education, or property.
- **Article 326** of the Constitution guarantees voting rights to all citizens aged 18 and above, following the **61st Constitutional Amendment, 1989**.

24. (d)

All three statements are not correct: Article 143(1): The President can refer any **question of law or fact that is of public importance** to the Supreme Court for its advisory opinion.

- The Court may **choose to answer or decline**, however, if the court chooses not to respond, it must record its reasons. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**
- **The opinion is not binding, but is highly respected:** In **Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (1991)**, the court reiterated that **advisory opinions are entitled to "due weight and respect"** and are **"normally followed."** However, it **refrained from settling the question of their binding nature**, observing that the issue could be revisited at a more appropriate time. **Hence, The advisory opinion of the SC is not binding. Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- The court is bound to **limit itself strictly to the questions** referred by the President and cannot exceed the scope of the Reference. **Hence, Statement 3 is not correct.**

25. (c)

In News: Recently, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports introduced the **National Sports Governance Bill, 2025** in the Lok Sabha.

- The **National Sports Governance Bill, 2025 replaces lower courts for sports disputes** and allows final appeals in the Supreme Court of India.
- The Bill formalizes a **multi-tiered dispute resolution structure** first, through **internal dispute chambers** within federations; then, to the **National Sports Tribunal**. **The Supreme Court remains the final recourse.**
 - This model is inspired by global precedents such as **FIFA's Dispute Resolution Chamber** and the **Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)**.

26. (c)

Context

- The Madras High Court has reaffirmed the legal obligation of the police to immediately register an FIR in cases of cognisable offences under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, without conducting a preliminary inquiry.

About the SC/ST (PoA) Act, 1989

- **Objective:** To prevent atrocities and hate crimes against Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs).
- **Scope:** Covers offences ranging from caste-based abuse to social and economic boycotts and violence.
- **Special Provisions:**
 - Creation of **Special Courts** for speedy trial.
 - **Relief and rehabilitation** for victims.
 - **No anticipatory bail** in certain cases.

Key Legal Provisions Cited in the Judgment

- **The SC/ST (PoA) Act, 1989** was amended in **2018** to include **Section 18A(1)(a)**, which mandates that **no preliminary inquiry is required** for registering an FIR under this Act.
- In **Prathvi Raj Chauhan v. Union of India (2020)**, the Supreme Court upheld the constitutional validity of Section 18A of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Act, 2018, which **restricted the grant of anticipatory bail and eliminated the requirement of preliminary inquiry before an FIR and arrest under the Act**.

27. (c)

Both statement 1 and 2 are correct: CAA amended the **Citizenship Amendment Act, 1955**, making two key changes to facilitate citizenship to undocumented migrants belonging to six non-Muslim communities — **Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi or Christian** from **Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan**, who entered India on or before December 31, 2014.

- It reduced the period to qualify for citizenship from the existing requirement of continuous stay of 11 years to continuous stay of **five years**.

28. (c)

Statements 1 and 2 are correct : The Supreme Court first addressed workplace sexual harassment in its landmark 1997 judgment in response to the gang-rape of Bhanwari Devi, a social worker in Rajasthan who was attacked for preventing a child marriage.

- This led to the formulation of the **Vishaka Guidelines**, which defined sexual harassment at the workplace and mandated the **formation of Complaints Committees by employers**.
 - These committees were to be headed by a woman, have at least 50% female members, and include an external member to ensure impartiality and prevent internal pressure.
 - Vishaka Guidelines remained non-binding until the public outcry following the 2012 Nirbhaya case prompted legislative action. This resulted in the **enactment of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013**, known as the **POSH Act**, which gave legal force to the Vishaka Guidelines.
 - The Act made it mandatory for all workplaces with over **10 employees to establish Internal Complaints Committees (ICCs)**.
 - The Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) has powers similar to a **civil court** and must complete inquiries **within 90 days**.

Statement 3 is not correct : The **Internal Complaints Committee (ICC)** is headed by a woman, it includes members with legal or social work experience, and at least half must be women.

- It can attempt conciliation or conduct an inquiry into sexual harassment complaints filed within three months.

29. (d)

In News: India's legal aid infrastructure remains underpowered and underfunded, despite being mandated to serve nearly 80% of India's population.

Statement 1 is correct

- **The Preamble of Indian Constitution** commits to securing justice — social, economic, and political — for all citizens, forming the philosophical bedrock of legal aid.
- **Article 21:** The Supreme Court has interpreted the **right to life to include the right to legal representation and a speedy trial** (Khatri II v. State of Bihar, 1981).

Statement 2 is correct

- **Article 39A** [Introduced by the 42nd Amendment, 1976]: It directs the State to ensure that the legal system promotes justice on the basis of equal opportunity and mandates free legal aid to prevent denial of justice due to economic or other disabilities.

Statement 3 is correct

- **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987:** It establishes National Legal Services Authority (**NALSA**), State Legal Services Authorities (**SLSAs**), District Legal Services Authorities (**DLSAs**), and Taluk Legal Services Committees (**TLSCs**) to deliver free legal services.
 - **Target Beneficiaries:** As per **Section 12 of the Act**, legal aid is available to women, children, SC/ST communities, victims of trafficking, persons with disabilities, and those in custody or poverty.
 - It empowers authorities to organize **Lok Adalats, legal literacy camps, and aid programs**.

30. (c)

In News

- The Lok Sabha has given its approval to the statutory resolution regarding the extension of **President's rule in Manipur** for a further period of six months with effect from 13th of August 2025.

Do you know?

- **Emergency provisions in Part XVIII of the Indian Constitution**, inspired by the **German Constitution**, allow the Central government to manage crises threatening India's sovereignty, unity, or security.
- There are three **types of emergencies**: national (Article 352), state (Article 356), and financial (Article 360).



GEOGRAPHY

1. With reference to the Civil Registration System (CRS) in India, consider the following statements:
1. It records vital events like birth, death, and stillbirth on a continuous and permanent basis.
 2. It is governed by the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 and falls under the State List of the Constitution.
 3. The system is administered by the Registrar General of India under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
2. Which of the following statements about Chile are correct?
1. Chile shares a land border with Argentina to the east.
 2. The Atacama Desert is located in the northern part of the country.
 3. The Drake Passage is located to the north of Chile.
 4. Chile is the world's southernmost country and the closest to Antarctica.

Select the correct option using code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
 - (b) 1, 2 and 4 only
 - (c) 2 and 4 only
 - (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
3. Consider the following statements with reference to the Munnar:
1. It is located in the Vellore district of Tamil Nadu.
 2. It is bordered by the Anamalai Hills and the Cardamom Hills.
 3. It is at the confluence of the Mahanadi and Godavari river.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
 - (b) Only two
 - (c) All the three
 - (d) None
4. With reference to the Republic of Ghana, which of the following countries does NOT share a land border with it?
- (a) Togo
 - (b) Burkina Faso
 - (c) Cote d'Ivoire
 - (d) Nigeria

5. Consider the following statements regarding the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD):
1. It is Africa's largest hydroelectric project, built on the Blue Nile.
 2. The Blue Nile originates from Lake Victoria and flows into Sudan to meet the White Nile at Khartoum.
 3. Egypt's concerns regarding the GERD are primarily rooted in its historical water rights based on colonial-era agreements.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
6. Consider the following statements
1. Kariyachalli island is situated in the Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park region between Rameshwaram and Thothukudi.
 2. Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park is the first marine biosphere reserve in South Asia.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
7. With reference to the Indian Diaspora, consider the following statements:
1. The diaspora encompasses a group of people who can either trace their origins to India or who are Indian citizens living abroad, either temporarily or permanently.
 2. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Canada are the top two countries where the most Indian diaspora resides.
- 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 Roll clouds, consider the following statements:
1. Roll clouds are a type of arcus cloud characterized by a tube-like, horizontal appearance.
 2. They are often associated with tornado activity and severe weather.
 3. Roll clouds are commonly observed in coastal regions like Australia.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

9. With reference to Trinidad and Tobago, which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. The islands of Trinidad and Tobago lie between the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea.
 2. It has become the first country in the Caribbean region to adopt India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI).
- 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. Consider the following statements
1. Helgoland is a small island which is located in the Mediterranean Sea.
 2. In June 1925, Werner Heisenberg developed the foundation of quantum mechanics on Helgoland.
- 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. Consider the following statements:
1. Cracks in the Earth's crust due to excessive stress are known as faults.
 2. Earthquakes are caused by the sudden movement of Earth's crust along fault lines.
- 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 the Taiwan Strait, consider the following statements:
1. The Taiwan Strait is also known as the Formosa Strait.
 2. It connects the South China Sea to the East China Sea.
- 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
13. The Nile River, the longest river in the world, does not flow through which of the following countries?
- (a) Kenya
 - (b) Tanzania
 - (c) Sudan
 - (d) Nigeria

- 14.** Which one of the following states in India approved its first Quantum Valley and a global hub for quantum technologies?
- (a) Telangana
 - (b) Andhra Pradesh
 - (c) Maharashtra
 - (d) Uttar Pradesh
- 15.** The Aube, Marne, and Eure rivers are major tributaries of which of the following rivers?
- (a) Danube River
 - (b) Seine River
 - (c) Rhine River
 - (d) Loire River
- 16.** The Tokara Islands, recently seen in the news, are located in which of the following countries?
- (a) Indonesia
 - (b) South Korea
 - (c) Philippines
 - (d) Japan
- 17.** With reference to the climatic impacts of volcanic eruptions, which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. Sulfur dioxide from eruptions can cause short-term global cooling.
 2. Methane and carbon dioxide released from frequent eruptions contribute to long-term global warming.
- 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 Guadalupe River, which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. The River originates from springs in Kerr County, where the North and South Forks meet.
 2. It drains into the Gulf of California.
- 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 Namibia, consider the following statements:
1. Namibia shares land borders with South Africa and Botswana.
 2. The Namib Desert and the Kalahari Desert both lie partly within Namibia's territory.
 3. Namibia is landlocked but has riverine access to the Atlantic Ocean.
- 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

- 20.** With reference to the Mahisagar river, consider the following statements:
1. It flows through the states of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Gujarat before draining into the Gulf of Khambhat.
 2. It is the only river in India that crosses the Tropic of Cancer twice.
- 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 the Wular lake, which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. It is India's largest freshwater lake and is situated on the foothills of the Haramuk Mountain.
 2. It was designated as a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention.
- 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
- 22.** With reference to the Turkana Basin, recently in the news for fossil studies, which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. It is a vast endorheic region located in northwestern Kenya and southern Ethiopia.
 2. It is centered around Lake Turkana, the world's largest desert lake.
- 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.** Which of the following are the important tributaries of the Mandovi River?
1. Sarang
 2. Lohi
 3. Pranhita
 4. Indravathi
- 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
- 24.** In which of the following states is Yaktan village, the site of India's first Digital Nomad Village, situated?
- (a) Arunachal Pradesh
 - (b) Meghalaya
 - (c) Nagaland
 - (d) Sikkim

25. Consider the following statements regarding Cabo Delgado province of Mozambique:

1. It is the northernmost province of Mozambique, bordering Tanzania via the Rovuma River.
2. The Makonde ethnic group, known for their wood and ivory carving, is native to this region.
3. The Quirimbas National Park, located in Cabo Delgado, was historically a significant center for slave trafficking.

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. Consider the following statements about Eswatini:

1. It is a landlocked country in Southern Africa bordering South Africa and Namibia.
2. It is a member of the Common Monetary Area (CMA) along with Lesotho, Namibia, and South Africa.

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

27. Which of the following countries are part of the Hindu Kush Himalaya region?

1. Afghanistan
2. Bangladesh
3. Sri Lanka
4. India
5. Myanmar
6. Vietnam
7. Cambodia

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
- (b) 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7 only
- (c) 1, 3, 4, 6 and 7 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7

28. Socotra Island, recently in the news, is located in which ocean?

- (a) Atlantic Ocean
- (b) Indian Ocean
- (c) Pacific Ocean
- (d) Arctic Ocean

29. Senegal shares its borders with which of the following countries?

1. Mauritania
2. Mali
3. Guinea

4. Nigeria

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

30. With reference to the Brahmaputra river, consider the following statements:

- 1. It originates from Chemayungdung Glacier in Tibet.
- 2. In Arunachal Pradesh it is known as the Zangbo 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

31. Bitra Island is located in which of the following water bodies and is part of which island group?

- (a) Bay of Bengal, Minicoy Island
- (b) Arabian Sea, Agatti Island
- (c) Indian Ocean, Amini Island
- (d) Arabian Sea, Kavaratti Island

32. Consider the following statements about the Kamchatka Peninsula:

- 1. It lies between the Sea of Okhotsk and the Arctic Ocean.
- 2. It is part of the Pacific Ring of Fire and is prone to frequent seismic activity.
- 3. It hosts the Volcanoes of Kamchatka, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

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

33. It traverses a major national park known for its biodiversity. The river lies in south-central Tanzania and is currently threatened by climate change.

Which river is being described in the above statements?

- (a) Limpopo River
- (b) Great Ruaha River
- (c) Zambezi River
- (d) Ruvuma River

34. With reference to the Mhadei River, consider the following statements:

- 1. The river originates in the Western Ghats within Karnataka's Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary.
- 2. It is known as the Mandovi River as it flows through Goa and drains into the Arabian Sea.
- 3. Karnataka accounts for the largest share of the Mhadei river basin.

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

35. Napne Waterfall, recently seen in the news, is located in which of the following states?

- (a) Tamil Nadu
- (b) Gujarat
- (c) Uttarakhand
- (d) Maharashtra

36. The Noon River primarily flows through which states?

- (a) Tamil Nadu
- (b) Uttar Pradesh
- (c) Sikkim
- (d) Meghalaya

37. Which of the following river islands is recognized as the world's largest and became India's first river island district in 2016?

- (a) Srirangam Island
- (b) Majuli Island
- (c) Munroe Island
- (d) Divar Island

38. With reference to the Musi River, consider the following statements:

1. The River is a tributary of the Godavari River.
2. It originates in the Anaimalai Hills in Western ghats.
3. The city of Hyderabad is located on the banks of the Musi River.

How many statements given above are correct?

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

39. Which of the following countries are a part of the Circum-Pacific Seismic Belt?

1. Japan
2. Indonesia
3. New Zealand
4. The Philippines

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

EXPLANATIONS

1. (c)

Statement 1 is correct: Civil Registration System (CRS), popularly known as **birth and death registration system**, is the recording of **vital events i.e.** Birth, Death & Still Birth under the statutory provisions on a continuous and permanent basis.

Statement 2 is not correct: CRS falls under the **Concurrent list of the Constitution**.

- **Governed by:** The Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969.

Statement 3 is correct: Administered by: The Office of the Registrar General of India (RGI) under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

- **Vital statistics** generated from civil registration significantly contribute to the formulation of effective and efficient evidence-based policy across multiple sectors.

2. (b)

Statement 1 is correct: Argentina lies directly east of Chile, separated by the Andes mountains.

Statement 2 is correct: The Atacama Desert in northern Chile is one of the driest places on Earth.

Statement 3 is not correct: The Drake Passage lies south of Chile, between Cape Horn and Antarctica. It's infamous for rough seas, not a tropical breeze.

Statement 4 is correct: While Chile and Argentina both extend into the southernmost parts of South America, Chile has the southernmost permanent settlement (Puerto Williams), making it the southernmost country with a city. Also, it has territorial claims in Antarctica and is among the closest.

3. (a)

In News : The Kerala government is working to transform Munnar into a Responsible Tourism Destination by December, aiming to make it a net-zero tourist hub that protects its fragile ecosystem.

Statements 1 and 3 are not correct : **Munnar** is a serene hill station in **Kerala's** Idukki district and sits 1,600 meters above sea level at the **confluence of three rivers—Muthirapuzha, Nallathanni, and Kundala**.

- It is located in the Idukki district of Kerala

Statement 2 is correct : **Munnar** is bordered by the **Anamalai Hills and the Cardamom Hills**.

- Known for its breathtaking landscapes, it features rolling hills, misty valleys, lush tea plantations, and cascading waterfalls.
- It was originally inhabited by the Muthuvan tribal community and became a tea hub in the late 19th century when European planter A.H. Sharp established the first plantations.
- Munnar is also famed for the Neelakurinji flower, which blooms once every 12 years, and the Eravikulam National Park, home to the endangered Nilgiri Tahr and the towering Anamudi Peak, South India's highest.

4. (d)

Context

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is on a five-nation tour, arrived in **Ghana on a two-day State visit**.

About the Ghana

- The Republic of Ghana is located in West Africa. It borders **Cote d'Ivoire** to the west, **Burkina Faso** to the north, **Togo** to the east and the Gulf of Guinea to the south.
- Ghana became the first sub-Saharan African country to gain its independence in 1957.

5. (c)

Statement 1 is correct: The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) is indeed Africa's largest hydroelectric project and has been constructed on the Blue Nile.

Statement 2 is not correct: The Blue Nile originates from Lake Tana in Ethiopia, not Lake Victoria. Lake Victoria is the source of the White Nile.

Statement 3 is correct: Egypt's primary concerns over the GERD stem from its interpretation of historical water rights, largely derived from colonial-era agreements (like the 1929 and 1959 Nile Waters Agreements) that allocated significant portions of the Nile's water to Egypt and Sudan, largely disregarding upstream riparian states like Ethiopia.

6. (c)

Statements 1 and 2 are correct : The Tamil Nadu government has started an initiative to save the sinking Kariyachalli island in the Gulf Of Mannar region, one of India's most ecologically sensitive marine zones.

Kariyachalli island is one of the 21 islands in the **Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park** region.

- The gulf is home to one of the four major coral reefs in India.
- It is located on the southeastern coast of India between Rameshwaram and Thothukudi.
- The **first marine biosphere reserve in South Asia, the Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park** is one of the richest regions on Earth in terms of biodiversity.

7. (a)

Statement 1 is correct: The diaspora encompasses a group of people who can **either trace their origins to India or who are Indian citizens living abroad, either temporarily or permanently.**

- **As per the Indian Ministry of External Affairs [2024],** the global Indian diaspora numbers approximately 35.42 million, consisting of 15.85 million non-resident Indians (NRIs) and 19.57 million people of Indian origin (PIOs).

Statement 2 is not correct: Top 5 countries where the Indian diaspora resides: United States of America (USA): 5.4Mn, United Arab Emirates (UAE): 3.6Mn, Malaysia: 2.9Mn, Canada: 2.8Mn and Saudi Arabia: 2.4Mn.

- **India is the origin of the largest number of international migrants** in the world, touching nearly 18 million, according to the UN World Migration Report 2024.

8. (c)

Statement 1 correct: A roll cloud is a **low, horizontal, tube-shaped,** and relatively rare type of **arcus cloud.** They usually appear to be **"rolling" about a horizontal axis.**

- It is created by a **wave in the atmosphere** that causes a **rising and sinking motion over adjacent areas,** allowing the clouds to form and appear to roll forward.
- This type of roll cloud can **stretch many hundreds of miles long.**

Statement 2 is not correct: It looks dramatic but is not associated with severe weather or tornado activity.

Statement 3 is correct: Roll clouds are unusual in Portugal, they are **more common in places like Australia,** where cold air from Tasmania meets warm mainland conditions.

9. (b)

Context

- PM Modi was conferred with '**The Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago**' - the country's highest civilian honour.
 - Trinidad and Tobago has become the **first country in the Caribbean region** to adopt India's **Unified Payments Interface (UPI).**

About Trinidad and Tobago

- **Location:** Trinidad and Tobago is situated in the **Caribbean Sea**, off the northern edge of the South American mainland, just off the coast of Venezuela.
 - It is part of the Lesser Antilles in the West Indies, geographically positioned between the **Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea**.
 - The islands lie close to the continent of **South America**, separated by the **Gulf of Paria**.
- **Physical Features:** Trinidad, the larger of the two islands, is mostly flat with some low mountain ranges and fertile plains.
 - Tobago, the smaller island, is more rugged and mountainous.
 - The region lies close to the **Orinoco River Delta** and experiences **tropical maritime climate**.
- **Capital:** Port of Spain



10. (b)

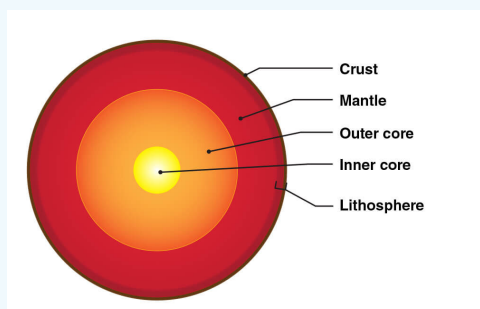
Statement 1 is not correct but statement 2 is correct : Helgoland is a tiny red-sandstone island in the **North Sea**, about 50 km off Germany's coast.

- It is Less than a square kilometre in size and it was once a naval fortress and later became a holiday destination for those seeking fresh air.
- It became a pivotal site in the history of physics in June 1925 when 23-year-old Werner Heisenberg developed the foundation of **quantum mechanics**.

11. (c)

Both the statements are correct: An earthquake is an intense shaking of Earth's surface. The shaking is caused by **movements in Earth's outermost layer**.

- **The Earth is made of four basic layers:** a solid crust, a hot, nearly solid mantle, a liquid outer core and a solid inner core.



- The **solid crust and top, stiff layer of the mantle** make up a region called the **lithosphere**.

- The lithosphere is made up of **tectonic plates** and tectonic plates are **constantly shifting** as they drift around on the **viscous, or slowly flowing, mantle layer below**.
- This non-stop movement causes stress on Earth's crust, when the stresses get too large, it leads to **cracks called faults**.
 - When tectonic plates move, it also causes **movements at the faults**. An earthquake is the **sudden movement of Earth's crust at a fault line**.

12. (d)

Context

- Taiwan condemned China's move to open a sensitive aviation route that runs through the Taiwan Strait, warning the change could increase tensions between the two sides and "regional unease".

About Taiwan Strait

- **Location:** The Taiwan Strait also known as the **Formosa Strait or the Tai-hai (the Tai Sea)** separates mainland China (Fujian Province) from the island of Taiwan.
 - It connects the **South China Sea to the East China Sea** and is a vital shipping lane.
 - It is approximately **180 kilometers** wide at its narrowest point.
- **Geopolitical Tensions:** China views Taiwan as a **renegade province** and asserts its claim over the **island and the strait**.



13. (d)

Context

- **Ethiopia** has announced the completion of a **Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD)**, **Africa's largest hydro-electric power plant** on the **Blue Nile**, a project that has long been a source of tension with **Egypt and Sudan**.

About the Blue Nile

- The **Blue Nile** originates in **Lake Tana**, located in the **Ethiopian Highlands** of eastern Africa.
- It joins the **White Nile** at **Al-Muqrin** in **Khartoum** (the capital of Sudan). From this confluence, the river flows north through Sudan and Egypt, eventually emptying into the **Mediterranean Sea** as the Nile.
- The **Nile River** is the **longest river in the world**, flowing through **11 countries**: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi, Uganda, **Kenya**, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Rwanda, **Tanzania, Sudan** and Egypt.



14. (b)

In News: Recently, the **Government of Andhra Pradesh** has officially approved the **Amaravati Quantum Valley Declaration (AQVD)** to transform Amaravati into **India's first Quantum Valley** and a global hub for quantum technologies.

- **Amaravati Quantum Valley Declaration (AQVD)** positions Amaravati as a deep-tech capital aligned with **India's National Quantum Mission**.
- It reflects a multi-stakeholder commitment involving the state government, global tech giants like IBM, TCS, and L&T, academia, and startups to build a vibrant quantum innovation ecosystem.

15. (b)

Context

- After a century-long ban due to pollution, swimming in Paris's River Seine is now permitted in designated zones.
 - The reopening follows a 1.4 billion euro (\$1.5 billion) cleanup plan linked to the 2024 Olympics.

About the River

- **Origin:** The Seine River originates from the **Langres Plateau** in northeastern **France**.
- **Length:** Approximately **777 kilometers** long.
- **Major Tributaries:** Aube, Marne, Yonne, Oise, and Eure rivers.
- **Economic Role:** Around 20 million tonnes of goods are transported on it every year, making it France's second-busiest river and reducing road traffic by an estimated 800,000 truck journeys.
- **UNESCO Status:** The Banks of the Seine in Paris were inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1991.

16. (d)

Context

- More than 1,000 earthquakes have rattled the Tokara Islands in southern Japan over the past two weeks, leaving the residents fearful and prompting evacuation orders.

About Tokara Islands

- The **Tokara Islands** are an archipelago consisting of **seven inhabited islands** and **five uninhabited islands**.
- The chain stretches about **150 km (93 miles)** and lies between **Yakushima** and **Amami-Oshima**.
- **Administratively**, the entire group belongs to **Toshima Village**, which is known as "**Japan's longest village**."

17. (c)

Context

- A new study presented at the 2025 Goldschmidt Conference in Prague has warned of a potentially dangerous feedback loop between climate change and increased volcanic activity.

Dual Impacts of Increased Volcanism

- **Cooling Effect:** Volcanic eruptions release **sulfur dioxide (SO₂)** into the atmosphere. **SO₂ converts** to sulfuric acid aerosols in the stratosphere, which reflect sunlight and lead to short-term global cooling.
 - These aerosols can remain aloft for up to three years, creating temporary drops in temperature.
- **Warming Effect:** However, prolonged or frequent eruptions release significant amounts of greenhouse gases like **CO₂ and methane**, which contribute to **long-term global warming**.

18. (a)

Context

- Recently, the Guadalupe River in Texas (USA) experienced severe flash flooding.

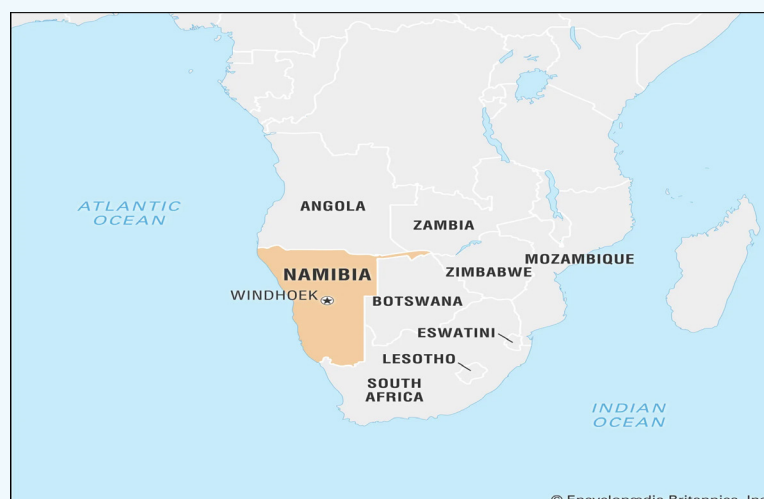
About Guadalupe River

- **Source:** Springs in Kerr County (where the North and South Forks meet).
- **Mouth:** San Antonio Bay (draining into the **Gulf of Mexico**).
- **Length:** About 370 km.
- **Major Tributaries:** Comal River, San Marcos River, Blanco River.
- **Cities along the River:** Kerrville, New Braunfels, Seguin, Victoria.
- **Important Dams:** Canyon Dam (forms Canyon Lake), Ingram Dam (used for recreation and local water control).
- **Guadalupe River flows** through one of the most flood-prone regions in the US, often referred to as **"Flash Flood Alley."**

19. (a)

Statement 1 and 2 are correct: Namibia is a country located on the **southwestern coast of Africa**.

- It is bordered by **Angola to the north, Zambia to the northeast, Botswana to the east, South Africa to the southeast and south, and the Atlantic Ocean to the west**.
- The country's name comes from the **Namib Desert**, which is considered to be the oldest desert in the world.
 - Both the **Namib Desert** (to the west) and parts of the **Kalahari Desert** (to the east) lie within Namibia's borders.



Statement 3 is not correct: Namibia is not landlocked — it has a coastline along the Atlantic Ocean.

20. (c)

In News: The recent collapse of the **Mujpur-Gambhira bridge** over **Gujarat's Mahisagar (Mahi) river** has once again exposed the alarming fragility of public infrastructure of India.

Statement 1 is correct

- **Mahisagar (Mahi) River** is one of the few major **west-flowing** interstate rivers in India, traversing the states of **Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Gujarat** before draining into the **Gulf of Khambhat** in the Arabian Sea.
- It **originates** at northern slopes of the **Vindhyas**, Dhar district, Madhya Pradesh.

Statement 2 is correct

- It is the **only river in India** that crosses the **Tropic of Cancer twice**.
- **Major Tributaries:**
 - **Right Bank:** Som River
 - **Left Bank:** Anas River, Panam River

21. (c)

Context

- After a gap of nearly three decades, the lotus has bloomed in Kashmir's Wular Lake.

Wular Lake

- **Location:** It is located in the **Bandipora district** of Jammu and Kashmir and is situated on the foothills of **Haramuk Mountain**.
 - It is spread in a total area of **200 square km** covering almost **24 km in length** while its **breadth is 10 km**.
 - The main source of water for Wular Lake is **River Jhelum**.
- Wular Lake is **India's largest freshwater lake** and the second largest in Asia (after Lake Baikal).
- The lake is also said to be a remnant of **Satisar Lake** that existed in ancient times.
- The lake also has a **small island** in its centre called the '**Zaina Lank**'. This island was constructed by **King Zainul-Abi-Din**.
- It was designated as a **Wetland of International Importance** under the **Ramsar Convention** in **1990**.

22. (c)

In News

- Recent studies extracted 18–20 million-year-old enamel proteins from extinct mammal fossils in the Turkana Basin, Kenya.

About Turkana Basin

- The **Turkana Basin** is a vast endorheic region in northwestern Kenya and southern Ethiopia, centered around **Lake Turkana**—the world's largest desert lake—renowned for its rich fossil record, unique biodiversity, and critical contributions to the study of human and mammalian evolution.

23. (a)

In News: The Goa government has launched two advanced Roll on-Roll off (RoRo) ferries, 'Gangotri' and 'Dwarka', on the **Chorao-Ribandar route in the Mandovi river**.

The Mandovi River

- It is one of the main **West Flowing Rivers of Goa State**.
- It rises in the Jamboti Ghats in Karnataka State.
 - The total length of this West Flowing River from its origin to its outfall into the Arabian Sea is 62 km.
- The **important tributaries** of Mandovi River are **Sarang**, Mahainada, Udel, **Lohi**, Velvota Bicholim, Mapuce, Nanoda and Khandepar.

- **Roll-on & Roll-off ("Ro-Ro")** waterways projects comprise of Ro-Ro ships/vessels which are designed to carry wheeled cargo, such as cars, trucks, semi-trailer trucks, trailers and railroad cars that are driven on and off the ship on their wheels or using a platform vehicle.
 - It also **comprises jetties**, with related port terminals and approach connectivity infrastructure.
- Roll on-Roll off (RoRo) ferries 'Gangotri' and 'Dwarka' are eco-friendly ferries, built by Vijai Marine Shipyards on a Built-Own-Operate-Transfer model.
 - This is **India's first RoRo ferry service**, aimed at improving waterway transport.

24. (d)

Context

- The country's first Digital Nomad Village was officially inaugurated at Yakten village, Pakyong district in Sikkim.

About the Nomad Sikkim Initiative

- **Objective:** To develop Yakten as a sustainable remote work hub for digital professionals while supporting local tourism and rural livelihoods.
- **Facilities:**
 - **Village-wide high-speed Wi-Fi connectivity** through two dedicated internet lines.
 - **Provision of inverters** to ensure uninterrupted power.
 - Plans under **Jal Jeevan Mission** to address water scarcity.
- **Model:** Enables professionals to work remotely in a peaceful, eco-friendly setting, providing a year-round alternative to seasonal tourism.

25. (d)

In News: The Four Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) projects planned for the Rovuma Basin in Cabo Delgado region in northern Mozambique in East Africa will produce 9.9 GtCO₂e of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Statement 1 is correct: Cabo Delgado is indeed the northernmost province of Mozambique, and the Rovuma River forms its border with Tanzania in the North.

Statement 2 is correct: The region is home to the Makonde ethnic group, who are noted for their natural talent in wood and ivory carving.

Statement 3 is correct: The Quirimbas National Park, located in Cabo Delgado, was historically a significant center for slave trafficking.

26. (b)

In News

- The United States has deported five foreign nationals convicted of serious crimes to Eswatini.

About Eswatini

- It is a landlocked country bordering South Africa and Mozambique in Southern Africa.
 - It is a member of the **Common Monetary Area (CMA)**, with **Lesotho, Namibia, and South Africa**.
- It was formerly known as Swaziland and it changed its name in 2018 to reflect its pre-colonial identity.
- It remains one of the few countries in the world, and the only one in Africa, governed by an absolute monarch.



27. (a)

In News : According to the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) The Hindu Kush Himalayas are witnessing an unprecedented rise in glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), driven by climate change and rising temperatures.

The Hindu Kush Himalaya region

- It covers 3,500 kilometres across Asia, spanning eight countries — **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan.**
- It is the source of **ten large Asian river systems** – the Amu Darya, Indus, Ganges, Brahmaputra (Yarlungtsanpo), Irrawaddy, Salween (Nu), Mekong (Lancang), Yangtse (Jinsha), Yellow River (Huanghe), and Tarim (Dayan) .

28. (b)

Context

- Field teams from the United Arab Emirates and the World Health Organization have successfully completed the first phase of a comprehensive health assessment on Socotra Island in Yemen.

About the Socotra Island

- Socotra Island is a remote **Yemeni archipelago** located in the **Indian Ocean** approximately 380 kilometers south of the Arabian Peninsula.
 - It lies in the northwest Indian Ocean near the Gulf of Aden, stretching 250 km, and consists of four islands and two rocky islets that appear as an extension of the Horn of Africa.
- The largest island covers about 3,600 square kilometers and is home to approximately 60,000 inhabitants.
- Socotra is renowned for its extraordinary biodiversity, with up to a third of its plant species being endemic and found nowhere else on the planet.
 - Despite its natural significance, Socotra faces ongoing challenges from Yemen's civil war.
- The island was recognized as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in 2008.



29. (c)

Context

- Senegal has been declared free of trachoma by WHO, marking a significant public health achievement.

About the Senegal

- Senegal is located at the westernmost point of Africa in the Atlantic Ocean, surrounded by the Continent of Africa, Europe and America .
- It is bordered by **Mauritania** in the North, **Mali** in the East, **Guinea** and Guinea Bissau in the South and by a 550 km coastline of the Atlantic Ocean in the West.
- Dakar, its capital, is a peninsula located at the extreme West.

30. (a)

Statement 1 is correct: It originates from **Chemayungdung Glacier** in **Tibet**, and enters **Arunachal Pradesh**, where it is known as the **Siang**.

- In **Assam**, it is joined by tributaries such as **Dibang and Lohit**, and is called the **Brahmaputra**.
- The river then enters **Bangladesh**, and makes its way to the Bay of Bengal. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

31. (b)

Bitra Island is located in the Arabian Sea as part of the Lakshadweep archipelago. It lies near Agatti Island, being one of its closest inhabited neighbors in Lakshadweep. Bitra is the smallest inhabited island in the territory and is recognized for its northernmost position within the group.

32. (b)

Context

- A series of earthquakes struck Russia's **Kamchatka Peninsula**.

About Kamchatka Peninsula

- Located in **far eastern Russia**, the peninsula lies between the **Sea of Okhotsk (west)** and the **Pacific Ocean & Bering Sea (east)**.
- The peninsula is dominated by two major mountain ranges:
 - Sredinny (Central) Range**
 - Vostochny (Eastern) Range**
- It is home to the **Volcanoes of Kamchatka**, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, and a key segment of the **Pacific Ring of Fire**.
- The Kamchatka peninsula is the centre point of the **Pacific and North American tectonic plates** where they meet, making it a **hot zone for seismic activity**.

33. (b)

In News

- Tanzania's Vision 2050 aims to tackle the climate crisis threatening the Great Ruaha River, a vital resource for agriculture and biodiversity.

About Great Ruaha River

- It is a major river in south-central Tanzania.
- It flows northeast through the Usangu wetlands, descends across the Usangu plains (important for agriculture and livestock), and passes through **Ruaha National Park**.

34. (a)

In News

- Goa is taking Karnataka to the Supreme Court, accusing it of illegally diverting water from the Mhadei river's Kalasa tributary.

About Mhadei river

- Origin:** Western Ghats (Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary, Karnataka)
- Basin:** (Goa 78%, Karnataka 18%, Maharashtra 4%). Flows through Karnataka into Goa, where it is known as the Mandovi, and empties into the Arabian Sea.

35. (d)

A glass bridge built over the **Napne waterfall** was recently inaugurated by the Maharashtra Minister.

- The glass bridge is part of the **Sindhuratna tourism scheme**, aimed at promoting lesser-known destinations across the state.
- Napne waterfall** originates near Nadhavade village, it is located in the **Konkan region** and is a **perennial waterfall in Maharashtra**.
- It is home to **hornbills, butterflies, and an abundance of endemic flora** offering both aesthetic and ecological appeal.

36. (b)

The Noon River is undergoing restoration through community-led desilting efforts.

- The Noon River originates in **Satah village, which is part of the Koch development block in the Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh**.
- The revival of the river seeks to address farmland submergence and water shortages.
- A major section of the river has been restored due to community involvement and administrative backing.

37. (b)

Context

- Locals of Pathorichuk village of **Majuli, Assam** are combating **riverbank erosion** by planting **Kanchan trees** along the Brahmaputra's banks.

About the Majuli Island

- Majuli is the **world's largest river island**.
- It lies in the **Brahmaputra River** in Assam and became **India's first river island district in 2016**.
- The island is bounded by:
 - Northwest:** River Subansiri and its tributaries Ranganadi, Dikrong, Dubla, Chici, and Tuni etc.
 - Northeast:** Kherkatia Suli (a spill channel of the Brahmaputra)
 - South and Southwest:** Main Brahmaputra River
- Majuli is home to indigenous tribes such as the **Mising, Deori, and Sonowal Kachari**, and it is a centre for **Assamese neo-Vaishnavite culture**.

38. (a)

Context

- The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) has initiated action against illegal encroachments into the Musi river bed.

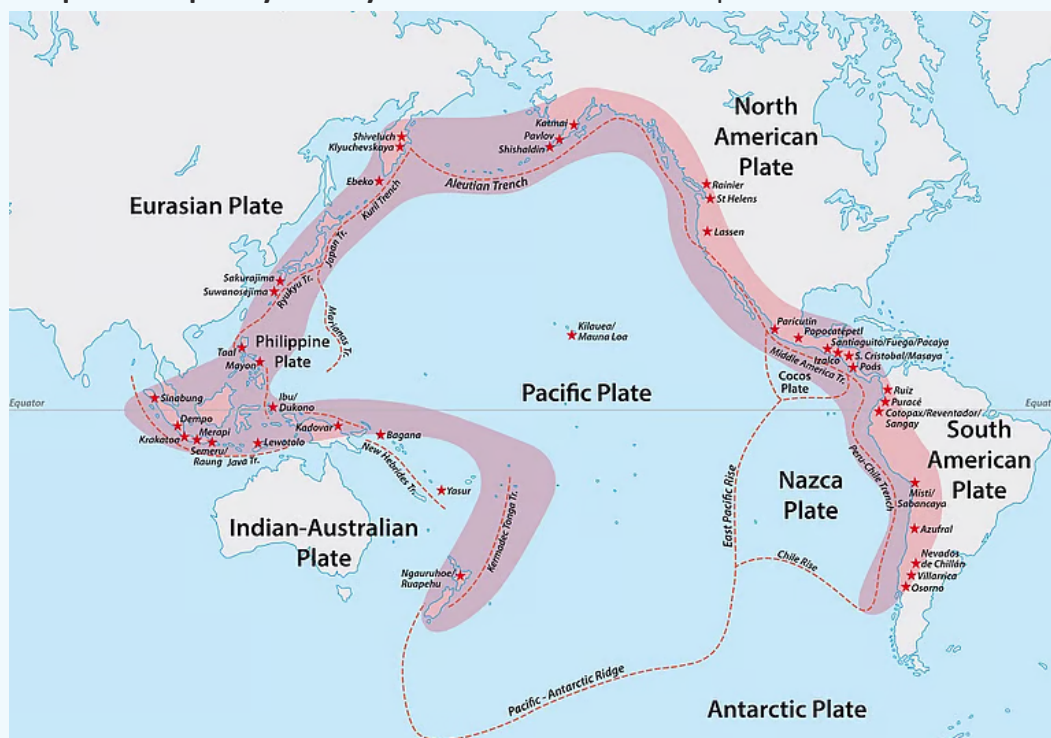
About

- **The Musi River** is a major tributary of the **Krishna River**, one of the major east-flowing rivers of peninsular India.
- **Location:** It flows through the state of Telangana in India. The city of **Hyderabad** is situated on the banks of the Musi.
- **Origin:** The river originates in the **Ananthagiri Hills** in the Vikarabad region of Rangareddy district, Telangana.
- **Reservoirs:** The river flows into the **Himayat Sagar and Osman Sagar reservoirs**, which historically served as water sources for Hyderabad.

39. (d)

The Circum-Pacific seismic belt (Ring of Fire): It is a horseshoe-shaped zone about 40,000 km long, characterised by frequent seismic and volcanic activity due to the movement and interaction of tectonic plates.

- **Countries:** Japan, Indonesia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Alaska, the US West Coast, and South America's Pacific edge.
- **Earthquake frequency:** Nearly 90% of the world's earthquakes occur in this seismic belt.



GOVERNMENT SCHEMES/ INITIATIVES

1. With reference to the Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Scheme, consider the following statements:
1. The Department of Science and Technology (DST) is the nodal agency for the scheme.
 2. The Minister of Science and Technology will chair the Governing Board of Anusandhan National Research Foundation.
 3. Special Purpose Fund (SPF) created under ANRF will act as custodian of funds under the scheme.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
2. Consider the following statement with reference C-FLOOD:
1. It is developed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to offer two-day advance flood forecasts.
 2. It covers the Mahanadi, Godavari, and Tapi river basins.
 3. It is executed under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM).
- How many of the statements given above are correct?
- (a) Only one
 - (b) Only two
 - (c) All the three
 - (d) None
3. Which among the following states became the first in the country to introduce Aadhaar-based face authentication (FaceAuth)?
- (a) Tamil Nadu
 - (b) Gujarat
 - (c) Meghalaya
 - (d) Himachal Pradesh
4. Consider the following statements about Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND) scheme:
1. It is a Central Sector Scheme launched by the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology.
 2. Its sole purpose is to provide financial support for the expansion and modernization of Prasar Bharati's infrastructure.

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 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS), consider the following statements:

1. It is a Central Sector Scheme implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to provide quality education to tribal children.
2. The government has set a target to establish 728 EMRSs across the country by 2030.

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. With reference to the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), consider the following statements:

1. It was launched by Prime Minister Modi in 2019 and is implemented by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
2. The mission aims to provide tap connections to about 16 crore rural households by 2030.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

7. Recently, the TALASH Initiative was in news, primarily focusing on:

- (a) Tribal students
- (b) Child trafficking
- (c) Critical minerals
- (d) Fugitive economic offenders

8. Consider the following statements about the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS):

1. MGNREGS guarantees at least 100 days of wage employment to rural households whose adult members volunteer for unskilled manual work.
2. The Sinha Committee, set up in 2022, was tasked with reviewing demand, expenditure trends, and governance of MGNREGS.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

9. With reference to Stand-Up India Scheme, which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. The borrower must be SC/ST and/or a woman entrepreneur, aged above 18 years.
 2. The scheme facilitates bank loans ranging from ₹10 lakh to ₹1 crore for setting up greenfield enterprises.
- 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 sectors are covered by the Assistance in Deploying Energy Efficient Technologies in Industries & Establishments (ADEETIE) scheme?
1. Bricks
 2. Chemicals
 3. Fishery
 4. Food Processing
 5. Leather
 6. Textiles
 7. Glass
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
 - (b) 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7 only
 - (c) 1, 3, 4, 6 and 7 only
 - (d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7
11. With reference to the PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana, which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. It is inspired by the Aspirational Districts Programme of NITI Aayog.
 2. It will be implemented over a period of six years starting from 2025–26.
- 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
12. Consider the following statements with reference to Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) Scheme.
1. It is an educational empowerment scheme which provides assistance to pursue PhD courses.
 2. It was launched in 2012 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
 3. It covers only Sikh, Buddhist, Jain and Muslim communities.
- How many of the statements given above are correct?
- (a) Only one
 - (b) Only two
 - (c) All the three
 - (d) None

- 13.** 'Trade Connect' e-Platform has been launched by which of the following?
- (a) Ministry of Commerce & Industry
 - (b) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
 - (c) Ministry of Finance
 - (d) NITI Aayog
- 14.** Consider the following statements with reference to 'Bima Sakhi Scheme'.
1. It is designed to empower women aged 21-40 years, who are graduates.
 2. Under it, women will receive specialized training and monthly stipend of Rs 30000.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
- 15.** Consider the following statements regarding the Prime Minister's Internship Scheme (PMIS):
1. The scheme is open to individuals aged between 21 to 24 years who are not enrolled in any full-time academic program or employment.
 2. The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship is the nodal ministry implementing the scheme.
 3. Each intern is provided with ₹5,000 monthly financial assistance, along with a one-time grant of ₹6,000.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
- 16.** Consider the following statements regarding the National Sickle Cell Anemia Elimination Mission:
1. It was launched by the Prime Minister at Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh.
 2. The mission targets the screening of 7 crore individuals aged 0–40 years in affected tribal areas by FY 2025–26.
 3. The screening is conducted using CRISPR-based genome editing technology to ensure confirmatory results.
- 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
- 17.** Which of the following correctly describes the target beneficiaries of the Palna Scheme?
- (a) Only working mothers and their children aged 0–3 years
 - (b) All children aged 0–14 years belonging
 - (c) Only malnourished children under 5 years of age
 - (d) All children aged 6 months to 6 years and their mothers, irrespective of employment status

18. Consider the following statements regarding the Atal Pension Yojana (APY):

1. It is a voluntary, contributory pension scheme administered by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).
2. The scheme is primarily targeted at workers in the organized sector who do not have any formal pension schemes.
3. Subscribers can choose a fixed monthly pension ranging from ₹1,000 to ₹5,000 after attaining the age of 60 years.

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

19. Mission Vatsalya subsumes which of the following earlier initiatives?

1. Integrated Programme for Street Children
2. Programme for Juvenile Justice
3. Scheme for Assistance to Homes for Children (Shishu Greh)
4. National Crèche Scheme

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

20. With reference to the "Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar" Programme, consider the following statements:

1. The programme aims to document and map all villages across India, including their cultural, historical, and natural heritage.
2. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Culture, being implemented through the National Mission on Cultural Mapping (NMCM).
3. The collected data is compiled into a "Village Cultural Map" and is accessible through a digital platform for public viewing and research.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

21. With reference to the National Overseas Scholarship Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. The scheme aims to support students from Scheduled Castes, Denotified Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes, Landless Agricultural Labourers, and Traditional Artisans.
2. It provides scholarships for pursuing undergraduate education in India and abroad.
3. An unconditional offer from any foreign university is sufficient to be eligible.

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

EXPLANATIONS

1. (c)

Statement 1 is correct: The Union Cabinet has approved the **Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Scheme** with a corpus of **Rs. One lakh Crore**.

- **Nodal Department:** Department of Science and Technology (DST).

Statement 2 is not correct: Institutional Framework:

- **Governing Board (Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF):** Chaired by the **Prime Minister**, provides overall strategic direction.
- **Executive Council (ANRF):** Approves scheme guidelines, identifies projects and fund managers.
- **Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGoS):** Chaired by the Cabinet Secretary, oversees implementation, reviews performance, and approves changes.

Statement 3 is correct: The government will channel **₹1 lakh crore to the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)** as a **50-year interest-free loan**.

- **Special Purpose Fund (SPF):** Created under ANRF, it acts as **custodian of funds**. From the SPF funds shall be allocated to a **variety of 2nd level fund managers**.
- **Second-Level Fund Managers:** Receive concessional long-term loans or equity from SPF to fund R&D projects.
 - The funding to R&D projects by the 2nd level fund managers would normally be in the **form of long-term loan at low or nil interest rates**.
 - They will **evaluate and select individual projects** for funding, through both equity and debt
- **Forms of Financing:** Long-term concessional loans (primary mode).
 - Equity financing (especially for startups).
 - Contributions to Deep-Tech Fund of Funds.

2. (b)

In News : Union Minister of Jal Shakti inaugurated C-FLOOD in New Delhi.

Statement 1 is not correct : **C-FLOOD** is a **Unified Inundation Forecasting System** developed collaboratively by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) Pune and the Central Water Commission under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

- It is a **web-based platform** offering **two-day advance flood forecasts** at the village level through inundation maps and water level predictions.

Statements 2 and 3 are correct : C-FLOOD is part of the **National Supercomputing Mission** and aims to enhance India's flood management and disaster response capabilities.

- It integrates **flood modeling from national and regional agencies**, serving as a unified decision-support tool for disaster management.
 - Currently, it covers the Mahanadi, Godavari, and Tapi river basins, with plans to include more basins.

3. (d)

Himachal Pradesh became the **first state in the country** to introduce **Aadhaar-based face authentication (FaceAuth)**.

- **FaceAuth** is introduced for the **distribution of ration to eligible beneficiaries under the Public Distribution System (PDS)**.
- Until now, **authentication** was carried out using either **OTP-based or biometric methods**.
 - However, **frequent challenges** such as SMS delivery failures and biometric mismatches at the UIDAI end were causing inconvenience to the beneficiaries.
- With the launch of the FaceAuth mechanism, **the process has now been streamlined and made more accessible**.

4. (d)

Statement 1 is not correct: The BIND scheme is a Central Sector Scheme, but it is launched by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, not the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology.

Statement 2 is not correct: The scheme's purpose is broader than just financial support for expansion and modernization of Prasar Bharati's infrastructure. It also includes content development, civil works, increasing coverage, free distribution of set-top boxes in remote areas, and employment generation.

5. (a)

Context

- Close to 600 students from government-run Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) cleared the IIT-JEE and NEET exams this year, according to an assessment by the Tribal Affairs Ministry.

About the Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)

- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is implementing the **Central Sector Scheme** of Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) to provide quality education to the tribal children.
- Under the scheme, the government aims to establish one EMRS in every block with more than 50% Scheduled Tribe (ST) population and at least 20,000 tribal persons (as per the 2011 Census).
- The Ministry has set a target to establish **728 EMRSs across the country by 2026**.

6. (a)

Context

- The Jammu & Kashmir Assembly's House Committee is currently probing allegations of irregularities in the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in the region.

Jal Jeevan Mission

- It was launched by Prime Minister Modi in **2019**.
- **Concerned Ministry:** It comes under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- **Aim:** To provide tap connections to about **16 crore rural households** to achieve **saturation coverage by 2028 (earlier 2024)**.
- **Mandatory components include:** Source sustainability, Greywater management, Water conservation and Rainwater harvesting.
- Retrofitting of ongoing and completed schemes to **provide FHTCs** at a minimum service level of **55 liters per capita per day (lpcd)**.
- **Mission Objectives:**
 - **Empowering Women:** Reduces the burden on women of fetching water. Improves health, education, and socio-economic status of women.
 - **Ease of Living:** Enhances the dignity and quality of life of rural families.
- **Community Approach:**
 - Focus on Information, Education, and Communication (IEC).
 - Aims to create a janandolan (people's movement) for water.

7. (a)

In News

- The **National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS)**, an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, in partnership with UNICEF India launched **TALASH (Tribal Aptitude, Life Skills and Self-Esteem Hub)**.

About

- It is the first program of its kind in India, specifically aimed at supporting the holistic development of tribal students enrolled in **Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs)** across 28 States and 8 Union Territories
- TALASH is designed to foster both educational and personal growth among tribal students and offers life skills, and career clarity, empowering students to discover their strengths and plan their futures.

8. (c)

Context

- The Union Rural Development Ministry has issued a detailed 13-page note to State governments highlighting how the digital attendance system under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is being manipulated.

About MGNREGS

- The vision of MGNREGS is to enhance livelihood security for rural households across the country by providing at least **100 days** of guaranteed wage employment each financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.
 - Legal Backing:** MGNREGA was passed in 2005 as a poverty alleviation instrument.
 - Current Reach:** There are currently about 15 crore active workers enrolled.
 - Pandemic Support:** MGNREGA acted as a crucial safety net during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Do you know?

- The **Sinha Committee**, set up in 2022, was tasked with studying factors driving MGNREGA demand, expenditure trends, inter-State variations, and work composition, and will recommend changes to improve its focus and governance.

9. (c)

About

- The Stand-Up India Scheme is an initiative of the **Ministry of Finance** aimed at promoting entrepreneurship among **Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and women**.
- The scheme facilitates bank loans ranging from **₹10 lakh to ₹1 crore** for setting up **greenfield enterprises** in manufacturing, services, trading, or activities allied to agriculture.
- Eligibility Criteria:**
 - The borrower must be SC/ST and/or a woman entrepreneur, aged above **18 years**.
 - In case of non-individual enterprises, **at least 51%** of the shareholding and controlling stake must be held by either an SC/ST or a woman entrepreneur.

10. (d)

The ADEETIE scheme, with a budgetary outlay of ₹1000 crore, is an initiative by the Ministry of Power, Government of India, is being implemented by the **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)**.

- It is structured to provide end-to-end hand holding through subvention on loans, Investment Grade Energy Audits (IGEA), Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), and post-implementation Monitoring and Verification (M&V).

- The scheme covers **14 energy-intensive sectors**: Brass, **Bricks**, Ceramics, **Chemicals**, **Fishery**, **Food Processing**, Forging, Foundry, **Glass**, **Leather**, Paper, Pharma, Steel Re-rolling, and **Textiles**.
- It envisages to provide interest subvention of 5% for Micro and Small Enterprises, and 3% for Medium Enterprises on loans, ensuring accessibility and affordability for MSMEs seeking financial aid for energy efficiency (EE) projects.

11. (c)

Context

- The Union Cabinet approved the “Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhanya Krishi Yojana” for a period of six years.

PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana

- It is the **first dedicated scheme** focused on agriculture and allied sectors. It is inspired by the **Aspirational Districts Programme of NITI Aayog**.
- **Total outlay**: Rs 24,000 crore per annum
- **Resource pool**: Convergence of 36 existing schemes from 11 Central Ministries /Departments, along with state schemes and private sector participation.
- **Coverage**: 100 districts, with at least one from every state/UT.
 - It will be identified on the basis of **three key indicators**- low productivity , low cropping intensity and low credit disbursement.
- **Targeted beneficiaries**: 1.7 crore farmers
- **Implementation period**: 6 years (starting from 2025-26)
- **Objectives of the scheme**:
 - Enhance agricultural productivity, promote crop diversification and encourage sustainable agricultural practices,
 - Strengthen post-harvest storage at panchayat and block levels,
 - Improve irrigation infrastructure,
 - Provide long-term and short-term credit to farmers.

12. (a)

In News :The Union Ministry of Minority Affairs announced that the seven-month pending payments under the Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) have now been released.

Statement is 1 correct but statements 2 and 3 are not correct : **Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) Scheme** is a **five-year fellowship** provided by the Centre in the form of **financial assistance to six notified minority communities** – Muslims, **Buddhists, Christians, Jains, Parsis and Sikhs** — to pursue **M Phil and PhD**.

- It was launched in 2009-10 as a **Central Sector Scheme**.
- It is being implemented by the Ministry **of Minority Affairs**.
- It covers all Universities/Institutions recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC)
- **Scope**: The Fellowship will cater to the minority community students pursuing regular and full time research studies leading to award of M.Phil/Ph.D degree within India only.
 - This will enable them to be eligible for employment to the posts with M.Phil and Ph.D as pre- requisites, including the posts of Assistant Professors in various academic institutions.

13. (a)

Context

- ‘Trade Connect’ e-Platform was showcased at the India International Garment Fair (IIGF) and Toy Biz International Expo.

About Trade Connect ePlatform

- Trade Connect ePlatform, an initiative by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) under the **Ministry of Commerce & Industry**, serves as a comprehensive hub for information and services related to international trade for all stakeholders.
- Trade Connect provides up-to-date information on **tariffs, certifications, trade events**, e-commerce, and buyers in a simplified format for MSMEs. Interactive courses to introduce MSMEs to exports & related procedures across **multiple languages** are also provided.
- It also serves as a **single point** for the issuance and validation of **preferential and non-preferential certificates** of origin through a secure, electronic, and paperless process, with all authorised issuing agencies integrated into the platform.

14. (d)

In News : Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) paid ₹62.36 crore as stipend to women under 'Bima Sakhi Scheme' during FY 2024–25.

Statements 1 and 2 are not correct : The 'Bima Sakhi Scheme' is an initiative of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) designed to empower **women aged 18-70 years, who are Class X pass.**

- They will receive specialized training and a stipend for the first three years to promote financial literacy and insurance awareness.
 - The stipend scheme is in addition to their commission pay-outs and is subject to certain performance parameters.
 - The amount of the stipend ranges from **Rs 7000/- per month in the first year to Rs 5000/- in the third year.**

15. (c)

Context

- Despite over 1.53 lakh internship offers made under the Prime Minister Internship Scheme (PMIS), merely **8,700 candidates**, about **6%**, have joined their internships so far, according to data shared in the Lok Sabha.

Prime Minister's Internship Scheme (PMIS Scheme)

- The PMIS Scheme announced in the **Budget 2024-25**, aims to provide internship opportunities to **one crore youth** in top 500 companies in **five years**.
- **Salient features** of the Scheme are:
 - **12-month paid internships** in top companies of India.
 - **The scheme targets** individuals **aged 21 to 24** who are currently **not enrolled in any full-time academic program** or not in full-time employment.
 - Each intern will be supported with monthly financial assistance of **₹5,000**, supplemented by **one-time financial assistance of ₹6,000**.
 - **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA).
 - The scheme offers youth six months of real-world training to bridge the gap between academic learning and industry needs, enhancing their employability.

16. (a)

Context

- India achieves a milestone of 6 crore screenings under the National Sickle Cell Anemia Elimination Mission.

About the Mission

- The **National Sickle Cell Anemia Elimination Mission** was inaugurated on 1st July 2023 by PM Modi at **Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh**.

- Executed in mission mode under the **National Health Mission (NHM)**, the initiative aims to eliminate **sickle cell anemia in India by 2047** through awareness generation, universal screening of **7 crore individuals aged 0–40 years** in affected tribal areas by **FY 2025–26**, and counselling support via coordinated efforts of central ministries and state governments.
- Screening for **Sickle Cell Disease (SCD)** is being conducted using validated **Point-of-Care Testing (POCT) kits**, which ensure rapid, reliable, and confirmatory results.
- Furthermore, a dedicated dashboard and a sickle cell disease portal have been established to consolidate screening data from all participating states.

17. (d)

Context

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development has approved **14,599 Anganwadi-cum-Crèches (AWCCs)** under the Palna Scheme, aimed at providing quality daycare and protection to children.

About the Palna Scheme

- **The Ministry of Women and Child Development** has introduced the Palna Scheme under the **Samarthya Vertical of Umbrella Mission Shakti** for all States and Union Territories in **2022**.
- **Target Beneficiaries:** All children aged 6 months to 6 years and their mothers (irrespective of employment status).
- **Key Features:**
 - Provision of **full-day childcare support** through Anganwadi Centres.
 - Focus on **nutrition, health, cognitive development, and growth monitoring**.
 - Integration with existing Anganwadi infrastructure to ensure **last-mile delivery**.

18. (b)

Atal Pension Yojana (APY)

- **About:** It is a government-backed pension scheme designed to provide social security for workers in India's unorganized sector.
 - Administered by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) under the New Pension Scheme architecture.
- **Target Group:** Aimed at unorganized sector workers, but open to all Indian citizens aged 18–40 years (as of 2025), except those who are or have been income tax payers.
- **Defined Pension:** Assures a fixed minimum monthly pension of ₹1,000, ₹2,000, ₹3,000, ₹4,000, or ₹5,000 starting at the age of 60, selected based on individual contributions and age at joining.
- **Contribution Period:** Minimum 20 years of contribution, with the contribution amount dependent on the pension amount chosen and age at enrolment.
- **Automatic Debit:** Contributions are auto-debited monthly from the subscriber's bank account, ensuring regular savings.

19. (a)

Context

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched the revamped Mission Vatsalya Portal which is an integrated Digital platform for all the stakeholders related to child protection services.

Mission Vatsalya

- Mission Vatsalya, earlier known as the **Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS)**, serves as a roadmap to achieve child development and protection goals aligned with the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

- Initially, **three separate schemes** were implemented by the **Ministry of Women & Child Development**:
 - Programme for Juvenile Justice,
 - Integrated Programme for Street Children, and
 - Scheme for Assistance to Homes for Children (Shishu Greh).
- These were **merged into ICPS in 2009–10**, renamed as Child Protection Services (CPS) in 2017, and finally subsumed under **Mission Vatsalya in 2021–22**.

20. (d)

Statement 1 is correct: The core objective of the “Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar” programme is to comprehensively document and map every village in India, focusing on its unique cultural, historical, and natural heritage aspects. This includes traditions, customs, folklore, historical sites, natural features, and significant personalities associated with the village.

Statement 2 is correct: It is an initiative of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. It is being implemented under the National Mission on Cultural Mapping (NMCM), which aims to compile a comprehensive database of India’s cultural assets and resources.

Statement 3 is correct: The data collected through extensive surveys and community participation is indeed compiled into a “Village Cultural Map.” This information is then uploaded onto a digital platform (e.g., a dedicated portal or part of a larger government heritage portal) to make it accessible to researchers, tourists, policymakers, and the general public, thereby promoting awareness and preservation of rural heritage.

21. (b)

Statement 1 is correct: National Overseas Scholarship Scheme aims to empower low-income students from marginalized communities, including the **Scheduled Castes, Denotified Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes, Landless Agricultural Labourers, and Traditional Artisans**.

Statements 2 and 3 are not correct: The scholarship supports their **pursuit of higher education**, such as **Master’s degree or Ph.D. courses**, by providing opportunities to study abroad.

- Eligibility:** Candidates should have secured at least 60% marks or equivalent grade in the qualifying examination,
 - the candidates total family income from all sources should be less than Rs. 8.00 lakh per annum;
 - should be less than 35 years of age on selection year;
 - and have an **unconditional offer of admission from top 500 QS ranked foreign Universities as per the latest QS rankings**.



DEFENSE/ INTERNAL SECURITY

1. Which of the following statements about the Akash Air Defence System is/are correct?
 1. The system was developed by DRDO in collaboration with Bharat Dynamics Limited and Bharat Electronics Limited.
 2. Its range extends up to 100 km with hypersonic speed capabilities.Select the correct answer using the code below:
 - (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
2. With reference to the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), which of the following statements is/are correct?
 1. The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) is responsible for guarding the Indo-China border.
 2. The Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) guards the borders with Nepal and Bhutan.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. Consider the following statements about the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC):
 1. It was established in 2001 following the Kargil War.
 2. It grants Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for capital acquisition proposals for the armed forces.
 3. It is headed by the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS).Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1 and 3 only
 - (d) All of the above
4. With reference to INS Nistar, which of the following statements is/are correct?
 1. It is India's first indigenously designed and built Diving Support Vessel (DSV).
 2. It has been built in accordance with the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS) classification rules.
 3. It acts as the 'Mother Ship' for the Deep Submergence Rescue Vessel (DSRV).Select the correct answer using the code given below:
 - (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3

5. Which of the following statements about the Astra missile is/are correct?
1. It was developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation.
 2. It is an advanced Beyond-Visual-Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM) capable of engaging aerial targets at distances of over 100 km.
- Select the correct answer using the code below:
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
6. With reference to the Central Armed Police Forces, consider the following statements:
1. The CAPFs include the Border Security Force, Central Industrial Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force, Sashastra Seema Bal, and Indo-Tibetan Border Police.
 2. The Ministry of Home Affairs is the cadre-controlling authority for both IPS and CAPF officers.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
7. Exercise Talisman Sabre, which began in 2005 as a biennial joint military exercise, was originally conducted between which of the following countries?
- (a) Australia and India
 - (b) Australia and the United Kingdom
 - (c) Australia and the United States
 - (d) Australia and Japan
8. With reference to the Patriot air defence system, consider the following statements:
1. The Patriot system is a mobile surface-to-air missile defence system developed by Raytheon.
 2. Patriot radars have a range of over 150 km and are used by only the USA.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
9. Consider the following statements regarding the Javelin anti-tank guided missile (ATGMs):
1. It is a man-portable, fire-and-forget medium-range missile capable of defeating main battle tanks and softer targets.
 2. It is developed solely by the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO).
- 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

- 10.** With reference to the Prithvi-II missile, consider the following statements:
1. It is a solid-fuelled, surface-to-surface missile.
 2. It can carry both conventional and nuclear warheads.
- 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.** Which of the following statements is correct about INS Nistar?
- (a) It is India's first indigenously designed and constructed Diving Support Vessel.
 - (b) It is India's first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier which played a role in the 1971 war.
 - (c) It is India's biggest ship which is capable of operations up to 7,000 nautical miles.
 - (d) It is India's first indigenous anti-submarine shallow water craft.
- 12.** Consider the following statements with reference to SIMBEX Exercise.
1. It began as 'Exercise Lion King' in 1994 and is conducted annually.
 2. It is a bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian and the Sri Lanka Navy.
- 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
- 13.** Which of the following sectors in India primarily uses the 'wet limestone scrubbing' method?
- (a) Cement Industry
 - (b) Thermal Power Sector
 - (c) Textile Industry
 - (d) Steel Manufacturing
- 14.** The battles at Tololing, Tiger Hill, and Point 4875 are associated with which of the following wars/conflicts?
- (a) 1962 India-China War
 - (b) 1965 Indo-Pak War
 - (c) 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War
 - (d) 1999 Kargil War
- 15.** Exercise Bold Kurukshetra, recently seen in the news, is a joint military exercise between India and which of the following countries?
- (a) Indonesia
 - (b) Singapore
 - (c) Vietnam
 - (d) Sri Lanka
- 16.** With reference to the 'Pralay' missile, consider the following statements:
1. It is an indigenous surface-to-surface short-range quasi-ballistic missile.
 2. Pralay has an operational range of approximately 150 to 500 km.

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)

In News

- Brazil has expressed interest in purchasing **India's Akash Air Defence System**, a significant development ahead of the **17th BRICS Summit**.

About Akash Air Defence System

- Akash is a **medium-range, mobile surface-to-air missile (SAM) system**.
- Its primary purpose is to neutralize aerial threats like enemy aircraft, drones, and missiles in both defensive and offensive operations, protecting critical points and areas.
- The Akash system is a product of the **"Make in India" initiative**, developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in collaboration with Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).
- Its objective is to strengthen India's layered **air defense by bridging the gap between short and long-range interceptors**.
- It has a **range of 4.5 km to 25 km**, altitude coverage of **100 m to 20 km**, & it can travel with **supersonic speed (Mach 1.8 to 2.5)**.

2. (c)

Context

- Despite a recent Supreme Court directive to reduce IPS deputations in CAPFs, the Ministry of Home Affairs continues such appointments, reigniting concerns about the autonomy of Group A CAPF officers.

Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF)

- The Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) is the collective name of **central police organizations** under the **Ministry of Home Affairs** of India.
- These forces are responsible for internal security and guarding the borders. CAPF is classified as;
 - **Assam Rifles (AR)**: It is a central police and paramilitary organization responsible for border security, counter-insurgency, and law and order in Northeast India.
 - **Border Security Force (BSF)**: It is primarily deployed along the Pakistan and Bangladesh borders, since 2009 it is also posted in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas.
 - **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)**: It is deployed for guarding duties on the Indo-China border
 - **Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)**: It guards the Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bhutan borders.
 - **National Security Guard (NSG)**: It is a counter-terrorism unit under the Ministry of Home Affairs. All personnel are deputed from other CAPFs and the Indian Army.
 - **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)**: It is deployed for internal security duties and has a large presence in North East, LWE theater and Jammu and Kashmir.
 - **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)**: It provides security to various Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and other critical infrastructure installations, major airports across the country and provides security during elections and other internal security duties and VVIP protection.

3. (a)

In News

- The **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)** headed by **Defence Minister** made clearance of capital acquisition proposals worth nearly ₹1.05 lakh crore strengthening India's defence capabilities.

About DAC

- **Established:** 2001, following recommendations by the Group of Ministers on National Security after the Kargil War (1999).
- **Purpose:** To streamline and expedite the procurement process for the armed forces, ensuring timely and efficient acquisition of equipment and systems
- **Key Functions:** Grants Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for capital acquisition proposals for the Army, Navy, and Air Force.
 - Gives in-principle approval for the 15-Year Long-Term Integrated Perspective Plan (LTIPP) for the armed forces.
 - Decides on technology transfer under the 'Buy & Make' category.

4. (d)

Context

- The Indian Navy has received **INS Nistar**, its first **indigenously designed and built Diving Support Vessel (DSV)**, from **Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL)**, Visakhapatnam.

About

- **Name:** Nistar, derived from **Sanskrit**, means liberation, rescue, or salvation.
- **Built as per:** Indian Register of Shipping (IRS) classification rules.
- **Features:** Equipped with advanced **Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs)** for diver monitoring and salvage operations up to 1000 meters deep.
- **Key Role:** Acts as the 'Mother Ship' for the **Deep Submergence Rescue Vessel (DSRV)**, which rescues and evacuates personnel in case of submarine emergencies.
- **Significance:** Around **75% indigenous content** — a milestone in the Indian Navy's path towards Aatmanirbhar Bharat in defence manufacturing.

5. (c)

Context

- DRDO and the Indian Air Force have successfully conducted a flight-test of the indigenous Astra missile from a Sukhoi-30 MKI, engaging high-speed aerial targets off the coast of Odisha.

About the Astra Missile

- **Developed by:** Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- **Type:** Advanced Beyond-Visual-Range Air-to-Air Missile (**BVRAAM**).
- **Range:** Capable of engaging aerial targets over **100 km** away.
- **Features:**
 - Advanced guidance and navigation systems for high precision.
 - All-weather, day-and-night operational capability.
 - Maximum speed: **exceeds Mach 4**.
 - Operational ceiling: up to **20 km** altitude.
- **Significance:** Enhances India's indigenous air combat capabilities and aligns with Aatmanirbhar Bharat in defence production.

6. (c)

Both the statements are correct: The CAPFs include the Border Security Force, Central Industrial Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force, Sashastra Seema Bal, and Indo-Tibetan Border Police.

- **The Ministry of Home Affairs** is the cadre-controlling authority for both IPS and CAPF officers.
 - The Centre had mentioned that the deputation of IPS officers was necessary to **maintain the operational readiness of the forces and to ensure Centre-State coordination.**
- **Reserved Seats:** At present, 20% of Deputy Inspector General (DIG) posts and 50% of Inspector General (IG) posts in CAPFs are reserved for IPS officers.
 - If implemented, the judgment would **significantly curtail IPS dominance in the CAPFs.**

7. (c)

Context

- India has made its debut in Australia's largest bilateral military exercise, **Exercise Talisman Sabre.**

About the Exercise

- Talisman Sabre began in **2005** as a **biennial** joint exercise between the **United States and Australia.**
- This year, more than **35,000 military personnel** from 19 nations, including Canada, Fiji, France, Germany, **India**, Indonesia, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, South Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Tonga, and the United Kingdom, will take part over three weeks.
 - **Malaysia and Vietnam** are also attending as observers.

8. (a)

In News

- Amid discussions over weapon supply to Ukraine, US President Donald Trump has said he will send Patriot air defence systems to help Ukraine against Russian aggression.

About

- The Patriot system (Phased Array Tracking Radar for Intercept on Target) is a highly advanced, mobile **surface-to-air missile defence** system developed by **Raytheon.**
 - It is considered one of the most advanced air defence systems in the US arsenal and has been in service since the 1980s.
- It includes radar, control units, launchers, and support vehicles.
- It can intercept aircraft, cruise missiles, and ballistic missiles, depending on the interceptor type: PAC-2 uses proximity blasts, while PAC-3 interceptors directly hit the target.
- Patriot radars have a **range of over 150 km.** Though not designed for hypersonic threats, Ukraine used it in 2023 to shoot down a **Russian Kinzhal missile.**
- Over 240 units have been delivered to 19 countries, including the U.S., Germany, Japan, and Ukraine.
 - Each battery costs over \$1 billion, and each missile is about \$4 million.

9. (b)

In News

- India has submitted a letter of request to the United States for co-production of Javelin anti-tank guided missiles (ATGMs) in the country.

Javelin anti-tank guided missiles (ATGMs)

- It is a single man-portable fire-and-forget medium-range antitank weapon system designed to defeat all known and projected threat armor.

- Its fire-and-forget capability provides superior survivability by enabling the operator to immediately relocate after firing.
- It can defeat all known and anticipated battlefield armor, including main battle tanks and softer targets, and can be launched in both top-attack and direct-attack modes.
- It is developed and produced jointly by American defence majors Raytheon and Lockheed Martin.

10. (b)

Context

- India successfully test-fired two key strategic ballistic missiles – **Prithvi-II and Agni-I** – from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur, Odisha.

About Prithvi-II

- Prithvi-II, developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**), is a **liquid-fuelled, surface-to-surface ballistic missile** known for its high accuracy and precision targeting.
- It has a range of approximately **350 km** and is capable of carrying a payload of up to **500 kg**. The missile can be equipped with both conventional and **nuclear warheads**.

11. (a)

In News : INS Nistar was commissioned into the Indian Navy in the presence of Raksha Rajya Mantri Sanjay Seth in Visakhapatnam on July 18, 2025.

- The original INS Nistar was a submarine rescue vessel acquired by the Indian Navy from the erstwhile Soviet Union in 1969, and commissioned in 1971.
- It remained in service till 1989, during which time it was the centrepiece of the Navy's diving and submarine rescue operations.
- It is the first indigenously designed and constructed Diving Support Vessel.
 - The ship, which is the first of the two Diving Support Vessels being built by Hindustan Shipyard Limited.
 - It is designed to undertake complex deep sea saturation diving and rescue operations – a capability select Navies possess across the globe.

12. (b)

Statement 1 is correct and Statement 2 is not correct: The Indian Navy is going to participate in the 32nd edition of the Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) which began as '**Exercise Lion King**' in 1994.

- It is one of the longest uninterrupted maritime exercises for India.
- **SIMBEX** is conducted **annually** by the Indian Navy and the Republic of **Singapore Navy (RSN)**.
- It has since evolved into one of the most significant bilateral maritime collaborations between the Indian Navy and the Republic of **Singapore Navy (RSN)**.
- The exercise supports **India's Vision SAGAR** and **Act East policy**, focused on regional cooperation and maritime security.

13. (b)

MoEFCC mandated the **installation of Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD) systems** to curb SO₂ emissions.

- In 2015, India introduced **revised emission norms**, requiring **mandatory FGD installation across thermal plants** by 2017.

- It is a **set of technologies** used **to remove SO₂** from exhaust flue gases of fossil fuel plants.
- **Wet limestone scrubbing** is widely used in **India's coal-based thermal power plants to control sulphur dioxide (SO₂) emissions**.
 - It involves passing flue gases through a slurry of limestone, where SO₂ reacts chemically to form gypsum.
- However, **Cement Industry** may emit SO₂ but doesn't primarily rely on wet limestone scrubbing.
 - The **Textile Industry** is not a major source of SO₂; focuses more on chemical and water pollution control.
 - **Steel Manufacturing** uses other methods for emissions control, mainly targeting particulate and NOx pollutants.

14. (d)**Context**

- Kargil Vijay Diwas is observed every year on **July 26** to commemorate **India's victory over Pakistan** in the **1999 Kargil War**.

About

- The conflict began in **May 1999**, when **Pakistani intruders** occupied Indian posts across the **Line of Control (LoC)**, aiming to cut off **National Highway 1A** — the strategic lifeline to **Ladakh**.
- India launched **Operation Vijay** to reclaim the occupied territories, leading to nearly **three months of intense combat** in the icy heights of Kargil, Ladakh.
- **Battles at Tololing, Tiger Hill, and Point 4875** are now etched in **national memory** as enduring icons of **valor and heroism**.
- On **July 26, 1999**, the operation was officially declared successful, marking a **decisive Indian victory**.

15. (b)**Context**

- The 14th edition of India–Singapore Joint Military Exercise, Bold Kurukshetra 2025, commenced in **Jodhpur, India**.

About the Exercise

- First held in **2005**, Exercise Bold Kurukshetra is a **Table Top Exercise and Computer-Based Wargame** focused on validating **mechanised warfare procedures**.
- It aims to boost **interoperability** and **joint training** under a **United Nations mandate**, reinforcing **India–Singapore defence cooperation**.

16. (c)**Context**

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted consecutive test flights of the Pralay missile from the Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam island off the coast of Odisha.

About

- **Pralay**, is an indigenous **surface-to-surface** short-range quasi-ballistic missile.
- **Range and Payload:** Pralay has an operational range of approximately **150 to 500 km** and carries a payload capacity of **500 to 1,000 kg**.
- **Propulsion:** It is powered by a **solid-propellant** rocket motor.
- The missile is equipped with a **state-of-the-art navigation system** and **integrated avionics**, ensuring precision targeting even in challenging terrains.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1. With reference to the concept of the "Global South", consider the following statements:
 1. The term originally emerged during the Cold War to describe the developing nations aligned with the Western bloc.
 2. The Global South includes only countries located in the Southern Hemisphere.
 3. The Brandt Line was a visual representation of the economic divide between the Global North and Global South.Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 3 only
 - (c) 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
2. With reference to the Wilmington Declaration (2024), consider the following statements:
 1. It was issued by the QUAD leaders to reaffirm their commitment to a free, open, inclusive, and resilient Indo-Pacific region based on rule of law and respect for territorial integrity.
 2. The declaration formally converts the QUAD into a military alliance to ensure collective security in the Indo-Pacific.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. Consider the following statements with reference to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).
 1. It is the implementing body for the Chemical Weapons Convention which came into force in 2005.
 2. It was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its extensive efforts to eliminate chemical weapons in 2013.
 3. India is an original signatory to the Chemical Weapons Convention.How many of the statements given above are correct?
 - (a) Only one
 - (b) Only two
 - (c) All the three
 - (d) None
4. With reference to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), consider the following statements:
 1. It was established in 2010 under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
 2. GCF is mandated to invest 50% of its resources to mitigation and 50% to adaptation in grant equivalent.

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 International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. It was established in 1967 under the aegis of the United Nations.
- 2. The IAEA was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005 along with its Director General Mohamed ElBaradei.

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. With reference to the BRICS Summit and its new members, consider the following statements:

- 1. The 17th BRICS Summit held in Rio de Janeiro was conducted under the theme “Strengthening Global South Cooperation for a More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance.”
- 2. Egypt, Uganda, and Indonesia have recently joined BRICS as new full members.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

7. With reference to the UAE’s Golden Visa Scheme as revised in 2025, consider the following statements:

- 1. The scheme now allows for long-term residency without any minimum investment in property or business.
- 2. Only investors and business owners are eligible for the Golden Visa under the revised scheme.
- 3. The visa remains valid even if the holder changes employment or sells their assets in the UAE.
- 4. The scheme allows visa holders to sponsor family members, including elderly parents and household staff.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

8. Consider the following statements about the New Development Bank (NDB):

- 1. It was established at the 6th BRICS Summit in Fortaleza, Brazil.
- 2. Its headquarters is located in Shanghai, China.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

9. The Maastricht Convergence Criteria are related to which of the following?

- (a) Conditions for becoming a permanent member of the UN Security Council
- (b) Conditions for receiving World Bank development assistance
- (c) Conditions for joining the International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- (d) Conditions for adopting the euro currency by EU member states

10. Consider the following countries:

- 1. Vietnam
- 2. China
- 3. Japan
- 4. Taiwan
- 5. Australia
- 6. New Zealand

Which of the above countries are part of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)?

- (a) 2, 3, 5 and 6 only
- (b) 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 only

11. Which one of the following countries recently has unveiled the recipients of the Maitri Grants, 2025 to India?

- (a) Sri Lanka
- (b) Indonesia
- (c) France
- (d) Australia

12. Consider the following statements regarding the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC):

- 1. BIMSTEC was established in 1997 with the signing of the Bangkok Declaration.
- 2. Its primary objective is to promote cultural exchange and regional security cooperation among member states.
- 3. Myanmar and Thailand are among its member states, making it a unique link connecting South Asia with South-East Asia.
- 4. The BIMSTEC Secretariat is located in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

- 13.** With reference to the The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), consider the following statements:
1. NATO currently has 32 member countries, with Sweden being the most recent to join.
 2. (a)ll decisions in NATO are taken by majority vote in the North Atlantic Council.
- 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.** What is *Allographa effusosoredica*, sometimes seen in the news?
- (a) An Invasive Species of plant
 - (b) A type of fungus
 - (c) A new species of lichen
 - (d) A disease caused by virus
- 15.** With reference to The International Seabed Authority (ISA), consider the following statements:
1. It is an autonomous international organization established under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
 2. It is headquartered in Manila, Philippines.
- 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.** Which of the following statements about UNESCO is/are correct?
1. UNESCO was established after World War II and is headquartered in Geneva.
 2. The Global Education Monitoring Report is published by UNESCO.
 3. India currently has 44 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including the Maratha Military Landscapes.
- Select the correct answer using the code below:
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
- 17.** Vanuatu recently led a global initiative seeking an advisory opinion from which international body on nations' legal obligations to address climate change?
- (a) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
 - (b) International Court of Justice (ICJ)
 - (c) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
 - (d) International Criminal Court (ICC)
- 18.** (c)onsider the following statements with reference to the International Court of Justice (ICJ).
1. It is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN) which was established in 1975.
 2. It is composed of 15 judges, who are elected for terms of office of 5 years by the United Nations General Assembly.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

19. With reference to the 'E3 countries' often seen in international affairs, consider the following statements:

1. The E3 refers to France, Germany, and the United Kingdom.
2. The E3 grouping primarily collaborates on matters related to climate change and global digital governance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

20. The recently signed Geelong Treaty is related to which of the following?

- (a) Climate change cooperation between Australia and the UK
- (b) Nuclear-powered submarine collaboration under AUKUS
- (c) Bilateral trade agreement between Australia and the India
- (d) Space exploration partnership among G7 nations

21. With reference to the United Nations' High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), consider the following statements:

1. It has been meeting annually since 2016 under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
2. In the HLPF, UN member countries present their Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the implementation of SDGs.

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 1267 Sanctions Committee of the United Nations, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It was established under a UNSC resolution in 1999, to focus on combating terrorism linked to ISIS, Al-Qaeda, and related groups.
2. The Committee comprises all 15 members of the Security Council and makes its decision by consensus.

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)

Statement 1 is not correct: The term “Global South” did not emerge during the Cold War. That was more about the First World (capitalist), Second World (communist), and Third World (non-aligned or developing nations). Global South gained popularity post-Cold War to describe economically developing nations, irrespective of alignment.

Statement 2 is not correct: While many Global South countries are in the Southern Hemisphere, several like India, Mexico, and China are in the Northern Hemisphere. The term is more socio-economic and political, not strictly geographic.

Statement 3 is correct: The Brandt Line (1980) was proposed in the Brandt Report and divides the world into the affluent Global North and the less developed Global South.

2. (a)

Statement 1 is correct: The Wilmington Declaration (2024), issued in the USA, reiterates the QUAD’s vision of a rules-based, democratic, and territorially respectful Indo-Pacific.

Statement 2 is not correct: QUAD is not a military alliance; it is a strategic forum with cooperation in areas like technology, climate, infrastructure, and maritime security, but without mutual defence obligations.

3. (b)

In News : The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), in collaboration with India’s National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC), convened the 23rd Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Asia .

Statement 1 is not correct : **Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons(OPCW)** implements the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) which has been in force since **1997**.

Statements 2 and 3 are correct : **OPCW** has 193 member states and won the **2013 Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts to eliminate chemical weapons**.

- India is an **original signatory to the CWC Convention**.
- The National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC) is the national authority responsible for implementing the Convention in India.
 - In 2024, NACWC successfully mentored the Kenya National Authority under the OPCW Mentorship/ Partnership Programme to strengthen its implementation capacity.
- The Indian Chemical Council (ICC) is India’s **oldest Chemical Industry Association** works closely with the NACWC for reaching out to industry.

4. (c)

Both the statements are correct: The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is the **world’s largest dedicated climate fund**.

- It was **established in 2010** under the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**.
- **Aims to support developing countries in:**
 - Limiting or reducing greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation).
 - Adapting to the impacts of climate change (adaptation).
- **GCF is mandated to invest 50%** of its resources to mitigation and **50% to adaptation in grant equivalent**.
- **Headquarters:** Songdo, Incheon, South Korea.
- **A core GCF principle** is to follow a **country-driven approach**, which means that developing countries lead GCF programming and implementation.

5. (b)

Context

- Iran has officially signed a law suspending cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), effectively barring UN nuclear inspectors from monitoring the country's nuclear program.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

- IAEA, established in **1957**, is an international organization that **promotes the peaceful use of nuclear energy** while working to **prevent its use for military purposes, including nuclear weapons**.
- **Headquarters:** Vienna, Austria.
- **Membership:** 180 (as of 15 November 2024).
- **Motto:** "Atoms for Peace and Development".
- **Main Objective:** Promote Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.
- IAEA Safeguards are embedded in **legally binding agreements**.
 - These safeguards are accepted by the states after the conclusion of such agreements with the agency.
- **In 2005, the IAEA and its Director General, Mohamed ElBaradei, were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize** for their work for a safer and more peaceful world.

6. (a)

Context

- The leaders of BRICS countries met in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, for the 17th BRICS Summit held under the **theme:** "Strengthening Global South Cooperation for a More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance".

About BRICS

- **BRICS** is an acronym that refers to a group of **five major emerging national economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa**.
 - **Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates** have joined BRICS as new full members.
- The term was originally coined by economist **Jim O'Neill in 2001**.
- **Origin:** As a formal grouping, BRIC started after the meeting of the Leaders of Russia, India and China in St. Petersburg on the margins of the **G8 Outreach Summit in 2006**.
 - The grouping was formalized during the 1st meeting of BRIC Foreign Ministers on the margins of **UNGA in New York in 2006**.
 - Initially, the grouping was termed BRIC as **South Africa was inducted in 2010** and from there on it has been referred to as **BRICS**.
- **Summits:** The governments of the BRICS states have met annually at formal summits **since 2009**.
- BRICS countries have come together to deliberate on important issues under the **three pillars of:**
 - political and security,
 - economic and financial and
 - cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

7. (b)

Statement 1 is correct: Recent revisions in 2025, specifically the nomination-based Golden Visa pilot program initially for India and Bangladesh, allow eligible individuals to obtain long-term residency by paying a one-time fee of AED 100,000 (approximately ₹23.3 lakh) without requiring property or business investment. This is a significant shift from the previous investment-heavy requirements. However, traditional investment-based routes still exist.

Statement 2 is not correct: The revised scheme, especially the nomination-based route, has significantly broadened eligibility. It now includes various professional categories such as nurses with long-term service, teachers and educators, content creators, e-sports and gaming professionals, and maritime executives.

Statement 3 is correct: For the new nomination-based Golden Visa, sources explicitly state that the visa remains valid even if the holder sells their assets or no longer works or invests in the UAE. This offers a higher degree of stability compared to previous property-linked visas which could be cancelled upon the sale of the asset.

Statement 4 is correct: The Golden Visa scheme generally allows holders to sponsor their family members, including spouses and children. The revised scheme also explicitly mentions the ability to sponsor elderly parents and household staff (servants and drivers).

8. (c)

In News

- Colombia and Uzbekistan have officially joined the **New Development Bank (NDB)**, expanding the multilateral lender's membership to 11 countries.

New Development Bank (NDB)

- Establishment:** The NDB was founded in July 2014 at the **6th BRICS Summit in Fortaleza, Brazil**, and became operational in July 2015.
- Headquarters:** Shanghai, China
- Mandate:** The bank's primary goal is to finance infrastructure and sustainable development projects that contribute to economic growth and development in member countries and beyond.

9. (d)

Context

- Recently the EU finance ministers officially approved Bulgaria's adoption of the euro, set to take effect from **January 1, 2026**.
 - This makes Bulgaria the **21st member of the eurozone**.

About the Eurozone

- The Eurozone refers to EU member states that have adopted the **euro (€)** as their official currency and are subject to the monetary policy of the **European Central Bank (ECB)**.
- The euro was launched on January 1, 1999** (electronic form) and **came into physical circulation in 12 countries** on January 1, 2002.
- Bulgaria** had previously delayed euro adoption due to high inflation, which prevented it from meeting the **Maastricht convergence criteria**.

What are the Maastricht convergence criteria?

- Price Stability:** A country's inflation rate must be close to that of the three best-performing member states in terms of price stability, with a maximum deviation of **1.5 percentage points**.
- Sound Public Finances:**
 - Government Deficit:** The annual government deficit (the difference between government spending and revenue) must not exceed **3% of GDP**.

- **Government Debt:** The gross government debt (total debt accumulated by the government) must not exceed **60% of GDP**.
- **Exchange Rate Stability:** Countries must stay in the ERM-II (Exchange Rate Mechanism) for at least 2 years without severe tensions.
- **Interest Rate Convergence:** Should not exceed by more than 2 percentage points the average of top 3 performing member states.

10. (c)

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP): It is the world's largest trade bloc, comprising **15 countries** including **ASEAN, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand**.

- India was a founding negotiator but **withdrew in 2019**, because of issues related to **trade deficit & imbalance, protection of domestic industry**, and **unmet demands** like tariff differentials, rules of origin, and investment protections.
- **ASEAN** is a regional bloc of **10 Southeast Asian nations** — Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

11. (d)

In News: Recently, Australia has unveiled the recipients of the Maitri Grants, 2025 with India.

- The Maitri Grants is a flagship initiative aimed at strengthening bilateral ties with India across education, research, culture, and enterprise.

12. (b)

Statement 1 is correct: BIMSTEC was indeed established in 1997 with the signing of the Bangkok Declaration.

Statement 2 is not correct: The primary objective of BIMSTEC is the promotion of economic cooperation between countries bordering the Bay of Bengal, not primarily cultural exchange or regional security cooperation.

Statement 3 is correct: Myanmar and Thailand are member states of BIMSTEC, and the organization is explicitly described as a “unique link” connecting South Asia with South-East Asia.

Statement 4 is not correct: The BIMSTEC Secretariat is located in Dhaka, Bangladesh, not Colombo, Sri Lanka.

13. (a)

Statement 1 is correct: NATO, or the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, is a **military alliance of countries**.

- **Establishment:** It was founded in **1949** with the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty, more popularly known as the **Washington Treaty**.
- **Aim:** To ensure the **security and defense of its member countries** through collective defense.
- **Members:** It has **32 member countries**, **Finland** and **Sweden** became the 31st and 32nd members respectively.
 - On signing the Treaty, countries voluntarily commit themselves to participating in the political consultations and military activities of the Organization.
- **Statement 2 is not correct:** NATO does not take decisions by majority vote in the North Atlantic Council. Instead, all decisions in the Council are made by consensus and unanimity—there is no voting, and every member must agree before a decision is adopted.

14. (c)

Context

- A new species of lichen, **Allographa effusosoredica**, has been discovered in the Western Ghats by Indian scientists, offering insights into ancient symbiosis and evolutionary patterns.

About Lichens

- **Definition:** Lichens are composite organisms formed by a symbiotic association between a **fungus (mycobiont)** and a **photosynthetic partner** (photobiont, usually a **green alga or cyanobacterium**).
- **Ecological Role:** Soil formation, Nutrient cycling, Serve as food for insects, Bioindicators of environmental quality (especially air pollution).

About *Allographa effusosoredica*

- **Type:** Crustose lichen (forms a crust-like growth tightly bound to the substrate).
- **Unique Features:**
 - It has **effuse soredia** (powdery vegetative reproductive structures).
 - Contains **norstictic acid**, a rare chemical compound among related species.
 - Morphologically resembles ***Graphis glaucescens***, though genetically distinct.

15. (a)

Statement 1 is correct: It is an **autonomous international organization** established under the **1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**.

Statement 2 is not correct: Members: All States Parties to UNCLOS are ipso facto members of ISA.

- As of 2024, ISA has 170 Members, including **India and the European Union**.
- **Headquarters:** Kingston, Jamaica.

16. (b)

In News

- The United States has decided to withdraw from the UN cultural and education agency UNESCO.

About UNESCO

- **Foundation:** Established in 1945 after World War II, its constitution came into force in 1946.
- **Objective:** It aims to foster peace through cooperation in education, science, culture, and communication.
- **Headquarters:** Paris, France.
- **Members:** 194 Member States and 12 Associate Members (as of July 2025, the USA rejoined in July 2023).
- **Governing Bodies:** General Conference and Executive Board.
- **Important reports from UNESCO:** Global Education Monitoring Report
 - The United Nations World Water Development Report
 - UNESCO Science Report: Towards 2030
 - Global Ocean Science Report

India and UNESCO

- **About:** India is a founding member of UNESCO and has two offices in India (since 1948).
- **World Heritage Sites:** India has 44 UNESCO World Heritage Sites as of July 2025 (36 cultural, 7 natural, and 1 mixed site). The latest addition in 2025 is the Maratha Military Landscapes of India (12 forts).

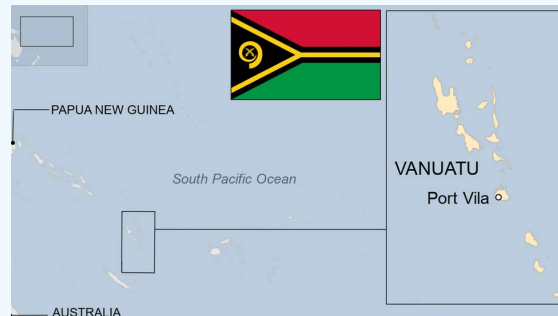
17. (b)

Context

- Led by Vanuatu, the **International Court of Justice** will issue **an advisory opinion** on what **legal obligations nations** have to address climate change and what consequences they may face if they don't.

Vanuatu

- **Vanuatu** is a double chain of **13 principal and many smaller islands** in the **south-western Pacific Ocean**. Gained full independence in 1980 and joined the Commonwealth of Nations and the United Nations.



- The islands are **volcanic and coral in origin**.
- They lie about **800 kilometres west of Fiji** and nearly 1800 kilometres **east of Australia**.
- **Located in the “Ring of Fire”** – prone to earthquakes, cyclones, and volcanic eruptions.

18. (d)

In News : The International Court of Justice (ICJ) has issued a landmark advisory opinion affirming that countries have a legal obligation under international law to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Statements 1 and 2 are not correct : The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN). It was established in June **1945** by the Charter of the United Nations and began work in April **1946**.

The seat of the Court is at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands).

- The Court’s role is to resolve legal disputes between states and provide advisory opinions on legal questions referred by authorized UN bodies and agencies, based on international law.
- It is composed of 15 judges, who are elected for terms of **office of nine years** by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council.

19. (a)

In News: The E3 warned that if Iran does not show constructive progress then they may invoke the snapback mechanism under the 2015 JCPOA, automatically restoring all previous UN sanctions

Statement 1 is correct: The E3 refers to a diplomatic grouping of France, Germany, and the United Kingdom. This informal cooperation format was established in 2003 and continues to serve as a key channel for these three European powers to coordinate foreign policy.

Statement 2 is not correct: The E3 emerged notably as a diplomatic forum during the negotiations on the Iran Nuclear Deal (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action - JCPOA), coordinating European approaches during these talks. Its primary focus has not been mainly on climate change and global digital governance. These areas are handled through other forums and organizations.

20. (b)

Context

- Australia and the UK signed the bilateral Nuclear-Powered Submarine Partnership and Collaboration Treaty (**the Geelong Treaty**) in Geelong, Australia, solidifying their commitment to the AUKUS defense pact.

About Geelong Treaty

- The Geelong Treaty is a historic agreement that commits the UK and Australia to **50 years** of bilateral defense cooperation under **AUKUS Pillar I**.

- The Treaty will enable comprehensive cooperation on the design, build, operation, sustainment, and disposal of their **SSN-AUKUS submarines**.
- The signing of the treaty came as the United States wavered on its role in the AUKUS alliance.
 - It has announced a review of the trilateral security partnership to determine whether the agreement aligns with the **America First agenda**.

21. (c)

Both the statements are correct: United Nations' High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), is the **foremost platform** for international follow-up and **review of the 2030 Agenda**.

- It has been meeting annually since **2016** under the auspices of the **UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**.
- In the HLPF, **UN member countries** present their **Voluntary National Review (VNR)** on the implementation of SDGs.
 - The VNRs serve as a **basis for the international review** of the progress on the SDGs.

22. (c)

Context

- The recent inclusion of **The Resistance Front (TRF)** in the UN Security Council's **1267 Sanctions Committee** report represents a significant boost for India in its global campaign against cross-border terrorism.

About

- The Resistance Front (TRF) emerged in 2019 post the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The report explicitly names the TRF as responsible for the Pahalgam terror attack that occurred in April 2025.

1267 Sanctions Committee

- It is also called the **ISIS and Al-Qaeda Sanctions Committee**, established under a UNSC resolution in **1999**, to focus on **combating terrorism linked to ISIS, Al-Qaeda, and related groups**.
- **Member States** may at any time submit to the **Committee listing requests** for inclusion of individuals, groups, undertakings and entities.
- The Committee **comprises all 15 members** of the Security Council and makes its **decision by consensus**.
- **Sanctions Measures Include:**
 - **Asset Freeze:** All assets of designated individuals/entities are frozen.
 - **Travel Ban:** Listed individuals are banned from entering or transiting through any member state.
 - **Arms Embargo:** Prohibition on supplying arms or related material.



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

1. The GOSAT-GW satellite, recently seen in the news, is primarily related to which of the following?
 - (a) Deep space exploration of asteroids
 - (b) Studying the Earth's polar regions
 - (c) High-resolution military surveillance operations
 - (d) Monitoring greenhouse gases for climate action
2. With reference to Glutathione, consider the following statements:
 1. It is a powerful antioxidant naturally produced by the human liver.
 2. It helps in repairing skin, boosting immunity, and neutralising free radicals.
 3. Its production in the body increases as we age.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 Genome and Genome Sequencing, consider the following statements:
 1. The human genome consists of approximately 3 billion base pairs of DNA arranged into 23 pairs of chromosomes.
 2. Genome sequencing refers to determining the exact order of nucleotide bases in a DNA or RNA molecule.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:
 1. The plasticity of plastics refers to their ability to resist deformation under force.
 2. Microplastics can be both intentionally manufactured and unintentionally formed through degradation.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 Vera C. Rubin Observatory, which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. It is located in the Cerro Pachón Mountain, United States.
 2. Its core instrument is the Simonyi Survey Telescope.
- 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. Taurus Molecular Cloud 1 (TMC-1) is related to which of the following?
- (a) A region of intense volcanic activity on the Moon.
 - (b) A deep-sea hydrothermal vent known for extremophile life.
 - (c) A cold interstellar cloud known for complex organic molecules.
 - (d) A high-radiation belt surrounding the Earth's magnetosphere.
7. With reference to tuberculosis, which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. India aims to eliminate tuberculosis by 2035 in alignment with the WHO's global strategy.
 2. It spreads through the air when infected people cough, sneeze or spit.
- 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. Consider the following statements regarding Fentanyl:
1. Fentanyl is a naturally occurring opioid derived from the opium poppy.
 2. It is approved for medical use as a blood coagulant and pain killer.
 3. Fentanyl is approximately 100 times more potent than morphine as an analgesic.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 3 only
 - (c) 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
9. With reference to India's Chandrayaan-3 mission, consider the following statements:
1. Chandrayaan-3 was launched using the PSLV-C56 vehicle.
 2. The site where the Vikram lander and Pragyan rover landed was named Shiva Shakti.
- 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 Shinkansen high-speed rail system, consider the following statements:
1. The Shinkansen runs only on standard-gauge tracks, completely separated from conventional and freight train lines.
 2. Shinkansen trains exclusively use hydrogen power to achieve high speeds.
 3. The system employs an Automatic Train Control (ATC) system, reducing the risk of collisions to nearly zero.

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

11. With reference to the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), consider the following statements:

- 1. It has been established with the ANRF 2023 Act, under the Department of Science & Technology.
- 2. The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) established in 2008 has been subsumed into ANRF.

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 Genetically Modified (GM) crops in India, consider the following statements:

- 1. Bt cotton is the only GM crop commercially approved for cultivation in India.
- 2. The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) functions under the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

13. With reference to GM crops in India, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. Bt brinjal is commercially cultivated in India with approval from the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC).
- 2. Bt cotton is genetically modified to resist herbicides used in cotton fields.

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. Which of the following states launched India's first tribal genome project?

- (a) Madhya Pradesh
- (b) Chhattisgarh
- (c) Andhra Pradesh
- (d) Gujarat

15. With reference to the Mitochondrial Genes in humans, consider the following statements:

- 1. The fluid surrounding the nucleus contains mitochondria that carry their own set of 37 genes.
- 2. Mitochondrial Genes can be inherited from either parent.

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 Hydrogen Peroxide, consider the following statements:

1. It acts as an oxidizing agent and is used in fuel cells, sterilization, and wastewater treatment.
2. Its decomposition results in the formation of water and carbon dioxide, making it eco-friendly.

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. Measles primarily infects which part of the body initially, and to which virus family does its causative agent belong?

- (a) Digestive tract; Retrovirus family
- (b) Respiratory tract; Paramyxovirus family
- (c) Skin; Herpesviridae family
- (d) Circulatory system; Adenovirus family

18. With reference to Trachoma, consider the following statements:

1. Trachoma is a highly contagious bacterial infection of the eye, caused by the bacterium *Chlamydia trachomatis*.
2. Recently, Senegal has been declared free of trachoma by WHO.
3. India and Nepal are not among the countries declared free of trachoma by WHO.

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

19. Chronic Venous Insufficiency (CVI), recently seen in the news, primarily affects which part of the body?

- (a) Lungs
- (b) Kidneys
- (c) Legs
- (d) Brain

20. Consider the following statements regarding Malaria:

1. It is mostly found in tropical countries.
2. It is caused by plasmodium protozoa.
3. Blood transfusion and contaminated needles may also transmit malaria.

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

21. Which of the following are commonly recognized categories or sources of plant biostimulants?

- 1. Humic and Fulvic Acids
- 2. Seaweed Extracts
- 3. Mycorrhizae and rhizobacteria
- 4. Synthetic auxins and gibberellins

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

22. With reference to the Vitamin-D, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a fat-soluble vitamin essential for bone and immune health.
- 2. Rickets in children is caused by the deficiency of vitamin D.

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 Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC), which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. NavIC is India's global satellite navigation system covering the entire globe.
- 2. It offers Standard Positioning Service (SPS) for civilians and Restricted Service (RS) for military/strategic users.

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. Chikungunya shares clinical symptoms with which of the following diseases?

- (a) Malaria and Yellow Fever
- (b) Dengue and Zika
- (c) Japanese Encephalitis and West Nile Virus
- (d) Typhoid and Leptospirosis

25. Consider the following statements with reference to the Tandem Reconnection and Cusp Electrodynamics Reconnaissance Satellites (TRACERS) mission.

- 1. It is launched by the European Space Agency (ESA) in collaboration with ISRO.
- 2. It is going to study magnetic reconnection and its effects in Earth's atmosphere.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

26. Consider the following statements about Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)/Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS):

1. HIV attacks white blood cells, weakening the immune system.
2. HIV can be transmitted through casual contact such as hugging or handshakes.
3. Antiretroviral therapy (ART) helps in managing HIV infection.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) All of the above

27. With reference to Deep-Brain Stimulation (DBS), consider the following statements:

1. DBS is primarily used to treat movement disorders like Parkinson's disease and dystonia.
2. The electrical impulses delivered by DBS are irreversible and permanently alter brain tissue.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

28. With reference to the NISAR satellite mission, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a dual-frequency radar imaging satellite to be used for Earth observation.
2. NISAR is the first satellite mission to collect radar data in two microwave bandwidth regions, called the L-band and the S-band.

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

29. With reference to the CRIB blood group, consider the following statements:

1. It is a newly discovered blood group antigen part of the Kell blood group system.
2. Its discovery highlights China's contribution to rare blood immunogenetics.
3. The antigens associated with it are located on the Decay-Accelerating Factor (DAF) protein.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATIONS

1. (d)

Context

- Japan has successfully launched its **GOSAT-GW satellite** aboard the **H-2A rocket** as part of Tokyo's ongoing efforts to monitor and mitigate climate change.

About the Satellite

- The GOSAT-GW, or Global Observing Satellite for Greenhouse gases and Water cycle, is a **third series** in the mission to monitor carbon, methane and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.
- Within one year, it will start distributing data such as sea surface temperature and precipitation with much higher resolution to users around the world, including the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

2. (a)

Context

- Actor Shefali Jariwala's death has put **glutathione injections** in the spotlight. While the exact cause is still under investigation, reports say she took them as part of an **anti-ageing treatment**.

What is glutathione?

- Glutathione is a powerful **antioxidant** naturally produced by **our liver**. It repairs skin, boosts immunity, slows ageing, neutralises free radicals, and even helps fight cancer cells. Because of this, it's often called the '**mother of all antioxidants**.'
- But as we age, our bodies produce **less glutathione** — so many people turn to oral supplements or intravenous injections to boost levels.

3. (c)

Both the statements are correct: The genome of an organism is made up of a unique DNA or RNA sequence.

- The human genome is the **complete set of genetic information for Homo sapiens**.
- It consists of **about 3 billion base pairs of DNA**, organized into **23 pairs of chromosomes**.
- Each sequence is composed of chemical building blocks known as **nucleotide bases**.
- Determining the order of bases** is called "**genomic sequencing**" or, simply, "**sequencing**."
 - Genome sequencing determines the order of nucleotide bases (A, T, C, G for DNA; A, U, C, G for RNA).
- The information encoded in the genomes provide **researchers with unique genetic "fingerprints."**

4. (b)

Statement 1 is not correct: The word plastic is derived from the Greek word **plastikos**, meaning "**capable of being shaped or moulded**."

- Plastic refers to a **wide range of synthetic or semi-synthetic materials** that use **polymers** as a main ingredient with their defining quality being their **plasticity** — the ability of a solid material to undergo permanent deformation in response to applied forces.
 - Plasticity refers to the ability to undergo permanent deformation, not resistance to it.**
 - This makes them extremely **adaptable, capable of being shaped as per requirement**.

Statement 2 is correct: Microplastics: Plastics break down into their smaller units called **microplastics** — officially defined as plastics **less than five millimetres in diameter**.

Types of Microplastics:

- Primary:** Manufactured small on purpose (e.g. microbeads in cosmetics).
- Secondary:** Result from breakdown of larger plastic items (e.g. bottles, bags).

5. (b)

Context

- The Vera C. Rubin Observatory (VRO) in Chile released its first images, revealing a detailed view of 10 million galaxies, over 2,000 new asteroids, and stars with varying brightness.

About Vera C. Rubin Observatory

- **Location:** Cerro Pachón Mountain, Northern Chile (Altitude: 8,684 feet)
- **Naming:** Formerly it was known as Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST) and **renamed in 2019** in honour of astronomer **Vera C. Rubin, who first discovered evidence for dark matter in galaxies.**
- **Funded by:** U.S. National Science Foundation and Department of Energy
- **Core Instrument:** Simonyi Survey Telescope

Significance of the Observatory

- VRO will scan the **entire southern sky every three nights for 10 years**, creating the **most detailed astronomical** time-lapse ever.
- Its system can compare images in **60 seconds** and generate up to **10 million** alerts per night on transient phenomena like: Supernovae, Moving objects (asteroids/comets), Dimming events (caused by planets or stars blocking light).

6. (c)

TMC-1 is a cold, dense molecular cloud located in the Taurus constellation within the Milky Way galaxy.

- It is located about **430 light-years from Earth.**
- It is significant because it contains complex organic molecules such as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and benzonitrile, which are considered prebiotic and may offer clues about the origin of life.
- It is not volcanic, not oceanic, and not related to Earth's magnetosphere.

7. (b)

Context

- Tamil Nadu has witnessed a dip in the number of tuberculosis (TB) deaths in the state after the rollout of the **Tamil Nadu Kasanoi Erappila Thittam (TN-KET)**, or TB death free initiative, in 2022.

What is Tuberculosis?

- Tuberculosis (TB) is an **infectious disease** that most often affects the lungs and is caused by the **bacteria *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.**
- It spreads through the air when infected people **cough, sneeze or spit.**
- **Symptoms:** prolonged cough (sometimes with blood), chest pain, weakness, fatigue, weight loss, fever, night sweats.
 - The symptoms people get depend on where in the body TB becomes active. While TB usually affects the lungs, it also affects the kidneys, brain, spine and skin.
- **Treatment:** Tuberculosis is **preventable and curable.**
 - Tuberculosis disease is treated with antibiotics.
 - **TB Vaccine: The *Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG)* vaccine** remains the only licensed vaccine against TB; it provides moderate protection against severe forms of TB (TB meningitis) in infants and young children.

- **National burden:** India accounted for **28 lakh TB cases** and **3.15 lakh TB deaths in 2023**, representing 26% and 29% of the global burden respectively.
- **India aims to eliminate TB by 2025**, five years ahead of the WHO goal of 2030.
- **Nikshay Poshan Yojana (NPY)** was launched in April 2018 under the umbrella of the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP).

8. (b)

Statement 1 is not correct: Fentanyl is not a naturally occurring opioid. It is a synthetic opioid, meaning it is entirely lab-made and not derived from the opium poppy like morphine or codeine.

Statement 2 is not correct: Fentanyl is not approved for use as a blood coagulant. It is used medically as a pain reliever (analgesic) and anaesthetic, especially for severe pain (like in cancer patients or post-surgery), not for blood clotting.

Statement 3 is correct: Fentanyl is approximately 100 times more potent than morphine as an analgesic. It is also about 50 times more potent than heroin, making it extremely dangerous when misused or abused.

9. (b)

Statement 1 is not correct: **Chandrayaan-3** consists of an indigenous propulsion module, a lander module, and a rover to develop and demonstrate new technologies required for interplanetary missions.

- **Launch Vehicle:** LVM3-M4 (GSLV Mk III).

Statement 2 is correct: Landing site: Near the Moon's South Pole (~69° S latitude).

- India became the **first country** to land near the lunar South Pole.
- The Prime Minister named the site where the Vikram Lander and Pragyan Rover landed as **Shiva Shakti**.
- India became the **first country** to land near the lunar South Pole.
- The Prime Minister named the site where the Vikram Lander and Pragyan Rover landed as **Shiva Shakti**.
- **India is the fourth nation** to achieve a soft lunar landing (after the USA, USSR/Russia, and China).
- During the mission, **several experiments**, including measurement of near-surface plasma content, presence of mineral elements, temperature profile of the lunar topsoil were conducted.

10. (b)

Statement 1 is correct: Unlike Japan's conventional narrow-gauge railways (1,067 mm), Shinkansen uses standard-gauge tracks (1,435 mm). These tracks are fully segregated — no freight or conventional trains are allowed, which is key to their safety and speed.

Statement 2 is not correct: Shinkansen trains are electrically powered using overhead lines.

Statement 3 is correct: Equipped with automatic train control (ATC), Shinkansen eliminates the need for trackside signals and maintains a perfect safety record.

11. (c)

Both the statements are correct: It has been established with the ANRF 2023 Act, under the **Department of Science & Technology**.

- **Aim:** To seed, grow and promote research and development (R&D) and foster a culture of research and innovation throughout India's universities, colleges, research institutions, and R&D laboratories.

- It will act as an **apex body to provide high-level strategic direction** of scientific research in the country as per **recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP)**.
- **The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB)** established in 2008 has been subsumed into ANRF.

12. (a)

Context

- The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) has approved confined field trials of two varieties of genetically modified (GM) maize at the Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) for the 2025 Kharif season.

Indian Scenario in GM crops

- **Bt Cotton:** In 2002, the GEAC had allowed the commercial release of Bt cotton.
 - Bt cotton has two alien genes from the soil bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) that allows the crop to develop a protein toxic to the common pest **pink bollworm**.
 - Till now, it is the only GM crop that is allowed in India.
- Many varieties of GM crops are under different stages of development, like **Bt brinjal** and **DMH-11 mustard**.

Regulatory framework in India

- **The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC):** Under the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)**, is responsible for the assessment of proposals related to the commercial release of GM crops.

13. (d)

Statement 1 is not correct: Bt brinjal is not commercially cultivated in India. Despite initial approval by the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC), an indefinite moratorium was imposed in 2010 and persists, so there is no official commercial cultivation of Bt brinjal in India.

Statement 2 is not correct: Bt cotton in India is genetically modified for resistance to certain insect pests (not herbicides)—specifically, it targets bollworm pests. Herbicide resistance is a different genetic trait, and the approved Bt cotton in India does not primarily confer resistance to herbicides.

14. (d)

In News: Gujarat has become the first state in India to launch a **Tribal Genome Sequencing Project**.

About

- **Objectives:** Identify genetic markers associated with various hereditary and immunity-related conditions.
- **Key Implementation Agency:** Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre (GBRC)
- **Sample Size & Scope:** The project will sequence the genomes of 2,000 individuals from tribal communities across 17 districts of Gujarat.
- **Target Population:** Focus includes major tribal groups such as Bamcha, Garasia Bhil, Chaudhar, Dubla, Gond, Nayaka, Warli, and the Sidi community.

15. (a)

Statement 1 is correct: Mitochondria: The human genes are curled up in the **nucleus** of nearly every cell in the body.

- The **fluid surrounding the nucleus** contains **hundreds to thousands of mitochondria** that carry their **own set of 37 genes**.
- The mitochondria are **membrane-bound organelles** often referred to as the “**powerhouses of the cell**” because they play a crucial role in producing energy.

Statement 2 is not correct: People inherit all their mitochondria from their **biological mother**, mutations can affect all the children a woman has.

16. (a)

Statement 1 is correct: Hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) is a vital oxidizing agent with broad applications in chemical synthesis, sterilization, wastewater treatment, and fuel cells.

Statement 2 is not correct: Known for its eco-friendly nature of degrading or breaking down into only water and oxygen - H₂O₂ is a key component in sustainable chemical processes.

17. (b)

In News: India has sent 3 lakh doses of **Measles-Rubella vaccine to Bolivia** in response to a major measles outbreak.

About Measles

- Measles is a **highly contagious** and serious airborne viral disease.
- It is **caused by a virus in the Paramyxovirus family** and spreads mainly through respiratory droplets via coughing, sneezing, or direct contact.
- The virus initially infects the **respiratory tract** and then spreads throughout the body, often resulting in severe complications and, in some cases, death.
- **No specific antiviral treatment exists** for measles. However, in preventive mode, the **Measles-Rubella (MR) vaccine** is usually given in two doses to ensure immunity.

18. (a)

Statement 1 and 2 are correct: Trachoma is a **highly contagious bacterial infection** of the eye, caused by the **bacterium Chlamydia trachomatis**.

- It has been a major cause of **preventable blindness worldwide**.
- Blindness from trachoma is **difficult to reverse**.
- **Senegal** has been declared **free of trachoma by WHO**, marking a significant public health achievement.

Statement 3 is not correct: Senegal became the **25th country** worldwide and the **9th in Africa** to eliminate trachoma as a public health problem.

- **The 24 other countries include India, Nepal**, Pakistan and China as well.

19. (c)

Context

- US President Donald Trump (age 79) has been diagnosed with chronic venous insufficiency — a condition commonly seen in individuals over the age of 70.

What is Chronic Venous Insufficiency (CVI)?

- It is a circulatory disorder in which leg veins fail to efficiently return blood to the heart, resulting in blood pooling in the lower limbs.
- It often begins in one leg and may spread to both, with increased venous pressure leading to pain, swelling, leg cramps, skin discoloration or thickening, and, in advanced stages, venous ulcers.
- Patients may present with symptoms or remain asymptomatic in early stages.
- People with CVI are about 60 per cent more likely to have severe cardiovascular disease at the same time than people of the same age and gender without it.

20. (d)

Context

- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has invited vaccine manufacturers to partner in the commercialisation of a new indigenous malaria vaccine, AdFalcivax.

What is Malaria?

- **Malaria** is a life-threatening disease spread to humans by some types of mosquitoes. It is mostly found in tropical countries.
- **Transmission:** It is caused by **plasmodium protozoa**. The plasmodium parasites spread through the bites of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes. Blood transfusion and contaminated needles may also transmit malaria.
- **Types of parasites:** There are 5 Plasmodium parasite species that cause malaria in humans and 2 of these species – **P. falciparum** and **P. vivax** – pose the greatest threat. The other malaria species which can infect humans are **P. malariae**, **P. ovale** and **P. knowlesi**.
 - **P. falciparum is the deadliest malaria parasite** and the most prevalent on the African continent. **P. vivax** is the dominant malaria parasite in most countries outside of sub-Saharan Africa.
- **Symptoms:** Fever and flu-like illness, including chills, headache, muscle ache and fatigue.

21. (b)

Biostimulants are defined as substances or microorganisms that stimulate natural plant processes to improve nutrient efficiency, stress tolerance, and crop quality, independent of direct nutrient supply.

The commonly recognized categories or sources of plant biostimulants do include:

Humic and fulvic acids: Acid-based organic substances that improve nutrient uptake and soil fertility.

Seaweed extracts: Botanical extracts containing beneficial minerals, phytohormones, and polysaccharides enhancing growth and stress tolerance.

Beneficial microorganisms: Such as **arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi** and **plant growth-promoting rhizobacteria (PGPR)**, which improve nutrient availability and plant resilience.

Synthetic auxins and gibberellins are plant hormones used as agrochemicals but are not classified as biostimulants; they are considered plant growth regulators or synthetic hormones.

22. (c)

Both the statements are correct: It is a **fat-soluble vitamin** essential for bone and immune health.

- **Functions:**
 - Calcium and phosphorus absorption from the intestine.
 - Maintains bone and dental health.
 - Supports immune system regulation.
 - Plays a role in muscle function and cell growth.
- **Diseases:** **Rickets** in children (bone deformities), **Osteomalacia** in adults (soft bones), **Osteoporosis** (brittle bones), Increased susceptibility to infections.

23. (b)**Context**

- ISRO will launch three more navigation satellites, **NVS-03, NVS-04, and NVS-05**, by 2026 to bolster the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS).

Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC)

- Established by **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**, **NavIC** is India's **autonomous regional navigation satellite system**, designed to fulfill both civilian and military navigational needs.
 - NavIC was erstwhile known as **Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS)**.

- It provides **precise Position, Velocity, and Timing (PVT) services** within India and extends up to **1,500 km** beyond the country's borders, forming its primary service area.
- NavIC is designed with a constellation of **7 satellites** and a network of ground stations operating 24 x 7.
 - **Three satellites** of the constellation are placed in **geostationary orbit** and **four satellites** are placed in **inclined geosynchronous orbit**.
 - The **ground network** consists of a control centre, precise timing facility, range and integrity monitoring stations, two-way ranging stations, etc.
- **NavIC offers two services:** Standard Position Service (SPS) for **civilian users** and Restricted Service (RS) for **strategic users**.
 - It provides location accuracy better than 20 meters and timing accuracy better than 40 nanoseconds across the core service area.

24. (b)

In News

- The World Health Organization (WHO) has issued a warning about a **potential global chikungunya epidemic**, noting alarming similarities to a major 2004–2005 outbreak and urged early action.

Chikungunya

- Chikungunya is a mosquito-borne viral disease caused by the **chikungunya virus (CHIKV)**, an RNA virus from the **alphavirus genus**.
- **Symptoms:** It causes fever and severe joint pain, which is often debilitating. In some cases it can be deadly.
 - The symptoms of chikungunya are similar to those of **dengue fever and Zika virus disease**, making it difficult to diagnose.
- It is **transmitted** to humans by the bites of infected female mosquitoes, most commonly **Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus mosquitoes**.
 - The latter, which is known as the **tiger mosquito**, is venturing farther north as the world warms because of human-driven climate change.
- **Outbreaks:** CHIKV was first identified in the United Republic of Tanzania in 1952 and subsequently in other countries in Africa and Asia.
- As of 2025, major outbreaks have been reported in Reunion, Mayotte, and Mauritius, with the virus spreading to Madagascar, Somalia, Kenya, and parts of South Asia. Imported cases have also appeared in Europe, with local transmission in France and suspected cases in Italy.
- **Treatment:** Symptoms can be managed but there is no specific antiviral treatment.

25. (b)

Statement 1 is not correct: **NASA's twin Tandem Reconnection and Cusp Electrodynamics Reconnaissance Satellites (TRACERS)** mission launched aboard a Falcon 9 to study magnetic reconnection and how solar activity affects near-Earth atmosphere.

- The twin satellites successfully established communication post-launch and will undergo a four-week commissioning phase before starting their 12-month science mission.

Statement 2 is correct: **TRACERS Mission** will fly in low Earth orbit through the polar cusps, funnel-shaped holes in the magnetic field, **to study magnetic reconnection and its effects in Earth's atmosphere**.

- Magnetic reconnection occurs when activity from the Sun interacts with Earth's magnetic field.
- By understanding this process, scientists will be able to better understand and prepare for impacts of solar activity on Earth.

26. (a)

Context

- Meghalaya may soon follow Goa's footsteps in requiring pre-marital HIV tests.

About

- Meghalaya ranks **6th in HIV prevalence nationwide**. In 2024 alone, **East Khasi Hills district** saw over 3,400 new cases, almost double from the previous year.
- HIV weakens the immune system by attacking **white blood cells**. If left untreated, it progresses to **AIDS**, the most severe stage of the infection.
- It spreads through blood, semen, vaginal fluids, and breast milk, not casual contact like **hugs or handshakes**.
- HIV can be prevented and managed with antiretroviral therapy (ART).

27. (a)

Context

- Over 1.6 lakh people worldwide have received deep-brain stimulation (DBS), a cutting-edge neurotechnology increasingly used in treating complex brain disorders.

About

- **Deep-brain stimulation (DBS)** is a medical technique where doctors implant **electrodes** deep inside specific areas of the brain to treat certain disorders.
- These electrodes are connected by wires to a small device, similar to a heart's pacemaker, which is usually placed under the skin in the upper chest.
- The device sends controlled, mild electrical impulses to targeted brain regions, helping adjust abnormal brain activity or chemical imbalances.

How Does It Work?

- Technically, DBS works by modifying how groups of neurons talk to each other. Many of these disorders involve faulty electrical signals in the brain.
- Delivering electrical pulses through DBS can interrupt these erratic signals, helping reduce symptoms such as tremors or muscle stiffness.
- The amount and pattern of stimulation can be precisely adjusted by doctors or, to some extent, by patients themselves using external programmers.
- One advantage of DBS is that, unlike brain surgery that destroys tissue, **its effects are reversible**: if you turn off the device, the stimulation stops.

Applications

- DBS is primarily used to treat movement disorders such as: **Parkinson's Disease, Essential Tremor and Dystonia**.
- It has also been approved for some psychiatric conditions like obsessive-compulsive disorder, and is being studied for severe depression and **epilepsy**.

28. (c)

Context

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is set to launch the NISAR satellite from Sriharikota on July 30 onboard a GSLV Mk-II rocket.

NISAR Satellite

- NISAR is an Earth-observation satellite that stands for **NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar**.
- It is Jointly developed by the **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** and the **Indian Space Research Organisation** under a partnership agreement signed in **2014**.

- It will be launched into a **polar Sun-synchronous dawn-dusk orbit** at 747 km altitude and an inclination of 98.4°.
- NISAR is the first satellite mission to collect radar data in two microwave bandwidth regions, called the **L-band and the S-band**.
 - **The S-band** payload has been made by the ISRO and the **L-band** payload by the U.S.

Monitoring of Earth Surface

- The NISAR system comprises a **dual frequency, fully polarimetric radar**, with an imaging swath greater than **150 miles (240 km)**.
- This design permits complete global coverage every **12-days**, allowing researchers to create **time-series interferometric imagery** and systematically map the changing surface of Earth.
 - It can monitor various aspects in very high resolution.
- After a 90-day commissioning period, the mission will conduct a minimum of **three full years** of science operations with the L-band radar to satisfy NASA's requirements,
 - ISRO requires **five years** of operations with the S-band radar.

29. (a)

In News: A South Indian woman was found to have a “new” blood group with a rare antigen named **CRIB Blood Group**.

What is CRIB Blood Group?

- The CRIB blood group is a newly discovered blood group antigen that is part of the **Cromer (CR) blood group system**. “CR” refers to the Cromer system; “IB” refers to “**India, Bengaluru**,” recognizing the place of discovery.
- The Cromer system is a rare blood group classification. It involves antigens located on the **Decay-Accelerating Factor (DAF)** protein found on red blood cells.
- These antigens play a significant role in immune reactions that can occur during blood transfusions.

Scientific Significance

- CRIB is a new entry in global transfusion medicine.
- Its discovery highlights India's contribution to rare blood immunogenetics.
- It emphasizes the critical need for rare donor registries and global collaboration in blood typing.

Blood Group Basics

- Blood groups are determined by specific molecules (antigens) on the surface of red blood cells.
- The ABO and H blood groups are the oldest and most important blood group system in transfusion medicine due to their high immunogenicity.
 - There are over 30 blood group systems (e.g., Bombay, Kell, Kidd, Duffy, MNS, etc.).
- The ABO system was originally discovered in 1900 by Austrian scientist, Karl Landsteiner, for which he later received the Nobel prize in 1930.

□

■■■■

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

1. With reference to *Bambusa tulda*, consider the following statements:
 1. It is a tropical bamboo species native to the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia.
 2. It is extensively used in the paper and pulp industry due to its long fibers and rapid growth.
 3. It is listed as “Critically Endangered” under the IUCN Red List.Which of the statements given above are correct?
 - (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 1, 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1, 2 and 4 only
 - (d) 1, 2, and 3
2. With reference to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), consider the following statements:
 1. CITES is a legally binding international agreement that aims to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.
 2. CITES classifies species into three appendices, with Appendix I providing the highest level of protection.
 3. The implementation of CITES provisions is mandatory and overrides national laws of the member countries.
 4. The CITES Secretariat is administered by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).Which of the above statements is/are correct?
 - (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 1, 2 and 4 only
 - (c) 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
3. With reference to India's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement, which of the following statements is/are correct?
 1. India aims to reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by 45% by 2030 compared to 2005 levels.
 2. India targets achieving 50% of its installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030.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. Which of the following are protocols under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)?

1. Cartagena Protocol
2. Montreal Protocol
3. Nagoya Protocol
4. Kyoto Protocol

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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

1. It was adopted at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1972.
2. The Long-Term Low-Carbon Development Strategy (LT-LEDS) was submitted to the UNFCCC by 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

6. With reference to the Great Hornbill, consider the following statements:

1. It is listed as critically endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.
2. The Great Hornbill is the State bird of Kerala and Arunachal Pradesh.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

7. Consider the following statements regarding the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) of the European Union (EU):

1. The primary purpose of CBAM is to generate substantial revenue for the EU's general budget through taxes on all imported goods.
2. During its transitional phase (2023-2025), importers are required to report embedded emissions, but no financial charges are levied.

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. Consider the following statements regarding Kharai Camels:

1. They are a unique camel breed exclusively found in the desert regions of Rajasthan, India.
2. They are known for their ability to swim long distances in seawater.

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

9. The Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) is an initiative of which of the following?

- (a) World Bank
- (b) European Union (EU)
- (c) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- (d) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

10. Consider the following statements regarding the International Maritime Organization (IMO):

- 1. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations.
- 2. Its mandate primarily includes ensuring safety and security of international shipping and preventing marine pollution from ships.
- 3. The MARPOL Convention, addressing marine pollution from ships, was adopted under the IMO.

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 Great One-horned Rhinoceros, consider the following statements:

- 1. In India, they are found in Assam, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh.
- 2. It is listed as endangered 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

12. The 'Gregariousness behaviour' is most commonly associated with which of the following phenomena?

- (a) Camouflage in insects
- (b) Hibernation in mammals
- (c) Swarming in locusts
- (d) Echolocation in bats

13. With reference to the 'Global Solar Atlas (GSA)', consider the following statements:

- 1. It is an initiative by the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
- 2. It provides high-resolution data to assess solar energy potential across the globe, especially in developing countries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

- 14.** With reference to Lion-Tailed Macaque, consider the following statements
1. It is endemic to evergreen rainforests of the southern part in Western Ghats.
 2. It is classified as Least Concern 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
- 15.** With reference to the 'Biodiversity Hotspots', consider the following statements:
1. These are designated based on criteria set by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
 2. India is home to four globally recognized biodiversity hotspots.
- 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 Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, consider the following statements:
1. It was adopted in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971 and entered into force in 1975.
 2. India has been a party to the Convention since 1982 and currently has 81 designated Ramsar wetland sites.
- 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.** Consider the following statements regarding the Khejri tree (*Prosopis cineraria*):
1. It is native to the Thar Desert region of Rajasthan.
 2. It requires high amounts of water to thrive, making it unsuitable for arid regions.
 3. Its edible pods, known as sangri, serve as a crucial food source during droughts.
- 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
- 18.** What is *Allographa effusosoredica*, sometimes seen in the news?
- (a) An Invasive Species of plant
 - (b) A type of fungus
 - (c) A new species of lichen
 - (d) A disease caused by virus

- 19.** With reference to the Corals, consider the following statements:
1. Coral are bright and colorful because of microscopic algae called zooxanthellae.
 2. Coral bleaching occurs when corals expel the colourful algae living in their tissues.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
- 20.** Recently, a Supreme Court-appointed expert committee has proposed the creation of designated 'power corridors' through the habitats of Great Indian Bustard (GIB). These power corridors lie in:
- (a) Rajasthan and Punjab
(b) Rajasthan and Gujarat
(c) Gujarat and Punjab
(d) Gujarat, Punjab and Rajasthan
- 21.** With reference to the Kyoto Protocol, consider the following statements:
1. The Kyoto Protocol is a legally binding international treaty adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
 2. The second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol is known as the Doha Amendment.
 3. India and China had binding emission reduction targets under the Kyoto Protocol.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
- 22.** With reference to the Golden Jackal (*Canis aureus*), consider the following statements:
1. It is primarily nocturnal and omnivorous in nature.
 2. In India, it is found only in the Western Ghats region.
 3. It is listed as Least Concern in the IUCN Red List.
- 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
- 23.** Consider the following statements with reference to Environment Protection (Management of Contaminated Sites) Rules, 2025.
1. It provides a legal framework to address chemically contaminated sites in India.
 2. It mandates district administrations to report suspected contaminated sites biannually.
 3. Criminal liability for contamination causing harm in cases of death falls under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (2023).
- How many of the statements given above are correct?
- (a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All the three
(d) None

24. The first-ever Grassland Bird Census in India was recently conducted in which of the following sites?
- Corbett Tiger Reserve, Uttarakhand
 - Rollapadu Wildlife Sanctuary, Andhra Pradesh
 - Kaziranga National Park, Assam
 - Banni Grasslands, Gujarat
25. With reference to the Kaziranga National Park, which of the following statements is/are correct?
- The park's landscape is shaped by the dynamic Brahmaputra River system and the formation of oxbow lakes.
 - It houses more than 70% of the world's population of Asiatic lions.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
26. The Barbados threadsnake, recently seen in the news, is known for being:
- The longest snake in the world
 - The world's smallest-known snake
 - A venomous snake endemic to Africa
 - A snake that can fly
27. With reference to Tiger Reserve, Consider the following pairs:
- | Tiger Reserve | Place |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. Kaziranga | : Assam |
| 2. Bandipur | : Kerala |
| 3. Sariska | : Uttar Pradesh |
- How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?
- Only one pair
 - Only two pairs
 - All three pairs
 - None of the pairs

EXPLANATIONS

1. (a)

Statement 1 is correct: Bambusa tulda, also called Bengal bamboo, is native to India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, and surrounding regions.

Statement 2 is correct: It is a preferred species in paper and pulp industries due to its high cellulose content, rapid growth, and long fibers. Bamboos like B. tulda have deep root systems and are extremely useful in erosion control, especially along riverbanks and slopes.

Statement 3 is not correct: Bambusa tulda is not listed as Critically Endangered. In fact, it is a commonly cultivated species and not threatened as per IUCN.

2. (b)

Statement 1 is correct: CITES is a legally binding international agreement whose aim is to ensure that international trade in wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.

Statement 2 is correct: CITES classifies species into three appendices, with Appendix I listing the most endangered species and prohibiting their commercial trade, except in exceptional circumstances.

Statement 3 is not correct: CITES does not override national laws; instead, it provides a framework for member countries to implement through their own domestic legislation.

Statement 4 is correct: The CITES Secretariat is administered by UNEP and is located in Geneva, Switzerland.

3. (c)

Context

- The European Commission has proposed a legally binding goal to reduce net GreenHouse Gas emissions by **90% by 2040**, compared to **1990 levels**.

India's Commitments Emission Reductions

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

4. (a)

Convention on Biological Diversity

- The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** is the international legal instrument for “the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources”.
- It was opened for signature in **1992** at the **Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro**, and entered into force in **1993**. It has been ratified by **196 nations**.
- Secretariat:** Montreal, Canada.
- The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety** and the **Nagoya Protocol** on Access and Benefit-Sharing are supplementary agreements to the CBD.

5. (b)

Statement 1 is not correct: **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** is the foundational international treaty that guides global efforts to combat climate change.

- It was adopted in **1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro**, it has since become the bedrock of climate diplomacy, shaping agreements like the **Kyoto Protocol** and the **Paris Agreement**.

Statement 2 is correct: **The Long-Term Low-Carbon Development Strategy (LT-LEDS)** was submitted to UNFCCC in 2022 by India. It focuses on:

- Clean energy transitions;
- Low-carbon transport and urban design;
- CO₂ removal technologies;
- Forest enhancement and climate resilience

6. (b)

Context

- In a rare and remarkable sighting, the **Malamuzhakki Vezhambal (Great Hornbill)**, Kerala's State bird, was spotted in the coastal belt of Kakkampara.

About the Great Hornbill

- Also known as the **concave-casqued hornbill**, great Indian hornbill, or great pied hornbill, it is one of the largest members of the hornbill family, found across the **Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia**.
- Its impressive size and striking colours make it significant in many tribal cultures and rituals.
- The Great Hornbill can live up to 50 years in captivity. It is mainly frugivorous but can also prey on small mammals, reptiles, and birds when food is scarce.
- It is listed as **Vulnerable** by the IUCN and is protected under **Schedule I** of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act.

Do you know?

- Apart from Kerala, the Great Hornbill is also the State bird of Arunachal Pradesh.

7. (b)

Statement 1 is not correct: While CBAM does involve a “tax” on carbon, its primary purpose is not to generate substantial revenue for the EU's general budget from all imported goods. Instead, its core objectives are to prevent carbon leakage (where industries move production to countries with less stringent climate policies) and to encourage cleaner industrial production in non-EU countries by applying a fair price on the carbon embedded in specific carbon-intensive imports.

Statement 2 is correct: The transitional phase of CBAM lasts from 2023 to 2025. During this period, importers are required to fulfill reporting obligations regarding the embedded greenhouse gas emissions of their goods, but they are not yet subject to financial charges for CBAM certificates. Financial obligations commence from 2026.

8. (a)

Statement 1 is not correct: Kharai camels are indigenous to the coastal regions of Kutch, Gujarat, India, not exclusively the desert regions of Rajasthan. The name “**Kharai**” comes from the **Gujarati word “Khara,”** meaning saline, reflecting their adaptation to both saline desert and coastal ecosystems. The breed has been maintained for over 400 years by **Rabari and Fakirani Jat tribes**.

Statement 2 is correct: They are often called the “swimming camel” due to their “remarkable ability to swim long distances—up to 3 kilometers—in seawater.”

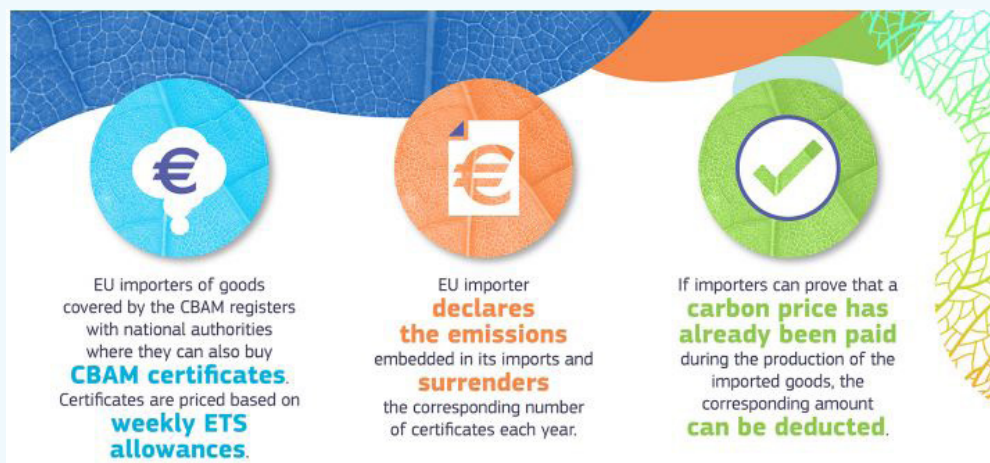
9. (b)

Context

- BRICS nations have “**condemned and rejected**” the **Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanisms (CBAM) of the European Union (EU)** and similar restrictive trade measures, saying they undermine their transition to a cleaner economy.

CBAM

- CBAM is an **import duty** imposed by the European Union (EU) on **goods produced by processes** that lead to **more carbon emissions than domestic European manufacturers** are allowed to emit.
- It is introduced to put a “**fair price**” on **carbon-intensive goods** imported from **non-EU countries**.
 - It is to **create a level playing field** with EU companies that account for their carbon emission through the **bloc's Emission Trading System (ETS)**.
- Application:** To be imposed from January 1, 2026, on six items: steel, aluminium, cement, fertilizer, hydrogen, and electricity.



10. (d)

Statement 1 is correct: The IMO is a specialized agency of the United Nations, its headquarters are located in London, United Kingdom.

Statement 2 is correct: The IMO is responsible for “the safety and security of shipping” and “prevention of marine pollution by ships.”

Statement 3 is correct: The “MARPOL” Convention was adopted in 1973 under the IMO and “MARPOL currently consists of six technical Annexes, targeting various sources of ship-related pollution.

11. (a)

Statement 1 is correct: The great one-horned rhino (or “Indian rhino”) is the **largest of the rhino species**.

- **Appearance:** Indian Rhinos are brownish-grey in colour and are hairless.
- **Distribution:** India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Myanmar.
 - In India, they are found in **Assam, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh**.

Statement 2 is not correct: Conservation Status:

- **IUCN Status:** vulnerable.
- **CITES:** Appendix I (I includes species threatened with extinction. Trade in specimens of these species is permitted only in exceptional circumstances).

12. (c)

Gregariousness Behaviour

- Several animal, bird, and insect species — including locusts — **exhibit a social behaviour called gregariousness**.
 - It helps them **form societies** in which large numbers of individuals work together, instead of competing, in order to survive.
- Scientists have identified a pheromone of interest, called **4-vinylanisole (4VA)**, in 2020.
 - **Pheromones** are **chemical substances** secreted by an organism that elicit a **social response** in other members of the same species.
 - After a locust eats food, it often **emits** large quantities of 4VA from its hind legs, it promptly begins to **attract other members** of the species when it’s released into the air.
 - Other locusts nearby subsequently collect together and rub their hind legs against each other.
 - This in turn triggers the **release of serotonin**, a neurotransmitter, **which leads to swarming**.

13. (b)

In News: China's transformation from the world's largest polluter to a global clean energy superpower is the result of decades of strategic planning, massive state investment, and technological dominance across the renewable energy supply chain.

Statement 1 is not correct

- **Global Solar Atlas (GSA)** is a free, web-based tool developed by the **World Bank's Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP)** in collaboration with Solargis.

Statement 2 is correct

- **Global Solar Atlas (GSA)** provides high-resolution data and maps to assess solar energy potential across the globe, especially in developing countries.

14. (a)

In News : The Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) has granted in-principle approval for diverting 142.76 hectares of forest land in the Sharavathi Valley Lion-Tailed Macaque Wildlife Sanctuary for the Sharavathi Pumped Storage Project (2,000 MW).

Statement 1 is correct : Lion-Tailed Macaque(Macaca silenus)

- It is a recognisable monkey with a silver-white mane from the Western Ghats of **South India**
 - **It is endemic to the Western Ghats hill ranges .**
- According to the IUCN, only around 2,500 individuals remain in the wild and the population continues to decline.

Statement 2 is not correct : The lion-tailed macaque is classified as **endangered** on the IUCN Red List and protected under Appendix I of CITES. Its population faces threats from habitat loss, fragmentation, and human encroachment.

15. (b)

In News: Kerala has claimed the top spot as the country's leading state for new faunal discoveries, in a record-breaking year for India's biodiversity documentation.

Statement 1 is not correct

- **Biodiversity Hotspots** are designated based on **criteria set by Conservation International**, which require a region to have:
 - At least 1,500 endemic vascular plant species;
 - Lost 70% or more of its original natural vegetation;

Statement 2 is correct: India is home to **four globally recognized biodiversity hotspots (Himalayas; Indo-Burma; Western Ghats; Sundaland)**, each teeming with **endemic species** and facing significant ecological threats.

16. (a)

Statement 1 is correct: It is an international treaty aimed at conserving wetlands around the world. It was adopted in **Ramsar, Iran, in 1971** and entered into force in **1975**.

- Countries that are parties to the convention commit to designating wetlands of international importance within their territories. These sites are referred to as **Ramsar Sites**.
- **India** has been a party to the Convention since **1982**.

Statement 2 is not correct: India has around **4.6%** of its land as wetlands, **91 Wetlands of India** covering are under the **List of Wetlands of International Importance**.

- Presently, India stands **first in South Asia** and **third in Asia in terms of number of designated sites**.

17. (b)

In News

- Efforts are being made to secure a Geographical Indication (GI) tag for sangri to protect the legacy of the khejri tree and support the farmers who rely on it.

The khejri tree

- It is known by many names, including *Prosopis cineraria*, shami, jand and ghaf.
- It is believed to have **originated in Rajasthan's Thar Desert**.
- It thrives in **extreme heat with minimal water**.
- It is a symbol of resilience, sustenance, and cultural heritage.
- It supports **desert communities** through its edible pods, sangri, which are vital during droughts.

18. (c)

Context

- A new species of lichen, ***Allographa effusosoredica***, has been discovered in the Western Ghats by Indian scientists, offering insights into ancient symbiosis and evolutionary patterns.

About Lichens

- **Definition:** Lichens are composite organisms formed by a symbiotic association between a **fungus (mycobiont)** and a **photosynthetic partner** (photobiont, usually a **green alga or cyanobacterium**).
- **Ecological Role:** Soil formation, Nutrient cycling, Serve as food for insects, Bioindicators of environmental quality (especially air pollution).

About *Allographa effusosoredica*

- **Type:** Crustose lichen (forms a crust-like growth tightly bound to the substrate).
- **Unique Features:**
 - It has **effuse soredia** (powdery vegetative reproductive structures).
 - Contains **norstictic acid**, a rare chemical compound among related species.
 - Morphologically resembles ***Graphis glaucescens***, though genetically distinct.

19. (c)

Both the statements are correct: Corals are **invertebrates** that belong to a large group of animals called **Cnidaria**.

- **Appearance:** Corals range in colour from **red to purple and even blue**, but are most commonly shades of **brown and green**.
 - Coral are bright and colorful because of microscopic algae called **zooxanthellae**.
 - Coral bleaching occurs when **corals expel the colourful algae** living in their tissues.
 - Without these helpful algae, the **corals become pale** and are vulnerable to **starvation and disease**.

20. (b)

In News: Recently, a Supreme Court-appointed **expert committee** has proposed the creation of designated '**power corridors**' through the habitats of **Great Indian Bustard (GIB)** in **Rajasthan and Gujarat**.

- In 2024, the Supreme Court of India pointed out that **its 2021 blanket ban on overhead lines** marked a shift toward coexistence between conservation and renewable energy goals.

21. (a)

Statement 1 is correct: It is an international treaty adopted under the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**.

- It was adopted in **1997 and entered into force in 2005**.
- **Objective:** To reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and combat global warming.
- **Legally Binding Commitments:** For developed countries (Annex I countries) to reduce their GHG emissions.
 - Developing countries, including India and China, had no binding targets. **Hence, Statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Target Period: First Commitment Period (2008–2012):** Reduce emissions by an average of 5.2% below 1990 levels.
 - **Second Commitment Period (2013–2020):** Known as the **Doha Amendment** (not ratified by many nations, including the US and Canada). **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

22. (c)

Context

- Research undertaken by NGO **Aranyakam Nature Foundation** estimates that Kerala is home to 20,000–30,000 **golden jackals**.

About Golden Jackal (*Canis aureus*)

- **Appearance:** Also known as the **common jackal**, it is smaller than a wolf but larger than a fox. It has a golden to pale gold or brown-tipped coat, which can vary seasonally and regionally.
- **Behaviour:** Primarily **nocturnal**, active mostly at night.
- **Habitat & Distribution:** Found across **Europe, Southwest, Central, South, and Southeast Asia**.
 - In India, golden jackals are found in states like **Kerala, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Haryana**.
- **Diet: Omnivores** in nature, they feed on small mammals, insects, hares, fish, birds and fruits and often venture into human habitats in search of the same.
- **Legal protection:**
 - **IUCN Red List:** Least Concern
 - **CITES:** Appendix III

23. (c)

In News : The Union Environment Ministry has introduced the Environment Protection (Management of Contaminated Sites) Rules, 2025.

Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct : **Environment Protection (Management of Contaminated Sites) Rules, 2025** are introduced under the Environment Protection Act to legally address **chemically contaminated sites** under the Environment Protection Act.

- These sites, often landfills or chemical storage areas, were polluted due to unregulated hazardous waste dumping in the past.
- District administrations must submit **half-yearly reports** on “suspected contaminated sites”.
 - A State Pollution Control Board or designated reference organisation will conduct a preliminary assessment within 90 days.
 - Complete a detailed survey within another 90 days to confirm contamination.
 - A remediation plan will be developed by expert bodies.
- The **polluter will be held financially responsible**; if they cannot pay, the Centre and State will bear the clean-up cost.
- **Criminal liability**, if proven (especially in cases of death or damage), will be dealt with under the **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (2023)**.

24. (c)

The **first-ever Grassland Bird Census** in **Kaziranga National Park** was conducted between March 18 and May 25, 2025, involving forest officials, scientists, and conservationists.

- Kaziranga is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** located in the Golaghat and Nagaon districts of Assam. It has the largest population of Indian one-horned rhinoceros worldwide.

25. (a)

Context

- Kaziranga Tiger Reserve in Assam, has emerged as the reserve with the third highest density of tigers globally, according to a report titled 'Status of Tigers in Kaziranga 2024'.

Kaziranga National Park

- **Location:** Golaghat, Karbi Anglong and Nagaon districts of the state of Assam.
- It was declared a **Wildlife Sanctuary in 1950** and notified as Kaziranga National Park in **1974** under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, of 1972.
 - It has been declared a Tiger Reserve since **2007**.
 - It was also recognized as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in **1985**.
- **Topography:** It is characterized by wet alluvial tall grasslands, shallow pools fringed with reeds, and deciduous semi-evergreen woodlands.
- **Hydrological Influence:** The dynamic **Brahmaputra River** system plays a central role in shaping the park's terrain through flooding, erosion, sedimentation, and formation of **oxbow lakes**.
- The Park is the abode of more than **70%** of **One Horned Rhinoceros** in the world.

26. (b)

Context

- The **Barbados threadsnake** has been rediscovered in Barbados, 20 years after its last sighting.

Barbados threadsnake

- It is the **world's smallest-known snake** and it can fit on a coin.
 - It is blind, burrows in the ground, eats termites and ants, and lays one single, slender egg. Fully grown, it measures up to 10 cm.



- It had been on a **global list of 4,800 plants, animals and fungi species that have been lost to science**.
- It reproduces sexually and the females lay only one egg at a time, unlike some other reptiles that can produce fertile eggs without mating.
- Its rediscovery underscores the importance of conservation and highlights the role of community-led fieldwork in protecting rare endemic species.

27. (a)

Context

- Kaziranga Tiger Reserve in Assam, has emerged as the reserve with the third highest density of tigers globally, according to a report titled '**Status of Tigers in Kaziranga 2024**'.

Kaziranga National Park

- **Location:** Golaghat, Karbi Anglong and Nagaon districts of the state of Assam.
- It was declared a **Wildlife Sanctuary in 1950** and notified as Kaziranga National Park in **1974** under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, of 1972.
 - ○ It has been declared a Tiger Reserve since **2007**.
 - ○ It was also recognized as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in **1985**.

Bandipur Tiger Reserve

- It is located in Karnataka.

Sariska Tiger Reserve

- It is located in Rajasthan.

■ ■ ■ ■

MISCELLANEOUS

1. Bharat NCX, recently seen in the news, is related to:
 - (a) Military joint exercises with foreign countries
 - (b) National cybersecurity and cyber defense training
 - (c) Space collaboration between India and Japan
 - (d) Development of indigenous next-generation tanks
2. Which of the following international organizations released “The Status of Youth in Agrifood Systems report” recently?
 - (a) United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)
 - (b) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
 - (c) The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
 - (d) The International Labour Organization (ILO)
3. ‘Operation Mahadev’, recently seen in the news, is related to:
 - (a) A military infrastructure project in Arunachal Pradesh
 - (b) The evacuation of Indian citizens from conflict zones
 - (c) A cyber-security initiative targeting online radicalisation
 - (d) A joint counter-terror operation in Jammu & Kashmir
4. With reference to the Henley Passport Index 2025, consider the following statements:
 1. Asian nations are increasingly emerging as leaders in global mobility.
 2. The United States and United Kingdom have seen a gradual decline in their rankings.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 Shyam Divan Committee (2021), recently seen in the news, is primarily related to:
 - (a) Electoral reforms and voting rights of NRIs
 - (b) Banking sector accountability and non-performing assets (NPAs)
 - (c) Regulation of content on digital media and OTT platforms
 - (d) School curricula and online education standards
6. The ‘PICKET Framework’, sometimes appeared in the news, primarily is in the context of:
 - (a) Cybersecurity Protocol
 - (b) Disaster Response Model
 - (c) Skilling For Industry 4.0
 - (d) Child Trafficking

7. Which one of the following applications or platforms recently has been honored with the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Champion Award 2025?
 - (a) BHIM
 - (b) Meri Panchayat
 - (c) DigiLocker
 - (d) MADAD
8. Recently, the 'Swiss Cheese Model' sometimes appeared in the news, is primarily related to:
 - (a) Money Laundering
 - (b) Risk Management & Accident Causation
 - (c) Anti-Terrorism
 - (d) Defense Partnership
9. The Raghavan Committee is primarily related to which of the following issues?
 - (a) Regulation of Banking and Financial Institutions
 - (b) Police Reform and Modernization
 - (c) Strengthening Cybersecurity Measures
 - (d) Prevention and Control of Ragging in Educational Institutions
10. What is Botrytis cinerea, sometimes seen in the news?
 - (a) An invasive species of plant
 - (b) A type of fungus
 - (c) Newly discovered satellite
 - (d) A disease caused by virus
11. The term 'Gavri' recently seen in the news, is:
 - (a) Tribal Festival
 - (b) GI tagged handicraft
 - (c) Tributary of Krishna
 - (d) An Island in Arabian Sea
12. Where has India set up its first Equine Disease-Free Compartment (EDFC), officially recognised by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)?
 - (a) Karnataka
 - (b) Uttar Pradesh
 - (c) Punjab
 - (d) Rajasthan
13. Chukha, Kurichhu, and Mangdechhu, recently seen in the news, are:
 - (a) Major irrigation projects constructed by India in Nepal
 - (b) Major Hydroelectric Power Projects constructed by India in Bhutan
 - (c) National Parks located in the Northeastern region of India
 - (d) Ports developed by India along the eastern coast
14. Kombucha, recently seen in the news, is related to which of the following?
 - (a) A notable handicraft from Northeast India
 - (b) A fermented tea drink known for its probiotic properties
 - (c) An invasive plant species found in Himalayan forests
 - (d) A new variety of drought-resistant rice

15. Which of the following directives was NOT part of the Prakash Singh case verdict on police reforms?
- Establishment of State Security Commissions
 - Setting up of Police Establishment Boards
 - Fixed tenure for DGPs and other senior officers
 - Mandatory use of body cameras by police
16. With reference to the World Health Organization's (WHO) "3 by 35" Initiative, consider the following statements:
- The initiative aims to increase the real prices of tobacco, alcohol, and sugary drinks by at least 35% by the year 2035 through tax measures.
 - It seeks to reduce the global burden of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and mobilize additional public revenue for health and development.
 - The initiative is expected to help countries collectively raise up to US\$ 1 trillion in additional revenue over the next decade.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- 1 and 2 only
 - 2 and 3 only
 - 1 and 3 only
 - 1, 2 and 3
17. India's first transgender clinic, Mitr Clinic, was recently reopened in which of the following cities?
- Mumbai
 - Chennai
 - Hyderabad
 - Bengaluru
18. With reference to the Durand Cup Tournament, consider the following statements:
- It is Asia's oldest and the world's third oldest football tournament.
 - The tournament is named after Sir Mortimer Durand, who was the Governor-General of India in 1888.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
19. "Voice for the Voiceless", recently seen in the news, is a literary book related to:
- Banu Mushtaq
 - Tenzin Gyatso
 - Aung San Suu Kyi
 - Nelson Mandela
20. With reference to the Gender Gap Report, 2025, consider the following statements:
- It was released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
 - India ranks below Bangladesh and Nepal.

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. Consider the following statements regarding the Swachh Survekshan Awards:

1. The awards were instituted in 2016 under the Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
2. The 2024-25 theme is “Waste to Wealth”, promoting sustainability and a circular economy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

22. Consider the following statements regarding the Chin ethnic group:

1. They are primarily from Myanmar's Chin State and share cultural and linguistic ties with the Mizo people of India.
2. Globally, the majority of the Chin population identifies with Buddhism as their primary religion.

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 adoption under Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), consider the following statements:

1. A child must be declared legally free for adoption by the District Magistrate before adoption proceedings can begin.
2. A single individual, whether unmarried, divorced, or widowed, is eligible to adopt under CARA guidelines.
3. A couple in a live-in relationship is eligible to adopt a child under CARA, provided they meet the age and income criteria.

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

24. The Aruna Shanbaug case v. Union of India is primarily concerned with:

- (a) Environmental protection laws
- (b) Judicial recognition of passive euthanasia
- (c) Freedom of speech and expression
- (d) Cybersecurity regulations

25. Consider the following statements about the FIDE World Cup 2025 and the history of chess in India:
1. India will host the FIDE World Cup for the first time in 2025.
 2. Chess originated in India during the Gupta dynasty and was originally known as 'Chaturanga'.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
26. The Kashi Declaration, recently signed during the Youth Spiritual Summit in Varanasi, is primarily related to:
- (a) Promoting interfaith harmony among youth
 - (b) Safeguarding India's cultural and spiritual heritage
 - (c) Achieving a drug-free India through a multi-sectoral approach
 - (d) Reforming youth education through skill development

EXPLANATIONS

1. (b)

In News

- The National Cybersecurity Exercise – Bharat NCX 2025 was officially inaugurated.

About Bharat NCX

- The exercise is being conducted by the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) in collaboration with Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU).
- The exercise offers an immersive learning environment focused on cyber defense and incident response, featuring live-fire simulations that mirror real-world attacks on both IT and Operational Technology (OT) systems.

2. (b)

The **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)** has released a comprehensive report titled "The Status of Youth in Agrifood Systems," which examines and emphasizes the crucial role of youth in transforming agrifood systems to improve food security, nutrition, and economic opportunities.

- Notably, nearly 85 percent of global youth today live in low- and lower-middle-income countries, where agrifood systems are essential for livelihoods. Improving their inclusion in those systems could make a trillion-dollar difference in the global economy. Over 20% of the world's 1.3 billion youth (aged 15–24) are **Not in Employment, Education, or Training (NEET)**.
 - Young women are twice as likely to fall into the NEET category.

3. (d)

Context

- The three terrorists behind the April 22 Pahalgam (Jammu & Kashmir) attack have been neutralised.

About

- In a joint operation named '**Operation Mahadev**', the IB, Army, CRPF, and J&K Police tracked them down and eliminated them.

- Their identity and involvement were confirmed through ballistic and forensic evidence, witness testimonies — including two who had sheltered them — and a match between spent cartridges from Pahalgam and rifles recovered in the operation.

4. (c)

Statement 1 is correct: Asian countries like Singapore (rank 1, visa-free access to 195 destinations), Japan (rank 2), South Korea, and others among the top ranks have shown strong passport power and global mobility in the 2025 Henley Passport Index.

Statement 2 is correct: The US has dropped from 2nd to 9th place, and the UK has slipped from 1st to 5th in recent years in the Henley Passport Index. This indicates a gradual decline in their passport rankings and relative mobility power.

5. (c)

Context

- The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has directed the blocking of websites and apps of at least 25 OTT platforms for allegedly providing obscene and vulgar content.

Important Judgments and Committees

- **Justice for Rights Foundation v. Union of India, 2018:** The Supreme Court transferred a plea seeking stricter regulation of OTT content to the Ministry of I&B, which later led to the formulation of self-regulation mechanisms under the **IT Rules, 2021**.
- **Shyam Divan Committee:** It was established in **2021 by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** to draft a code of ethics and examine the need for regulation of content on digital media platforms, especially OTTs.
 - It called for self-regulation with government oversight, and accountability mechanisms for digital publishers and OTT platforms.

6. (d)

In News: Girl child trafficking remains one of the gravest human rights violations in India, and Bihar's persistent struggle with poverty, migration, and porous borders has tragically made it a hotspot.

- **PICKET Framework** aims to end child trafficking, India needs to adopt the **PICKET strategy**:
 - **Policy** – Clear laws banning child exploitation;
 - **Institutions** – Empowered systems for protection and justice;
 - **Convergence** – Coordination between departments and NGOs;
 - **Knowledge** – Awareness campaigns and intelligence sharing;
 - **Economic Disruption** – Make trafficking financially unviable;
 - **Technology** – Use digital tools for tracking and prevention.

7. (b)

In News: Recently, the 'Meri Panchayat' mobile application has been honored with the WSIS Champion Award 2025 at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+20) High-Level Event held in Geneva, Switzerland.

- The award, conferred under the Action Line Category: Cultural Diversity and Identity, Linguistic Diversity and Local Content, recognizes the app's transformative role in empowering rural communities through technology.
- 'Meri Panchayat' App is developed by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj in collaboration with the National Informatics Centre (NIC).
- It is a flagship m-Governance platform designed to serve 2.65 lakh Gram Panchayats, reaching over 950 million rural citizens and 25 lakh elected Panchayat representatives.

8. (b)

In News: The preliminary report of the recent Air India Boeing 787 crash in Ahmedabad from the **Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB)** remains inconclusive, leaving critical questions unanswered about pilot intent and systemic failures.

- India's aviation ecosystem is a complex web involving aircraft design, maintenance, flight operations, air traffic control, and regulatory oversight. Each component is managed by different entities:
 - Airlines handle aircraft and crew.
 - Airports Authority of India (AAI) oversees infrastructure and air traffic control.
 - Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) regulates safety and compliance.
 - The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) supervises the entire framework.
- Accidents are rarely caused by a single failure. As per the **Swiss Cheese Model**, disasters occur when holes in each safety layer align — a result of **multiple overlooked failures**.

9. (d)

Context

- The Delhi High Court has signalled that it may **initiate a suo motu public interest litigation (PIL) petition** to address the **recent surge in ragging incidents and student deaths** across higher educational institutions.
 - The development comes after the Supreme Court, this year, expressed **concern about the existing UGC regulations**.

Government Steps to Curb Ragging

- In a landmark verdict, the **Vishwa Jagriti Mission v. Central Government & Others, 2001**, the Supreme Court made ragging a punishable offense and mandated strict institutional measures.
- **Raghavan Committee in 2007** was constituted by the Supreme Court of India to address the menace of ragging in educational institutions.
 - The committee recommended treating ragging as a punishable criminal offense under the **Indian Penal Code (IPC)**.

10. (b)

Context

- A recent study has revealed that **Botrytis cinerea** cannot be cloned, as no single nucleus within its cells contains a complete set of chromosomes.
 - Instead, its genetic material is distributed across **multiple nuclei**—a finding that challenges traditional principles of cell biology.

About

- Botrytis cinerea, commonly known as noble rot, is a **necrotrophic fungus** that infects over **200 plant species**.
- It is most famously **used in wine-making**, where it infects grapes, dries them, and concentrates their sugars—producing high-quality sweet wines such as **Sauternes (France) and Tokaji Aszú (Hungary)**.
- While beneficial under controlled conditions, it is a major plant pathogen in agriculture, causing **grey mould disease** in crops like **strawberries, tomatoes, and lettuce**.

Concerns of Botrytis Cinerea

- The fungus thrives in **humid, cool environments** and spreads rapidly, especially in greenhouses.
- It produces spores (conidia) that are easily carried by wind, water, or insects.
- It has **developed resistance to multiple fungicides**, making disease control difficult and increasing crop losses.

11. (a)

In Context

- The Gavri is a 40-day annual ritual and folk festival performed by the Bhil community of the Mewar region in Rajasthan.

About the Gavri Festival

- The festival is typically performed during the Hindu months of Shravana and Bhadrapad (July to September), coinciding with the monsoon and harvest season.
- The ritual is performed mainly by male members of the **Bhil tribe**, who enact various roles including gods, goddesses, demons, and other mythological characters.
- The play enacts mythological tales related to the goddess Gauri, battles between good and evil.

12. (b)

In News

- India has set up its **first Equine Disease-Free Compartment (EDFC)** at the Remount Veterinary Corps (RVC) Centre & College in Meerut Cantonment, Uttar Pradesh.
 - The facility was officially recognised by the **World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)**.

About Equine Disease

- These are a wide **range of illnesses** that affect horses, ponies, donkeys, and their hybrids. These diseases can be caused by viruses, bacteria, parasites, or other factors, and may be either **contagious or non-contagious**.
- **Notable examples** include Equine Infectious Anemia, Influenza, Piroplasmosis, Glanders, and Surra.
- Additionally, India has remained free of **African Horse Sickness since 2014**.

13. (b)

Context

- Recently, the **India-Bhutan Development Cooperation Talks** were held to **review the full spectrum of India-Bhutan development partnership**.

Brief on India-Bhutan Relations

- **Diplomatic relations between India and Bhutan** were established in **1968**.
 - The basic framework of India- Bhutan relations has been the **Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation signed in 1949**.
 - The treaty was revised in **2007** giving **Bhutan more autonomy** while reaffirming mutual respect for sovereignty and close cooperation.
 - In 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred the **Order of the Druk Gyalpo**, Bhutan's highest civilian decoration, the first foreign leader to be given the award.
- **Energy Cooperation (Hydropower & Renewables)**: India has constructed 4 major Hydroelectric Power Projects (HEPs) in Bhutan: **Chukha** (336 MW), **Kurichhu** (60 MW), **Tala** (1020 MW), **Mangdechhu** (720 MW).
 - Currently, there are two HEPs under construction: 1020 MW Punatsangchhu-I HEP and 1020 MW Punatsangchhu-II HEP.

14. (b)

In News

- A recent 8-week study in Brazil found that Kombucha improves gut bacteria—especially in people with obesity—by increasing beneficial microbes and reducing harmful ones, though it didn't improve blood sugar or inflammation markers.

Kombucha

- It is a **fermented tea** and it is one of the few drinks that offers complexity and texture without being high in sugar or caffeine.
- It originated in **northeast China around 220BCE** and was valued for its invigorating and detoxifying effects.
- Kombucha is gaining popularity in India, with the market growing from \$45 million in 2020 to \$102 million in 2024.
- Kombucha is promoted for digestive, immune, and metabolic benefits, but human evidence is limited.

15. (d)**Context**

- The recent custodial death in Sivaganga district in Tamil Nadu, has once again drawn national attention to the issue of custodial practices and the treatment of individuals in police custody.

About

- The Supreme Court of India, in the **landmark judgment Prakash Singh vs. Union of India (2006)**, issued seven directives aimed at reforming the police system and insulating it from political interference.
- These reforms were to be implemented by both the Central and State Governments. The directives included:
 - State Security Commission (SSC)
 - Fixed Tenure for DGPs and Key Officers
 - Police Establishment Board (PEB)
 - Separation of Law & Order from Investigation
 - Police Complaints Authority (PCA)
 - National Security Commission
 - Transparent Appointment of DGPs

16. (b)

Statement 1 is not correct: The initiative targets a 50% real price increase on tobacco, alcohol, and sugary drinks by 2035—not 35%.

Statement 2 is correct: It aims to reduce the global burden of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and mobilize additional public revenue for health and development.

Statement 3 is correct: WHO projects this could enable countries to raise up to US \$1 trillion in additional revenue over the next decade.

17. (c)**Context**

- India's first transgender clinic has been reopened in **Hyderabad with aid from Tata Trusts**.

About

- Launched in 2021, Mitr Clinic is also the **first in India** to be **entirely staffed and managed by members of the trans community**.
- **Services offered:**
 - General health services;
 - Counselling and clinical consultation on Hormone Replacement Therapy, Breast Augmentation, Gender Affirmation Procedures and Mental Health;

- Treatment for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)/Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI);
- Psychological support.
- As India's first transgender-led clinic it **ensures healthcare that is dignified, accessible, and community-driven.**

18. (a)

Context

- The President of India unveiled and flagged off the trophies of the **Durand Cup Tournament 2025** at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre.
 - The trophies unveiled include the Durand Cup, the President's Cup and Shimla Trophy.

About the Durand Cup Tournament

- Organized by the Indian Armed Forces, it is **Asia's oldest** and the world's third oldest football tournament.
- Inaugurated in Shimla in **1888** as an Army Cup and only open to British Indian Army troops in India, later opened up to civilian teams.
- It is named after its founder, **Sir Mortimer Durand, Foreign Secretary of British India.**

19. (b)

Context: "Voice for the Voiceless" is a book by Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama, recounting his life-long struggle for Tibet and its people.

14th Dalai Lama

- His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, describes himself as a simple Buddhist monk. He is the spiritual leader of Tibet.
- He was born on 6 July 1935, to a farming family, in a small hamlet located in Taktser, Amdo, northeastern Tibet.
- At the age of two, the child, then named Lhamo Dhondup, was recognized as the reincarnation of the previous 13th Dalai Lama, Thubten Gyatso.

20. (b)

Statement 1 is not correct: The **Gender Gap Report 2025** was released by the **World Economic Forum (WEF)**, **not by the** United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

- Iceland remains the global leader, having closed over 92% of its gender gap.

Statement 2 is correct: India slipped to **131st out of 148 countries** (129th in 2024), with a **Parity Score** of 64.4% — meaning India has closed just over 64% of its gender gap.

- India ranks below **Bangladesh** (24), **Nepal** (125), and Sri Lanka (130), but above Maldives (138), and Pakistan (148).

21. (a)

Context

- The President of India conferred the Swachh Survekshan 2024-25 Awards at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, marking the 9th edition of the world's largest urban cleanliness survey.

About the Awards

- The **Swachh Survekshan Awards** were instituted in **2016** under the **Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban**, by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**, starting with **73 cities**.
- The 2024-25 edition surveyed 4,589 cities between April 2024 and March 2025.

- This year, the prestigious awards were presented across **four categories** –
 - (a) **Super Swachh League Cities** (Cities ranked in the **top 3** of their category for the past three years)
 - (b) **Top 3 clean cities in 5 population categories**
 - (c) **Special Category:** Ganga Towns, Cantonment Boards, SafaiMitra Suraksha, Mahakumbh
 - (d) **State Level Awards** – Promising clean city of State/UT.
- This year's theme is **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle** - reinforcing the vision for sustainability and circular economy.

22. (a)

Statement 1 is correct: The Chin are indeed an ethnic minority primarily from Myanmar's Chin State, and they are culturally and linguistically aligned with the Mizo people of India.

Statement 2 is not correct: While Buddhism is present among some Chin, the significant majority (around 80% globally and over 90% in Chin State) of the Chin people adhere to Christianity, not Buddhism.

23. (c)

Statement 1 is not correct: A child must be declared legally free for adoption by a Child Welfare Committee (CWC), not the District Magistrate.

Statement 2 is correct: Single individuals, including unmarried, divorced, or widowed persons, are eligible to adopt.

Statement 3 is not correct: Live-in couples and same-sex couples are not eligible under current CARA guidelines.

24. (b)

In News

- The Kerala government has decided to allow local bodies to carry out euthanasia of diseased stray dogs by making use of the provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Animal Husbandry Practices and Procedures) Rules 2023.

Supreme Courts Observations

- In **2011**, the Supreme Court of India allowed passive euthanasia for the first time in the **case of Aruna Shanbaug**, distinguishing it from active euthanasia and permitting it in certain situations.

IN THE SUPREME COURT	
<p>2011: <i>Aruna Shanbaug v. Union of India</i> recognised that life-sustaining treatment could legally be withheld/ withdrawn even from persons without decision-making capacity.</p>	<p>of India, and legalised the use of advance medical directives or 'living wills'.</p>
<p>2018: <i>Common Cause v. Union of India</i> recognised the right to die with dignity as a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution</p>	<p>2023: <i>Common Cause v. Union of India</i> simplified the process for making living wills and withholding/ withdrawing life-sustaining treatment by removing bureaucratic hurdles.</p>



- In **2018**, the court further recognized the legality of passive euthanasia for terminally ill patients, **affirming the 'right to die with dignity' under Article 21 of the Constitution**.
 - It provided guidelines for withdrawing life support based on advance directives or in their absence.

- The Supreme Court and draft guidelines clarify that withholding or withdrawing life-sustaining treatment, including do-not-resuscitate orders, is legal in India when it no longer benefits the patient or only prolongs suffering.

25. (b)

Context

- India has secured the rights to host the **FIDE World Cup in 2025** after a 23-year gap, with the event scheduled from October 30 to November 27.

About

- The tournament will feature **206 players** competing in a **knockout format** — a dynamic and unpredictable system where the losing player in each round is eliminated.
- The top three finishers will qualify for the **2026 FIDE Candidates Tournament**, which decides the challenger for the **World Chess Championship**.
- This will be the **second time** India hosts the FIDE World Cup, the last being in **Hyderabad** in 2002.

Origin of Chess

- The history of chess in India can be traced back to **1600 years** ago during the **Gupta dynasty**. It was called '**chaturanga**' in earlier times.
- Chess, via India, reached many countries of the world and became very popular. Today, chess is being used in schools as an education tool for children.

26. (c)

Context

- The **Kashi Declaration**, outlining a **five-year roadmap** for a drug-free India was signed during the **Youth Spiritual Summit** in Varanasi.

Kashi Declaration

- The Kashi Declaration **affirms a national consensus** to treat substance abuse as a **multi-faceted public health and societal challenge**, and calls for a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.
- It emphasises the **integration of spiritual, cultural, educational, and technological efforts** to prevent addiction, support recovery, and foster a national culture of sobriety.
- It proposes institutional mechanisms for **multi-ministerial coordination**, including the formation of a **Joint National Committee**, **annual progress reporting**, and a **national platform** for linking affected individuals to support services.

