

1. Solution: c)

The Ramesh Chand Committee was established to revise the WPI and explore the feasibility of transitioning to the PPI, a system more aligned with international standards. The Indian government has formed an 18-member expert panel, led by NITI Aayog member Ramesh Chand, to revise the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and explore a transition to a Producers' Price Index (PPI).

About Wholesale Price Index (WPI):

- What it is: WPI measures changes in the prices of goods sold and traded in bulk at the wholesale level. It is a key indicator of inflationary trends in the economy.
- Released by: The Office of Economic Advisor, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Aim:

- Track supply and demand dynamics in industries.
- Provide a measure of wholesale inflation in the economy.
- Align with other economic indicators like GDP.

2. Solution: c)

Statement-I is correct: Differential pricing allows businesses to target specific segments based on their willingness to pay, maximizing profitability.

Statement-II is incorrect: Differential pricing is not unethical or prohibited in India; it is regulated to ensure

fairness. For example, dynamic pricing by ride-hailing services like Ola and Uber is allowed but monitored by authorities to prevent abuse.

What Is Differential Pricing?

Differential Pricing is a strategy where businesses set varying prices for the same product or service based on factors like location, demand, customer demographics, or purchasing behavior. This dynamic approach allows businesses to optimize revenues while catering to different market segments.

3. Solution: a)

The Fishing Cat is an indicator species, meaning its presence reflects the health of wetland ecosystems. Its conservation is crucial for maintaining ecological balance in these habitats.

4. Solution: b)

- Statement 1 is Correct. Vembanad Lake is the largest backwater ecosystem in India.

- Statement 2 is Correct. The Nehru Trophy Boat Race is a famous annual event on the lake.
- Statement 3 is Incorrect. The lake is separated from the Arabian Sea by a barrier island, not the Western Ghats.

5. Correct Answer : B
Explanation

El Nino and La Nina are complex weather patterns resulting from variations in ocean temperatures in the Equatorial Pacific.

They are opposite phases of what is known as the El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) cycle.

El Niño is a climate phenomenon marked by the warming of surface waters in the eastern tropical Pacific, forming the "warm phase" of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO). El Niño occurs more frequently than La Niña, the "cool phase," which involves cooling in the same region. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

El Niño and La Niña cannot occur simultaneously because they represent opposite phases of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) system. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

6. Correct Answer : A
Explanation

The Indian Navy marked a significant milestone on 15th January 2025, with the commissioning of Nilgiri, Surat, and Vaghsheer, all constructed at the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai.

Each vessel represents a critical advancement in India's naval capabilities and showcases indigenous engineering excellence.

Nilgiri, the lead ship of Project 17A, is a cutting-edge frigate that incorporates advanced stealth technology and sophisticated weapon systems, making it a formidable asset in naval defense. Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.

This class of ships builds on the legacy of the Shivalik-class frigates with substantial technological upgrades.

Surat, part of Project 15B, is the fourth and final destroyer in this series. It serves as an enhanced version of the Kolkata-class destroyers, equipped with long-range missiles and indigenous weapons systems. Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.

The Project 15B initiative focuses on designing and constructing four state-of-the-art guided-missile destroyers to bolster maritime security.

Vaghsheer, the sixth submarine of the Scorpene-class under Project 75, is one of the quietest diesel-electric submarines globally. Its versatility allows it to engage in anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare, as well as surveillance and special operations. Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.

Project 75 envisions the construction of 18 conventional and six nuclear-powered submarines to strengthen India's underwater combat capabilities.

7. Correct Answer : B

Explanation

World Hindi Day 2025:

- Hindi is recognized as the **official language of India** under Article 343 of the Constitution, alongside English for official purposes. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**
- World Hindi Day is **celebrated annually on 10th January** to expand Hindi's presence on the international stage. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- World Hindi Day commemorates the **historic moment in 1949** when Hindi was first spoken at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**
 - The theme for World Hindi Day 2025 is **"A Global Voice of Unity and Cultural Pride,"** focusing on promoting linguistic exchange and fostering cultural pride through Hindi.
- In 1975, the first World Hindi Conference was inaugurated by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, marking an important step toward global recognition of Hindi.
- World Hindi Day, designated on 10th January 2006, is different from **Hindi Diwas celebrated on 14th September**, as Hindi Diwas marks the adoption of Hindi as one of India's official languages in 1949.

8. Correct Answer : D

Explanation

- The **First Backward Class Commission**, chaired by **Shri Kaka Kalelkar**, was established by a Presidential Order under **Article 340 of the Indian Constitution** on January 29, 1953.
 - The commission, commonly referred to as the **Kaka Kalelkar Commission**, submitted its report on March 30, 1955.

- The **Idate Commission, set up in 2014** under the leadership of Bhiku Ramji Idate, was tasked with compiling a comprehensive list of **Denotified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (DNTs).**

- Its mandate was to identify individuals who were excluded from the categories of Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and Other Backward Classes (OBC), and to recommend welfare measures for their upliftment.
- Hence, **option D is correct.**

9. Correct Answer : B

Explanation

About Toda Tribe:

- The Todas are classified as a **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)** and reside in the **Western Ghats of Tamil Nadu.** Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Toda language is **Dravidian** but is the **most unusual and different** among the languages belonging to the Dravidian family.
 - **Significance:**
 - Toda lands are part of the **Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve**, designated as an **International Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO.** It is recognized as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site.** Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
 - **Religion and Beliefs:**
 - Their religious practices revolve around a **pantheon of gods**, with **Tökisy (goddess)** and **Ön (god of the underworld)** as the central deities.

10. Correct Answer : A

Explanation

- The **World Economic Forum (WEF)** released its **'Future of Jobs Report 2025,'** highlighting key findings and changes expected to **shape the global job market by 2030.**
 - The report, based on inputs from **55 economies**, projected a net increase of **78 million jobs by 2030** and highlighted how technology, economic shifts, and the green transition impact jobs and skills.
- WEF is an international organisation for **public-private cooperation**, headquartered in **Geneva, Switzerland.**
 - It engages global leaders to shape agendas across **industries, regions, and globally.**
- Hence, **option A is correct.**

11. Correct Answer : C

Explanation

Afghanistan:

- Afghanistan is a **landlocked country** situated at the hub of **South Asia and Central Asia**.
- It has a population of approximately **28.6 million people (2016)**.
- To the south and east, Afghanistan shares a border with **Pakistan**; to the west, it shares a border with **Iran**, and its northern border touches the Central Asian countries of **Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan**. In the far northeast, it shares a border with **China**.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**



12. Correct Answer : C

Explanation

Polar Vortex:

- The polar vortex is a large area of **low pressure and cold air** that rotates around the Earth's polar regions. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The term "**vortex**" describes the **counter-clockwise flow of air** that confines colder air near the poles.
- Polar Vortex exists year-round, but it weakens in summer and strengthens in winter. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Types:**
- **Tropospheric Polar Vortex:** Located at the lowest layer of the atmosphere, from the **surface up to 10-15 km**, where most weather phenomena occur.
- **Stratospheric Polar Vortex:** Occurs higher up, between **15 km to 50 km**, and is **strongest during autumn**, disappearing in the summer.

- Its changes are influenced by **air movement and heat transfer in the polar region**. During autumn, circumpolar winds accelerate, strengthening the vortex and forming a unified, rotating mass of polar air in the **stratosphere**.
- **Mechanism of Extreme Cold:** When the **polar vortex is strong**, it keeps the jet **stream stable**, preventing cold air from moving south.
 - However, when the **vortex weakens**, a disrupted jet stream (a narrow band of strong winds), which usually moves in a straight line, becomes wavy, allowing Arctic air to flow farther south.
- This disruption leads to **extremely low temperatures, severe storms, and extreme weather**, including snowfall and freezing rain.
- **Global Warming and Polar Vortex:** Researchers state that the Arctic is warming faster than the rest of the planet, a phenomenon known as **Arctic amplification**.
 - This reduces the **temperature gradient** (rate of change of temperature) **between the poles and the mid-latitudes**, weakening the **polar vortex**.

13. Correct Answer : C

Explanation

National Song of India:

- The National Song of India is "VandeMataram", written by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The song was first written in 1870 and later included in his novel "Ananda" in 1882. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It was first sung at the 1896 Indian National Congress (INC) session. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

14. Correct Answer : C

Explanation

- Arunachal Pradesh is home to rich biodiversity with prominent protected areas including **Namdapha National Park and Tiger Reserve, Mouling National Park, Kamlang Tiger Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary, and Pakke (Pakhui) Tiger Reserve**. The state also houses notable wildlife sanctuaries like **Eagle Nest, Dibang, and Sessa Orchid Wildlife Sanctuaries**, which preserve unique flora and

fauna, contributing to the region's ecological significance. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The Nyishi are the largest ethnic group in Arunachal Pradesh in north-eastern India. In Nishi, their traditional language, Nyi refers to “a man” and the word shi denotes “a being”, which combined together refers to a civilized human being. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Other tribes of Arunachal Pradesh include: **Abor, Aka, Apatani, Dafla, Galong, Khampti, Howa, Mishmi, Monpa, Momba, Any Naga tribes, Sherdukpen, Singpho”.**

15. Correct Answer : B

Explanation

- Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is not a statutory or regulatory body. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The ICMR is a government-funded organization that conducts, coordinates, and promotes biomedical research in India. It also translates medical innovations into products and processes for the public health system.
- It is the apex body in India for the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The ICMR's headquarters are in New Delhi.

16. Correct Answer : C

Explanation

- **Constitutional Provisions Related to Power Sector:**
 - **Entry 14 of the Union List:** It deals with entering into treaties and agreements with foreign countries and implementing treaties, agreements and conventions with foreign countries.
 - **Entry 38 of the Concurrent List:** Electricity is a **concurrent subject** at Entry 38 in List III of the seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - The **Ministry of Power** is primarily responsible for the development of **electrical energy** in the country.
 - **Status of India's Power Sector:**
 - India, the **world's third-largest electricity producer and consumer** (442.85 GW as of April 2024), saw power consumption grow by 9.5% in FY23. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - **Committee Related to Reform in Power Sector:**

- **Kirit Parikh Committee (2022):** Recommended pricing reforms for **petroleum and natural gas** linked to power generation. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Ashok Chawla Committee (2011):** Studied resource allocation, including coal and natural gas for power generation.
- **Deepak Parekh Committee (2008):** Recommended measures for financing power sector projects.

17. Correct Answer : C

Explanation

- The H-1B is a non-immigrant visa enabling US companies to hire foreign workers for specialized roles in fields such as science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM), and IT, requiring high skills and at least a bachelor's degree. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Introduced in 1990, it aims to address skill shortages in the U.S. when qualified domestic workers are unavailable.
- Non-immigrant visas allow temporary entry to the U.S. for purposes like tourism, business, work, study, or medical treatment.
- An H-1B visa can be issued for a maximum of six years.
- Indians are the largest beneficiaries of H-1B visas, receiving over 70% of approved petitions annually since 2015, while Chinese nationals rank second, accounting for 12-13% of petitions since 2018. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

18. Correct Answer : B

Explanation

Atomic Energy Commission (AEC):

- The government has recently reconstituted the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC).
- About Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) was first established in August 1948 to **oversee atomic energy research** under the Department of Scientific Research. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In 1958, the AEC was restructured within the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), and set up in 1954, under the direct charge of the Prime Minister.
- The Secretary of the DAE serves as the ex-officio Chairman of the Commission. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- The other members are appointed annually upon Prime Ministerial approval. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- The AEC **formulates policies to promote peaceful uses** of nuclear energy, empowering India through advancements in nuclear technology, healthcare, food security, and energy independence.

19. Correct Answer : D

Explanation

- **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** was constituted under enabling provisions of the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- As per the **section 38L, subsection (2)** of the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, the **NTCA** consists of the **Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** as **Chairperson**, the **Minister of State** in the Ministry of Environment and Forests as **Vice-Chairperson**, three members of Parliament, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests and other members. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

20. Correct Answer : C

Explanation

Biotech-PRIDE (Promotion of Research and Innovation through Data Exchange) Guidelines:

- The "Biotech-PRIDE (Promotion of Research and Innovation through Data Exchange) Guidelines," released in 2021 by the **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)** enable the exchange of **biological data across research groups in India**.
 - They provide a **framework for sharing knowledge**, ensuring better integration, decision-making, and equitable access. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - They **promote timely sharing**, avoid duplication, and maximize the benefits of public investment in research.
 - The guidelines are implemented through the **Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC)** at the **Regional Centre for Biotechnology (RCB), Haryana**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - Under the **Biotech-PRIDE Guidelines**, existing datasets will be connected to the IBDC, forming the **Bio-Grid**.
 - This Bio-Grid will serve as a **National Repository for biological data**, enabling its exchange while ensuring

safety, standards, and quality, and establishing clear data access protocols.

- The **RCB**, established by the **DBT**, focuses on **biotechnology education, research, and training**.
- It was recognized as an **Institution of National Importance in 2016**, **RCB** fosters innovation and develops skilled human resources to address challenges in health, agriculture, and the environment.

21. Correct Answer : C

Explanation

Senior Advocates:

- Senior Advocates are **key legal figures in the Supreme Court**, handling high-stakes cases like death penalties, company liquidations, child custody, and bail applications. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
 - They argue legal propositions but cannot take direct instructions from clients and are briefed by an Advocate-on-Record (AoR).
 - The designation is awarded by the **Supreme Court or High Courts** based on legal acumen, standing at the Bar, and special knowledge after at least 10 years of experience. **Hence, statement II is not correct.**
 - **Article 165** of the Constitution of India establishes the role and authority of the **Advocate General of a state**.
 - **Hence, option C is correct because Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.**

22. Correct Answer : B

Explanation

Junagarh (Girnar) Inscription: This inscription, written in Sanskrit, dates back to the 2nd century CE and highlights the achievements of Rudradaman I, a ruler of the Western Satraps.

It also mentions the construction and repair of the Sudarshana Lake dam, initially built under Chandragupta Maurya's governor, Pushyagupta. Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.

Bhitari Pillar Inscription: This inscription provides a detailed account of Skandagupta's military achievements, particularly his victory over the Hunas, and his efforts to stabilize the Gupta Empire through administrative reforms. Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.

Mandsaur Inscription: The Mandsaur inscription, however, is related to Yashodharman, not Vijay Sena.

It celebrates Yashodharman's victory over the Huns and his contributions to regional stability.

Vijay Sena is associated with the DeoparaPrashasti, which highlights his achievements in Bengal.

Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.

Hence, option B is correct.

23. Correct Answer : B

Explanation

- **Advanced Nuclear Energy for Enriched Life (ANEEL)** is a patented nuclear fuel innovatively designed as a **blend of thorium and High Assay Low Enriched Uranium (HALEU)**, named in honor of Dr. Anil Kakodkar, a prominent Indian nuclear scientist. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- HALEU, which is uranium enriched between 5% and 20%, is essential for advanced nuclear reactor designs.
 - However, its **large-scale production is currently limited to Russia and China**, with smaller facilities in the US. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- ANEEL fuel is compatible with India's Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs), which form the backbone of the nation's nuclear power capacity.
- It also **significantly enhances efficiency, achieving a burn-up rate of 60,000 MW-days per tonne compared to the 7,000 MW-days per tonne of conventional natural uranium.** **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Moreover, thorium and spent ANEEL fuel are non-weaponizable, addressing proliferation concerns and ensuring greater trust among international uranium suppliers and reactor operators.

24. Correct Answer : C

Explanation

- Tigers are found in only 13 tiger-range countries, including India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Russia, China, Thailand, Malaysia, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. However, according to the latest IUCN report, **tigers are now extinct in Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam.** **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Madhya Pradesh has the highest tiger population in India.** Out of approximately 3,800 wild tigers in the country, 785 are found in Madhya Pradesh alone. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- Globally, the tiger is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List, included in Appendix I of CITES, and protected under Schedule I of India's Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

- Conservation efforts include the International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA) launched by India for seven big cats, the **Tx2 campaign by World Wildlife Fund to double the global tiger population by 2022**, Project Tiger initiated in 1973, and a tiger census conducted every four years. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

- Major threats to tigers include habitat loss, poaching, illegal trade, and human-wildlife conflict. India, home to the largest tiger population globally, recorded 3,167 tigers as of 2022, with the highest concentration in the Central Indian Highlands and Eastern Ghats landscape.

25. Correct Answer : C

Explanation

- Poverty line estimation in India is based on the consumption expenditure and not on the income levels. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- India's poverty line estimation is based on consumption expenditure rather than income levels due to several reasons such as- Income, especially for self-employed individuals and daily wage laborers, is highly variable both temporally and spatially, whereas consumption patterns are more stable.
 - Additionally, accounting for side incomes, particularly among regular wage earners, is challenging.
 - Consumption-based surveys, using a reference period (e.g., 30 days), provide a more reliable and representative measure of household expenditure, making them more practical for poverty assessment.
- The Alkire Foster (AF) Methodology, developed by economists Sabina Alkire and James Foster, is a comprehensive approach for measuring multidimensional poverty. It captures the multiple deprivations that individuals or households experience in different aspects of their lives. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

26. Correct Answer : B

Explanation

- The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is the highest authority for disaster management in the country, chaired by

the Prime Minister of India. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is a specialized force of the Indian government that responds to natural and man-made disasters. It was established in 2006 under the Disaster Management Act of 2005. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

27. Correct Answer : B

Explanation

- **MERCOSUR** (Southern Common Market) is a regional trade bloc in South America, established in 1991.
- It includes **Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Venezuela** as full members, aiming to promote free trade, economic integration, and political cooperation among member states, with Bolivia's membership pending.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

28. Correct Answer : B

Explanation

- **Private Members' Bills** are introduced by MPs who are not part of the government (i.e., not serving as Ministers). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- These bills allow them to propose new laws or amendments on issues that are important to their constituencies.
- A **Constitution amendment bill** can be introduced exclusively in either house of Parliament and not in the State Legislatures. It may be introduced **by either a minister or a private member**, without the need for prior approval from the President. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Its drafting is the **responsibility of the member concerned**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

29. Correct Answer : B

Explanation

Mount Kanlaon:

- Mount Kanlaon, a 2,435-meter **active volcano in the Philippines**, recently erupted, releasing ash and gases.
- Mount Kanlaon is a **stratovolcano** in the north-central part of the island of Negros.
- A **volcano (an endogenic process)** is a **weak spot** in the earth's crust where gases,

lava, ash, and steam are expelled during an eruption.

- The **Philippines is located in the Pacific Ring of Fire**, a region known for its high seismic activity, making it one of the most disaster-prone areas globally.
- The **Ring of Fire, or Circum-Pacific Belt**, is a seismic zone around the **Pacific Ocean** known for **active volcanoes and frequent earthquakes**, caused by interactions between the **Pacific Plate** and surrounding less-dense plates.
- The **Ring of Fire** spans about **40,000 kilometers**, marking the boundaries of tectonic plates such as **Pacific, Juan de Fuca, Cocos, Indian-Australian, Nazca, North American, and Philippine Plates**.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

30. Correct Answer : C

Explanation

- The **Quad, or Quadrilateral Security Dialogue**, is a strategic forum comprising the US, Japan, India, and Australia, focused on regional security and economic cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.
- It **operates without a formal alliance structure**, secretariat, or decision-making body, but is sustained through regular meetings, including ministerial and leader-level summits, as well as information exchanges and joint military exercises.
- Key initiatives of the Quad include the Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA), which enhances real-time monitoring of illegal fishing and maritime activities in collaboration with regional bodies.
- Other significant projects include the **Quad Cancer Moonshot**, aimed at preventing and treating cervical cancer; the **Quad Ports of the Future Partnership**, which develops sustainable port infrastructure across the Indo-Pacific; and **Open Radio Access Networks (Open RAN)** to facilitate secure 5G ecosystems.
- The Quad also drives innovations like **Advancing Innovations for Empowering NextGen Agriculture (AI-ENGAGE)**, and the **BioExplore Initiative**, a \$2 million project to leverage AI in biological research.
- The **Semiconductor Supply Chain Contingency Network** seeks to improve collaboration to address risks in semiconductor supply chains.

- Hence, **Cancer Moonshot, Open Radio Access Networks, and BioExplore Initiative** are all key components of the **Quad's collaborative efforts**

Hence, **option C is correct.**

31. Correct Answer : A

Explanation

- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** highlighted India's remarkable progress in its **World Malaria Report 2024**.
 - India significantly reduced malaria cases and related deaths between 2017 and 2023, marking a major milestone.
 - India aims to achieve **malaria-free status by 2030**, with zero indigenous cases by 2027.
 - Hence, **option A is correct.**

32. Correct Answer : A

Explanation

- The **Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI)** measures the **combined and individual performance** of production of eight core industries viz. **Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement and Electricity**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - The eight core industries comprise **40.27%** of the weight of items included in the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
 - IIP is an index that measures **short-term changes** in the **volume of production** across key economic sectors like **mining, electricity, and manufacturing** in India.
 - It is published **monthly** by the **Central Statistical Organisation (CSO)**. Data is released **six weeks** after the reference month.
 - Reflects production changes compared to a **base year (2011-2012)**.

33. Correct Answer : A

Explanation

- Vembanad is the largest lake in Kerala and the longest lake in India.**
- Vembanad-Kol is the largest brackish, humid tropical wetland ecosystem on the southwest coast of India. It is fed by 10 rivers and is typical of large estuarine systems on the western coast.
- In 2002, Vembanad was **designated as a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance.**

- It is also included in the National Wetlands Conservation Programme by the Government of India.

- Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary**, also known as the Vembanad Bird Sanctuary, is located on the lake's east coast.

Hence, **option A is correct.**

34. Correct Answer : B

Explanation

- The Sahel is a semiarid region of western and north-central Africa, stretching from **Senegal in the west to Sudan in the east**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - It acts as a transition between the Sahara Desert to the north and the humid savannas to the south.
 - It features **savanna terrain, with low-growing grass**, thorny shrubs, and sparse vegetation. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
 - The United Nations (UN) limits the Sahel to ten (10) countries they are Burkina Faso, Cameroon, The Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Chad.
 - The **Niger River**, the longest and largest in western Africa, is a major water source for the region. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

35. Correct Answer : A

Explanation

World Trade Organization (WTO):

- Recently, **1st January 2025** marked the **30th anniversary** of the **World Trade Organization (WTO)**.
 - WTO is an international institution formed to regulate **the rules for global trade** among nations.
 - It was formed under the **Marrakesh Agreement** signed on **15th April 1994** by 123 countries after the **Uruguay Round negotiations (1986-94)** of the **General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)**, leading to the **birth of WTO in 1995**.
 - WTO succeeded the GATT** which had regulated world trade since 1948.
 - GATT** focused on trade in goods, while **WTO** covers trade in goods, services, and intellectual property, including creations, designs, and inventions.
 - Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.**
 - Members: 166 countries**, representing **98% of global trade**.

- **Key Bodies:**
- **Ministerial Conference (MC):** Highest decision-making authority.
- **Dispute Settlement Body (DSB):** DSB resolves trade disputes.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

36. Correct Answer : D

Explanation

BRICS:

- Recently, **Indonesia** has officially joined the **BRICS** group as the **10th member**, effective from **January 2025**.
- **BRICS** is an **intergovernmental informal grouping of 10 emerging economies** of the world.
- **BRICS** stands for the original founding members, **Brazil, Russia, India, and China**, with **South Africa joining in 2010**.
- In 2024, **Iran, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Egypt, Ethiopia, and Saudi Arabia** also became its members.
- **Argentina** was initially expected to join the group in 2024 but **later decided against it**.
- The **first BRIC Summit** was held in **Russia in 2009**.
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

37. Correct Answer : C

Explanation

- **Oil palm**, which originated in the **tropical rainforests of West Africa**, is a relatively new crop in India but boasts the highest vegetable oil yield per hectare. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **oil yield from oil palm is five times greater than that of traditional oilseeds**. Oil palm produces two types of oil: **Palm Oil**, which is derived from the mesocarp of the fruit and contains 45-55% oil, and **Palm Kernel Oil**, obtained from the kernel and a source of lauric oils. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- In India, major oil palm cultivation takes place in **Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Kerala**, which together account for 98% of the total production.
- Other states such as **Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Gujarat, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, and Nagaland** also contribute to its cultivation.

- **India is the world's largest importer of palm oil**, with imports reaching 9.2 million tonnes in 2023-24, accounting for 60% of the country's total edible oil imports. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

- The palm oil is primarily sourced from **Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand**.

38. Correct Answer : D

Explanation

- **Bureau of Indian Standards is the statutory national standard body of India** established under the **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Act, 2016** for the harmonious development of the **activities of standardization, marking and quality certification of goods**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It was initially set up as the **Indian Standards Institution (ISI)** that came into being on 6th January 1947.
- It functions under the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- It operates various schemes like **Product Certification (ISI mark), Hallmarking of Gold and Silver Jeweller, ECO Mark Scheme** (for labeling of environment friendly products).

39. Correct Answer : A

Explanation

Pangong Lake:

- It is an **endorheic lake** in the **Himalayas** situated at a height of about **4,350 m (14,270 ft)**.
- An **endorheic lake** is a body of water that **does not flow into an ocean or sea** and is usually located in the **interior of a landmass**.
- It is one of the **world's highest brackish water lakes**.
- It formed as a **tectonic lake** during the collision of the **Indian plate** with the **Eurasian plate**.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

40. Correct Answer : D

Explanation

- **Ornithischia, Sauropodomorpha, and Theropoda** are the **three major groups of dinosaurs** classified based on their physical and dietary traits.

- **Ornithischia** includes **beaked plant-eaters** like **Stegosaurus** and **Triceratops**, **Sauropodomorpha** comprises **long-necked herbivores** like **Diplodocus**, and **Theropoda** features **carnivorous species** like **T. rex** and **Velociraptor**, the latter being ancestors of modern birds.
- **Dinosaurs, prehistoric reptiles that thrived during the Mesozoic Era (245 to 66 million years ago)**, exhibited immense diversity, with sizes ranging from the massive **Argentinosaurus** (up to 110 tons) to smaller creatures like the **bee hummingbird**.

Hence, option D is correct

41. Correct Answer : A

Explanation

Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) 2024 Report:

- Recently, the **Ministry of Commerce & Industry** released the 6th Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) 2024 report.
- It is an **annual assessment** that promotes **inter-state competitiveness** and helps policymakers improve logistics performance.
 - LEADS was conceived on the lines of the **Logistics Performance Index (LPI)** of the **World Bank** in 2018.
 - It aims to evaluate logistics performance across **States and Union Territories (UTs)** to identify **reforms, attract investments**, and improve **logistics efficiency**.
 - The report assesses logistics performance based on **four key pillars**:
 - **Logistics Infrastructure**
 - **Logistics Services**
 - **Operating and Regulatory Environment**
 - **Sustainable Logistics** (introduced in 2024).
- Hence, option A is correct.

42. Correct Answer : C

Explanation

- **Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)** refer to the system of 'Rural Local Self-Governance' in India i.e. a system of governance of Rural Areas through the representatives elected by the people. They have been established in all States as the third tier of government, aiming to build democracy at the grassroots level.

- The minimum age to contest elections and become a member of a Panchayat is **21 years**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- If a Panchayat is prematurely dissolved, the reconstituted Panchayat serves only for the **remainder of the term** of the original Panchayat, not the full five-year term, as per the provisions of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

43. Correct Answer : A

Explanation

Hydrogel for Cancer Therapy:

- Recently, researchers have developed an **injectable hydrogel** for **localised cancer treatment**.
- The hydrogel ensures **localized drug delivery** to the **tumour site**, improving treatment precision. Hence, **statement I is correct**.
 - **Conventional chemotherapy** and surgery **harm healthy cells** while treating cancerous cells.
 - The hydrogel acts as a **stable reservoir for anti-cancer drugs**, releasing them in a **controlled manner** to target cancer cells while **sparing healthy ones** and reducing side effects. Hence, **statement II is correct**.
 - The hydrogel, made of **biocompatible and biodegradable ultra-short peptides**, responds to elevated **glutathione (GSH)** levels, a molecule abundant in tumour cells.
 - Hydrogels are **water-based, three-dimensional polymer networks** capable of **absorbing and retaining fluids**.
 - Their unique structure **mimics living tissues**, making them suitable for biomedical applications.
- Hence, **option A is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement I**.

44. Correct Answer : A

Explanation

A **landslide** refers to the downward movement of **rock, soil, and debris** on a slope, which can be triggered by factors such as **heavy rainfall, earthquakes, volcanic activity, human activities, and groundwater changes**.

Types of Landslides:

- **Slides** involve movement along a **rupture surface**, which can include **rotational** or **translational slides**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- **Flows** occur when **soil** or **rock** mixes with **water**, moving like a fluid. This includes **earth flows**, **debris flows**, **mudflows**, and **creep**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- **Spreads** involve the **lateral extension** and **cracking** of a mass, often caused by **liquefaction**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.
- **Topples** are characterized by **forward rotation** and **free-fall** from a vertical or near-vertical slope.
- **Falls** occur when material detaches from a **steep slope** or **cliff**, descending by **free-fall**, **bouncing**, or **rolling**.

45. Correct Answer : C

Explanation

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA):

- It is a Mini Ratna (Category-I) non-banking financial institution under the administrative control of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE). Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- It provides financial support for projects and schemes focused on generating electricity and/or energy from renewable sources and promoting energy conservation through efficiency.
- IREDA generates its revenue through the interest and principal repayments from the projects it finances, as well as by raising funds from the market and through borrowings. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

46. Correct Answer : C

Explanation

- **Phishing** is a cyberattack where attackers use deceptive methods, such as fake emails or text messages, to trick victims into disclosing sensitive information like passwords or credit card details by impersonating legitimate entities like banks or companies. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- DDoS (Distributed Denial of Service) is a cyber attack that overwhelms a website or network with traffic, making it inaccessible to users. DDoS attacks can cause websites to crash, become unresponsive, or experience downtime. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

47. Correct Answer : C

Explanation

- Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999 aim is to **facilitate external trade, payments, and the orderly development of India's foreign exchange market**, regulating procedures and dealings in foreign exchange transactions.
 - This act makes the offence related to foreign exchange civil offence. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- Directorate of Enforcement (ED) enforces the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) of 1999 and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) of 2002. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
 - The ED is a law enforcement agency of the Government of India that investigates and prosecutes financial crimes.

48. Correct Answer : B

Explanation

- Multi-Utility Legged Equipment (MULE) is an autonomous load-bearing robot developed for the Indian Army. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- It features an onboard computer, a battery, advanced front and rear sensors, and legged mobility for enhanced adaptability.
- They are equipped with 360-degree cameras and radars for threat detection and neutralization, the machine has four legs, a 12 kg payload capacity, and operates via Wi-Fi or LTE, enabling a range of up to 10 km.
- They can also endure harsh conditions, climb stairs, navigate steep slopes, and traverse debris-filled areas and can be controlled remotely. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

49. Correct Answer : B

Explanation

- The **Gulf of Mexico** is a large body of water located in the southeastern part of North America.
 - It is bordered by the **United States** to the north, **Mexico** to the west and southwest, and the **island nations of Cuba** to the southeast. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- Major rivers like the Mississippi, Rio Grande, and Florida's Apalachicola flow into the Gulf. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

50. Correct Answer : A
Explanation
Global Cybersecurity Outlook 2025 Report:

- The **World Economic Forum (WEF)** has recently released the Global Cybersecurity Outlook 2025 report.
- The WEF is an **international organization for public-private cooperation**, engaging global leaders from politics, business, culture, and other sectors to shape agendas at global, regional, and industry levels.
- The report highlights **rising cyber threats to critical infrastructure**, driven by geopolitical tensions, outdated systems, and a cybersecurity skills gap, stressing the need for enhanced security and resilience.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

51. Correct Answer : B
Explanation

- **Red Sea:**
- It is the world's **northernmost tropical sea** and is underlain by the **Red Sea Rift**, making it part of the **Great Rift Valley**.
- The name **Red Sea** may originate from the seasonal blooms of a **red-colored cyanobacteria (*Trichodesmiumerythraeum*)**.
- The **Red Sea Rift**, a **divergent boundary** between the **African and Arabian Plates**, is part of the **Great Rift Valley system** stretching from East Africa to the Middle East.
- The Red Sea lies between **Africa and Asia** and is a **semi-enclosed** extension of the Indian Ocean.
- It connects to the **Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea** via the **Bab el Mandeb Strait** and the **Gulf of Aden** in the south.
- In the north, it **bifurcates** into the **Gulf of Aqaba and the Gulf of Suez** at the **Sinai Peninsula**, connecting to the **Mediterranean Sea via the Suez Canal**.
- The Red Sea borders **six countries** i.e., **Yemen and Saudi Arabia** to the east, and **Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea, and Djibouti** to the west.
- The Gulf of Aqaba is bordered by **Egypt, Israel, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia**.
- Prominent islands include **Tiran** near the Gulf of Aqaba, **Shadwan** at the Gulf of Suez, and

Yemen-controlled **Kamaran, Perim, Hanish, and Socotra**.

- The largest group of islands are the **Farasan Islands** in the east and the **Dahlak Archipelago** in the west.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

52. Correct Answer : A
Explanation

- The agricultural land in India is significantly fragmented, with the average size of farms declining from 2.3 hectares in 1970-71 to **1.08 hectares in 2015-16. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- According to the Agriculture Census of India 2015-16, 86.1% of Indian farmers are classified as small and marginal (SMF), meaning they possess landholdings smaller than 2 hectares.
- According to recent data from NITI Aayog, as of 2022-23, around **52%** of cultivated land in India has access to irrigation, marking a significant increase from 41% in 2016. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

53. Correct Answer : C
Explanation

- The **Gulf of Oman**, also known as the Gulf of Makran or Sea of Makran, forms the only entrance to the Persian Gulf from the Indian Ocean. It connects the Arabian Sea with the Strait of Hormuz, which then empties into the Persian Gulf. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Gulf of Oman is bordered by Pakistan and Iran in the north, by the United Arab Emirates in the west and by Oman in the south.
- The **Strait of Hormuz**, spanning 55 to 95 km in width, links the **Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea**, separating Iran from the Arabian Peninsula.
- It hosts key islands like **Qeshm, Hormuz, and Hengām**. As the world's most critical oil chokepoint, it facilitates the passage of about **20-25% of global oil consumption**, underscoring its strategic importance.
- In 2018 scientists revealed that the Gulf of Oman has one of the **largest marine dead zones in the world. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- A "dead zone" occurs when low oxygen levels in water cause marine life to die or migrate, turning vibrant habitats into biological deserts.

54. Correct Answer : C
Explanation

- Big data refers to extremely large and diverse collections of structured, unstructured, and semi-structured data that continues to grow exponentially over time. These datasets are so huge and complex in volume, velocity, and variety, that traditional data management systems cannot store, process, and analyze them. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Big data analysis of sensor data from various sources like seismic activity monitors, ground deformation sensors, and satellite imagery can be used to potentially predict natural disasters like earthquakes. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

55. Correct Answer : A
Explanation

- The Registrar General of India (RGI) is a government authority responsible for **collecting and maintaining demographic data in India.** **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It was established in **1961** mainly to conduct **Census operations** across the country. The RGI oversees vital statistics, including **births, deaths, and population data**, and also manages the **National Population Register (NPR)**.
- It functions under the **Ministry of Home Affairs.** **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

56. Correct Answer : B
Explanation

- Tarasa, Bompoka, and Katchall are islands located in the **Nicobar Islands region of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands**
- Andaman and Nicobar Islands are situated about 1,300 km southeast of the Indian mainland, providing India with a crucial forward presence in the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea.
- This location allows India to monitor and potentially **control key maritime chokepoints, particularly the Malacca Strait.**
- Their location enables India to monitor naval activities, shipping traffic, and potential security threats in the region, enhancing its maritime domain awareness.

Hence, option B is correct.

57. Correct Answer : B
Explanation

- Quantum computers do **not** use ternary logic (0, 1, and 2); they operate on quantum principles like **superposition and entanglement** but still use **binary states (0 and 1)**, though in a quantum-mechanical way. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- Quantum computers use **qubits**, which leverage **superposition** to exist in both 0 and 1 states simultaneously. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

58. Correct Answer : D
Explanation

- The **Cape Town Convention (CTC)**, adopted in 2001 in South Africa, is an international treaty aimed at **facilitating asset-based financing and leasing of aviation high-value mobile equipment like aircraft, engines, and helicopters.**
- It provides creditors such as lessors, lenders, and financiers with clear remedies, including repossession and export of assets in case of default, without lengthy legal procedures.
- Key features include an international registry for recording interests in mobile equipment and the **Cape Town Protocol**, which outlines specific rules for aircraft financing and leasing.
- **Although India signed the CTC in 2008**, it has yet to ratify the treaty, making its provisions non-binding despite India being the third-largest domestic aviation market globally.

Hence, option D is correct.

59. Correct Answer : B
Explanation

- In his farewell address, the **US President** cautioned about the rising influence of an **oligarchy** in the US, where a **small group of billionaires** are **increasingly shaping public policy.**
- **Oligarchy** refers to the government dominated by a **small, influential group.** Power may or may not be distributed equitably.
- It differs from democracy as **only a few individuals make decisions.**
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

60. Correct Answer : C
Explanation

- MGNREGA is among the largest employment guarantee programs globally,

initiated in 2005 by the Ministry of Rural Development. The main aim of this scheme is to ensure 100 days of employment each financial year for adult members of any rural household who are willing to engage in unskilled manual labor related to public works. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- MGNREGA provides legal guarantee of work to rural adults within 15 days of demand, with an 'unemployment allowance' if work is not provided. This approach allows for the self-selection of workers. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

61. Correct Answer : C

Explanation

- Food Corporation of India (FCI) is a statutory body established by the Food Corporation Act of 1964. The FCI is a public sector undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Shanta Kumar Committee was formed in 2014 to recommend reforms to improve the Food Corporation of India's (FCI) operations and financial management. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

62. Correct Answer : B

Explanation

Death Penalty:

- The death penalty, also referred to as **capital punishment**, is the **most severe** form of punishment in the Indian judicial system as it **cannot be reversed** after execution like other kinds of punishment.
- It involves the **state's execution of an individual** as a penalty for serious offenses.
- In ***Bachan Singh vs. State of Punjab Case***, 1980, the Supreme Court (SC) upheld the death penalty as constitutional but should be awarded in the "**rarest of rare**" cases after considering both aggravating and mitigating circumstances. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- The death penalty in India is governed by provisions in ***BharatiyaNyaySanhita, 2023***, ***BhartiyaNagrikSurakshaSanhita, 2023***, and other special laws. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
- The BNS prescribes the death penalty for crimes such as **rape causing death (Section 66)**, **gang rape of minors (Section 70(2))**, **serial rape (Section 71)**, and others.

- Offenses punishable by death include **murder (Section 302)**, terrorism (UAPA, 1967), and certain drug trafficking offenses under the **NDPS Act, 1985**.
- **Hence, option B is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement I.**

63. Correct Answer : A

Explanation

- India, under **Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru**, strongly supported **Indonesia's fight** for independence from **Dutch colonial rule**.
- The India and Indonesia signed a **Treaty of Friendship in 1951**, and cooperation in **trade, culture, and military matters** flourished.
- Both nations aligned on **non-alignment, anti-colonialism, and peaceful coexistence**, leading to their active participation in the **1955 Bandung Conference and NAM's formation in 1961**.
- Indonesia is now India's **2nd largest trading partner** in the ASEAN region (1st-Singapore), and trade has grown significantly from **USD 4.3 billion in 2005-06 to USD 38.84 billion in 2022-23**. Indian investments in Indonesia amount to **USD 1.56 billion**.
- Indonesia is negotiating with India to acquire the **BrahMos missile system**, with a broad agreement on pricing, estimated at **USD 450 million**.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

64. Correct Answer : C

Explanation

Scramjet Engine:

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has successfully conducted a **Supersonic Combustion Ramjet (Scramjet) engine ground test**, advancing **India's hypersonic missile tech**.
- A **scramjet engine (Air-breathing engine)** is an advanced **ramjet** that uses **supersonic airflow** for **combustion**, enabling faster speeds.
- It uses **liquid hydrogen** and **liquid oxygen** for thrust, offering better **fuel efficiency**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Unlike a **turbojet engine**, **ramjets and scramjets have no moving parts**, consisting only of an **inlet, combustor** (with fuel injector and flame

holder), and a nozzle. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

- Scramjets are key to hypersonic vehicles to handle **airflows at speeds above the speed of sound** and offer maneuverability and strategic advantage. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- **Hypersonic Missiles** traveling at speeds greater than **Mach 5 (over 5,400 km/h)**, bypass air defences with high-speed, high-impact strikes.
- The US, Russia, and China are advancing hypersonic tech.
- In 2021, China tested a **nuclear-capable hypersonic glide vehicle** that circled the globe before speeding towards its target.

65. Correct Answer : D

Explanation

- Indus Water Treaty is a water-sharing agreement between India and Pakistan signed in 1960 under the **aegis of the World Bank (and not Global Commission on the Economics of Water)** to divide the waters of the Indus River and its 5 tributaries (Sutlej, Beas, Ravi, Jhelum, and Chenab) between the countries. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Treaty grants India unrestricted use of the **3 eastern rivers (Beas, Ravi, Sutlej)** and allocates the **3 western rivers (Chenab, Indus, Jhelum) to Pakistan**, with certain allowances for India to use these waters for domestic, non-consumptive, agricultural, and hydroelectric purposes under specific conditions. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**
- The treaty mandated the establishment of a Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) with representatives from both countries, which is required to meet annually to ensure the implementation of the treaty.

66. Correct Answer : D

Explanation

- **Nitrogen Use Efficiency (NUE)** is used to describe the efficiency of a plant in using applied or fixed nitrogen for biomass production.
- **It is the ratio of crop yield to the nitrogen absorbed from the soil or fixed by bacteria**, making it a critical parameter for sustainable agriculture.
- Poor NUE refers to the inefficient use of nitrogen, where significant amounts are lost to the environment through processes like leaching

and volatilization, leading to pollution and reduced productivity.

- Enhancing NUE is essential for improving crop yields while minimizing environmental harm.

67. Correct Answer : B

Explanation

- **Similipal Tiger Reserve** is located in the **Deccan Peninsula Biogeographic Zone**. The reserve is characterized by a predominantly **moist mixed deciduous forest** interspersed with tropical semi-evergreen patches, **occasional dry deciduous forests, and grasslands**.
- It is home to 7% of India's flowering plants and 8% of its orchid species, showcasing remarkable floral richness.
- In addition to tigers, the reserve supports diverse wildlife, including sambar, chital, barking deer, gaur, mouse deer, leopards, and fishing cats.
- Notably, management efforts have **successfully revived the mugger crocodile populations along the Khairi and Deo rivers**.
- Recognized for its **ecological significance**, Similipal was designated as a site in the **Global Network of Biosphere Reserves in 2009**.

Hence, option B is correct.

68. Correct Answer : A

Explanation

Indian Grey Wolf:

- The Indian grey wolf is found across **Southwest Asia and the Indian subcontinent**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The Indian grey wolf is primarily **nocturnal, hunting from dusk to dawn**, not during the day. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- The Indian grey wolf is listed as **Endangered** by the IUCN, but it thrives in **warmer temperatures, not colder**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.
- **Bankapur Wolf Sanctuary (Karnataka)** is India's **second protected area** dedicated solely to wolves, after Mahuadanr Wolf Sanctuary (Jharkhand). Hence, **statement 4 is correct**.

Hence, option A is the correct answer.

69. Correct Answer : D

Explanation

- The Demoiselle crane, also known as **Koonj or Kurjan in India**, is native to **Russia's Siberian region**.
- To escape the harsh winter conditions, these cranes migrate to India, particularly to Rajasthan. **Khichan, located in Rajasthan**, is home to India's first reserve dedicated to **Demoiselle cranes**, where 20,000–30,000 of these cranes gather each winter.
- The species is classified as "**Least Concern**" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

70. Correct Answer : C

Explanation

PM-YASASVI Scheme:

- Launched by the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**, it provides **financial aid** for quality education to marginalized students. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is open to **OBC, Economically Backward Classes (EBC), and DNTs (Denotified) students** with family income up to **Rs 2.5 lakh per annum. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It is an **umbrella scheme** consisting of sub-schemes like:
 - **Pre-Matric Scholarship: Rs. 4,000** annual academic allowance to families with income below Rs. 2.5 lakh.
 - **Post-Matric Scholarship: Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 20,000** depending on the course category.
 - **College Education:** Top college students get **full financial support**, including tuition, living expenses, and education materials.
 - **Hostels: Accommodation facility** near government schools and institutions.

71. Correct Answer : B

Explanation

- The **Constitution designates Delhi as the seat of the Supreme Court** but allows the Chief Justice of India (CJI) to designate other locations as the seat with the President's approval, although this is not compulsory. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **A judge of the Supreme Court can be removed from his office by an order of the President** only after Parliament presents an address, supported by a special majority in both Houses, citing proved misbehaviour or incapacity. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- To be appointed as a Supreme Court judge, a person must be an Indian citizen, have served as a judge of a High Court for at least five years, or have been an advocate in a High Court for at least ten years, or be recognized as a distinguished jurist by the President.
 - **The Constitution does not specify a minimum age for the appointment as a judge of the Supreme Court. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

72. Correct Answer : C

Explanation

Around 33 types of iron tools have been found in Megalithic burials, serving various purposes across different aspects of life.

In agriculture, tools like hoes, sickles, and axes were used, while domestic needs were met with items such as dishes and tripod stands.

For artisanal activities, chisels and nails were crafted, and in warfare and hunting, swords, daggers, spears, and arrowheads were produced.

Significant traces of iron use have been discovered in several sites:

Naikund in Vidarbha revealed an iron smelting furnace. Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.

Mahurjhari in Nagpur yielded horse head ornaments made of copper sheets with iron knobs. Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.

Paiyampalli in Tamil Nadu uncovered large quantities of iron slag, pointing to local iron smelting. Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.

These findings indicate advancements in iron technology, showcasing the early ability to control fire and extract iron from ore.

Hence, option C is correct.

73. Correct Answer : A

Explanation

Olive Ridley Turtles:

- Olive ridley turtles are **olive or grayish-green** with a **heart-shaped carapace (top shell)**.
 - They closely resemble **Kemp's ridleys** (primarily found in the Gulf of Mexico) and are the **smallest sea turtles**. Their size and shape vary by region, with the largest found in West Africa.
- **They are found in the tropical regions of the Pacific, Indian, and Atlantic Oceans.**
 - Inhabits both **pelagic (open ocean) and coastal** waters.

- Their major nesting sites in India are **Rushikulya, Gahirmatha, Devi River mouth** in Odisha, and the **Andaman Islands**.
- **Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary** is recognised as the **largest known mass nesting rookery** for Olive Ridley sea turtles in the world.
- Olive ridley turtles are famous for **arribada** (Spanish for "arrival"), a unique **mass nesting behavior** where **thousands of females nest simultaneously**.
- From September, they travel 9,000 km from the Pacific to the Indian seas. After mating, males retreat, and females nest from December to March.
- Females nest 1-3 times per season, laying around 100 eggs per clutch.
- The **sex of hatchlings is determined by nest temperature**.
- Like **all sea turtle species**, except the **herbivorous Green Turtle**, the **Olive Ridley is an omnivore**, eating jellyfish, snails, crabs, prawns, algae, and small fish.
- Migrate long distances between feeding and nesting sites.
- **Protection Status:**
 - **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** Schedule I
 - **IUCN Red List:** Vulnerable
 - **CITES:** Appendix I
- Hence, option A is correct.

74. Correct Answer : A

Explanation

- The **Chinar tree**, a deciduous species from the **Platanaceae** family, thrives in the cool, **water-rich regions of the Eastern Himalayas**. It grows up to 30 meters tall, taking 30–50 years to mature and 150 years to reach full size.
- Named during Jahangir's era, it is the state tree of J&K and holds cultural significance in local art and crafts.
- The **Tree Aadhaar Mission**, launched in 2021, **geo-tags Chinar trees to prevent unauthorized cutting**. So far, over 28,560 trees have been assigned unique Aadhaar numbers.
- Hence, option A is correct.

75. Correct Answer : B

Explanation

Fiscal Health Index 2025:

- The **Fiscal Health Index (FHI)** is an **assessment tool** to evaluate the fiscal health

of Indian states **and highlights specific areas for improvement**.

- In a bid to enhance fiscal governance, the **National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog)** launched its inaugural **Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2025**.
- The Index provides a comprehensive evaluation of the **fiscal health of 18 major Indian states for 2022-23**, offering data-driven insights that will guide policy interventions at the state level.
- **Parameter:** FHI ranks states based on five key sub-indices.
 - **Quality of Expenditure:** Measures the proportion of spending on long-term growth (developmental) vs. routine operations (non-developmental).
 - Assesses capital investments as a share of economic output.
 - **Revenue Mobilization:** Reflects a state's ability to **generate its own revenue** and cover its expenditures independently.
 - **Fiscal Prudence:** Tracks **deficits (fiscal and revenue)** and borrowing relative to economic output, signaling fiscal health.
 - **Debt Index:** Assesses the **state's debt burden**, focusing on interest payments and liabilities relative to economic size.
 - **Debt Sustainability:** Compares **Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)** growth to **interest payments**, with a positive difference indicating **fiscal sustainability**.
- Hence, option B is correct.

76. Correct Answer : C

Explanation

Article 20(3):

- Under **Article 20(3)**, **no person** accused of any offence shall be compelled to be a **witness against himself**.
- The **protection against self-incrimination** extends to both **oral evidence and documentary evidence**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- However, it **does not extend** to compulsory **production of material objects, thumb impressions, specimen signatures, blood specimens, or compulsory exhibition of the body**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- Further, the protection of the accused extends only to **criminal proceedings** and **not to civil proceedings** or proceedings which are not

of criminal nature. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

- Hence, option C is correct.

77. Correct Answer : C

Explanation

- Indian Standard Time (IST), based on Universal Coordinated Time with a +5:30-hour offset, is maintained by the **CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL)**.
- **CSIR- National Physical Laboratory**
 - **About:** The NPL is one of India's earliest national laboratories. Its foundation stone was laid by **Jawaharlal Nehru in 1947**, and it was formally inaugurated by **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in 1950**.
 - **Functions:** Responsible for realizing and maintaining physical measurement units based on the **International System (SI units)**, including **metre, kilogram, second, kelvin, ampere, and candela**,
 - NPL aids industries with precision measurements and certifies emission-monitoring instruments.
 - **Key Contributions:** Develops advanced **atomic clocks** and maintains **Indian Standard Time (IST)** using **Cesium atomic clocks (work using Cesium atoms)** and **Hydrogen maser** (uses hydrogen atoms to serve precision frequency).
- Hence, option C is correct.

78. Correct Answer : A

Explanation

- A Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF) is a government-owned fund created from state surpluses, often from a variety of sources like natural resources, trade surpluses, or budget excesses.
- **Characteristics:** Santiago Principles 2008 defines SWFs as having 3 key characteristics:
 - It is owned by the general government, which includes **both central government and sub-national governments**. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
 - It includes investments in **foreign financial assets**.
 - They invest for financial objectives.
 - These key elements **exclude public pension funds, owned by policyholders**, and central bank reserve assets, which are not invested. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

- **Santiago Principles 2008 (and not Palermo Principles 2008)** refers to a set of **24 voluntary guidelines** that promote transparency, good governance, accountability, and prudent investment practices for **Sovereign Wealth Funds (SWFs)**.

- These principles were established in 2008 by the **International Forum of Sovereign Wealth Funds (IFSWF) (and not International Finance Corporation)**, a voluntary organisation of global SWFs. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

79. Correct Answer : B

Explanation

- **Global Risks Report** is released by **The World Economic Forum (WEF)**.
- **20th Global Risks Report 2025** highlighted the top five risks for India include water supply shortages, misinformation and disinformation, erosion of human rights and civic freedoms, pollution (air, water, and soil), and labour and talent shortages.

Hence, option B is correct.

80. Correct Answer : A

Explanation

India-Singapore Relations:

- India was one of the **first countries to recognise** Singapore's independence in 1965.
 - Relations date back to Stamford Raffles establishing a trading post in Singapore in 1819, which became a British colony governed from Kolkata until 1867.
- The **Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)** between India and Singapore was signed in 2005.
 - Singapore is **India's 6th largest trade partner (FY24)**, accounting for 3.2% of India's overall trade.
 - India is Singapore's **12th largest trade partner** with a 2.3% share in Singapore's overall trade.
- Singapore is India's largest trade partner in the ASEAN region.
- Military exercises between India and Singapore include **SIMBEX (Navy), SINDEX (Air Force), and Bold Kurukshetra (Army)**.
- Singapore's four official languages are Malay, Mandarin, Tamil and English.
- Ethnic Indians constitute about 9.1% or around 3.5 lakhs of the resident population of 3.9 million in Singapore.
- Hence, option A is correct.

81. Correct Answer : C
Explanation

- Kokborok was recognised as the **official language of Tripura in 1979** (spoken by 23.97% of Tripura's population (2011 Census)) and is written in **Bengali script. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It has existed since at least the 1st century AD. **Rajratnakar**, a chronicle of Tripuri kings, was initially written in Kokborok and Koloma script by **DurlobendraChontai. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

82. Correct Answer : C
Explanation

- States generate revenue through various sources. Their **own tax revenue (OTR) includes taxes levied by state governments**, such as State GST (SGST), a portion of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) collected by the Union Government, **State Excise Duty on alcohol (for human consumption)**, Sales Tax or VAT on items outside the GST purview, Stamps and Registration Duty on property transactions, Vehicle Registration Tax, and Entertainment Tax on movie tickets.
- Additionally, states earn non-tax revenue from activities like the **lease or sale of natural resources**, economic services such as irrigation, health, and education, the **sale of lotteries**, and interest receipts from loans to public sector undertakings or local bodies.
- States also receive financial support in the form of grants from the central government, which assist in welfare, infrastructure, and disaster relief.
- Therefore, **excise duty on alcohol for human consumption (1), lease or sale of natural resources(2), and the sale of lotteries(3)** are all direct sources of revenue for states.

Hence, option C is correct.

83. Correct Answer : A
Explanation

- **Martial Law in India:**
- **About: Article 34** provides for restrictions on fundamental rights while martial law is in force in any area within the territory of India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The concept of martial law has been borrowed in India from the English common law. However, **the expression 'martial law' has**

not been defined anywhere in the Constitution.

- The declaration of martial law under Article 34 is different from the declaration of a **national emergency under Article 352.**
- **Indemnity for Actions Taken During Martial Law:**
- Article 34 empowers the Parliament to **indemnify any government servant or any other person** for any act done by him in connection with the maintenance or restoration of order in any area where martial law was in force.
- The Parliament **can also validate any sentence passed**, punishment inflicted, forfeiture ordered or other act done under martial law in such an area.
- The Act of Indemnity made by the Parliament **cannot be challenged in any court** on the ground of contravention of any of the fundamental rights.
- **Conditions for the Imposition:**
- There is **no specific provision in the Constitution** that authorises the executive to declare martial law. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The martial law is **imposed under extraordinary circumstances** like war, invasion, insurrection, rebellion, riot or any violent resistance to the law.
- **Scope of Powers:**
- During the operation of martial law, the military authorities are vested with abnormal powers to take all necessary steps.
- The **Supreme Court** held that the declaration of martial law does not **ipso facto** (by that very fact) **result in the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus.**

84. Correct Answer : B
Explanation

- **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** is a **specialised agency** of the **United Nations** that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It is one of the UN food aid organisations based in Rome (Italy). Its sister bodies are the **World Food Programme** and the **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).**
- **Codex Alimentarius Commission**, established by the **FAO and WHO,**

works to set international food standards. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- It plays a crucial role in coordinating the development of food standards, ensuring consumer health protection and promoting fair practices in global food trade.

85. Correct Answer : C

Explanation

PM-Surya GharMuftBijli Yojana:

- The Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has issued operational guidelines for the **PM-Surya GharMuftBijli Yojana**, detailing **RESCO (Renewable Energy Service Company) and Utility-Led Aggregation (ULA) models**.
- These guidelines will supplement the existing consumer-driven implementation of **rooftop solar installations** through the **National Portal of the scheme**.
- The **PM Surya GharMuftBijli Yojana**, launched in February 2024 by the Ministry of **New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**, aims to provide **free electricity to one crore households** by installing **rooftop solar panels**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It offers up to **300 units of free electricity per month** and provides a **subsidy covering up to 40% of the installation cost**, promoting widespread solar energy adoption across the country.
- The **PM Surya GharMuftBijli Yojana** will be implemented by the **National Programme Implementation Agency (NPIA)** at the national level and **State Implementation Agencies (SIA)** at the state level. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Central Financial Assistance (CFA)** provides financial support to residential consumers for installing rooftop solar panels through the National Portal. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Villages with populations over 5,000 (or 2,000 in special states) are eligible for selection and are evaluated on **renewable energy capacity** six months after being identified by the **District Level Committee (DLC)**.
- The village with the highest **RE capacity in each district receives Rs 1 crore** in financial assistance.

86. Correct Answer : C

Explanation

PM-Surya GharMuftBijli Yojana:

- The Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has issued operational guidelines for the **PM-Surya GharMuftBijli Yojana**, detailing **RESCO (Renewable Energy Service Company) and Utility-Led Aggregation (ULA) models**.
- These guidelines will supplement the existing consumer-driven implementation of **rooftop solar installations** through the **National Portal of the scheme**.
- The **PM Surya GharMuftBijli Yojana**, launched in February 2024 by the Ministry of **New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**, aims to provide **free electricity to one crore households** by installing **rooftop solar panels**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It offers up to **300 units of free electricity per month** and provides a **subsidy covering up to 40% of the installation cost**, promoting widespread solar energy adoption across the country.
- The **PM Surya GharMuftBijli Yojana** will be implemented by the **National Programme Implementation Agency (NPIA)** at the national level and **State Implementation Agencies (SIA)** at the state level. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Central Financial Assistance (CFA)** provides financial support to residential consumers for installing rooftop solar panels through the National Portal. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Villages with populations over 5,000 (or 2,000 in special states) are eligible for selection and are evaluated on **renewable energy capacity** six months after being identified by the **District Level Committee (DLC)**.
- The village with the highest **RE capacity in each district receives Rs 1 crore** in financial assistance.

87. Correct Answer : D

Explanation

- **GangasagarMela** is an annual religious festival held on **Sagar Island, West Bengal**, at the confluence of the Ganga and Bay of Bengal.
- The Ganga river, originating from Gangotri, completes its journey and merges with the Bay of Bengal.
- The festival, which coincides with **MakarSankranti**, involves rituals like taking a holy dip in the Ganga, offering "Arghya" to the Sun God, and performing "Deepdan" (lighting

lamps) to seek liberation and spiritual upliftment.

- It is considered the second-largest religious gathering in India after the KumbhMela.
- The fair is **historically mentioned** in the Mahabharata's **VanaParva** and **Raghuvamsa (by Kalidasa)**, with evidence of the pilgrimage dating back to 1500–2000 BC, and is associated with the sage Kapilmuni and the Pala dynasty's King Devapala.

Hence, option D is correct.

88. Correct Answer : A

Explanation

- The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** measures changes in consumer prices over time **using a representative basket of goods and services, with 2012 as the base year. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- This basket includes items such as food, clothing, transportation, medical care, electricity, and education.
- It is published **monthly** by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)** under the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- CPI serves to monitor price stability, **adjust dearness allowance**, and assess living costs, purchasing power, and inflation. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- It is calculated by comparing the cost of a fixed basket of goods in the current year to the base year and multiplying by 100.

89. Correct Answer : D

Explanation

- **Electoral Trusts**, introduced in 2013, are non-profit entities designed to collect donations from individuals or organizations and distribute them to political parties.
- These trusts operate under the legal framework of the Companies Act, 1956 (now Section 8 under the Companies Act, 2013).
- They are **regulated by the Companies Act** and monitored by both the **Election Commission and the Income Tax Department** to ensure transparency in political funding. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Donors contributing through these trusts **benefit from tax deductions. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Identities of both donors and recipients are fully disclosed to the public.** By aggregating

donations and providing detailed disclosure, Electoral Trusts aim to promote transparency in political financing. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

90. Correct Answer : B

Explanation

- **Maipayattu, Kolthari, and Angathari are stages of training in Kalaripayattu**, one of the oldest and most **scientific martial arts** in the world.
- **Maipayattu focuses on body conditioning** for combat, **Kolthari involves training with wooden weapons** such as short and long sticks, and **Angathari introduces the use of sharp metal weapons.**
 - These stages are part of the systematic training that **emphasizes mind-body coordination** and are integral to Kalaripayattu's comprehensive martial arts framework.
- **Kalaripayattu consists of two types:** the Northern style, which emphasizes weapons and linear movements, and the Southern style, which focuses on multi-directional movements with fewer weapons.

Hence, option B is correct.

91. Correct Answer : A

Explanation

- Under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999, transactions are divided into Current Account Transactions and Capital Account Transactions.
- Capital Account Transactions involve those that **alter the assets or liabilities of residents in India or non-residents outside India.**
 - This includes the **transfer or issuance of foreign securities**, which falls under this category.
- On the other hand, **remittances and income from investments-such as dividends and interests** are part of **Current Account Transactions**, which deal with trade, services, and income flows rather than capital movements.
 - Therefore, **only the transfer or issuance of foreign securities is a Capital Account Transaction.**

Hence, option A is correct.

92. Correct Answer : A

Explanation

World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2025 Report:

- The **International Labour Organisation (ILO)** has released its "**World Employment and Social Outlook (WESO): Trends 2025**" report, highlighting that the global unemployment rate remained at a **historic low of 5% in 2024**.
- The report points to ongoing challenges such as **slow economic recovery, geopolitical tensions, climate change, and social uncertainties** affecting the labor market.
- Hence, **option A is correct**.

93. Correct Answer : B
Explanation

- **About Colombia:**
 - It is called the "**gateway to South America**" due to its location connecting **South America with Central and North America**.
 - Its vast **grasslands** are called **Los Llanos** and open in both the **Pacific and Atlantic Oceans**.
 - About **10% of the world's animal species** live in Colombia, despite it covering **less than 1% of Earth's land area**.
 - It is the **world's largest producer of cocaine**.
- **Colombia faces a surge in violence** as rival militias clash, threatening its **fragile peace process** and prompting a state of **emergency with military deployments**.
- Violence involves **guerilla groups** that rejected the **earlier peace accords**.
- The deal **terminated** the conflict between the **Colombian government** and the **Marxist-Leninist guerillas (1964-2016)**.
- Groups are fighting for control of a strategic border region with **coca leaf plantations, the raw material for cocaine production**.
- Hundreds of refugees sought safety in **Tibu**, a city in Colombia, where several **shelters** were established to house them.

94. Correct Answer : B
Explanation

- India's citizenship laws are based on a combination of the principles of **jus soli** and **jus sanguinis**, balancing birthright and descent. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The Citizenship Act, 1955 outlines various ways in which Indian citizenship can be

acquired, including by birth, descent, registration, and **naturalization**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

- Naturalization requires a 12-year residency in India, along with other qualifications set out in the Citizenship Act.
- Additionally, **Article 11 of the Indian Constitution** grants Parliament the power to regulate citizenship matters by law. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

95. Correct Answer : C
Explanation
Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARC):

- An ARC is a **special type of financial institution** that buys **non-performing assets (NPAs)** from banks and financial institutions and **attempts to recover the debts or associated securities** by itself. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - **Non-Performing Asset (NPA)** is a loan classified as an NPA when the loan payments have not been made for a minimum period of 90 days.
 - For **agriculture**, a loan is classified as an NPA if the principal or interest is not paid for two cropping seasons.
- The concept of ARCs was introduced by the **Narasimham Committee – II (1998)**, leading to the establishment of ARCs under the **Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act, 2002)**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- ARC is registered under the **Companies Act, 2013** and must also be registered with the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** under **section 3 of the SARFAESI Act, 2002**.
 - It operates under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, and follows **guidelines issued by the RBI**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

96. Correct Answer : B
Explanation

- **Mission Shakti** is a program for **women's safety and empowerment** and is being implemented during the **15th Finance Commission (2021-2026)** period. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- Mission Shakti consists of **two sub-schemes**:
 - **Sambal (Safety and Security)**: Focuses on women's safety through initiatives like **One Stop Centres (OSCs), Women Helpline (181)**, nationwide expansion

of BBBP, and NariAdalat for grievance redressal.

- **Samarthya (Empowerment):** Empowers women through **Shakti Sadans** (relief and rehabilitation homes), **SakhiNiwas** (safe accommodation for working women), and **Palna** (Creche facilities). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The **PradhanMantriMatruVandana Yojana (PMMVY)** now extends support for a **2nd child if it is a girl**, promoting maternal health. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- The **SANKALP: HEW (Hub for Empowerment of Women)** serves as a **district-level single-window mechanism** for women to access Central and State schemes. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**

97. Correct Answer : D

Explanation

India-Myanmar:

- India's **1,643-km border with Myanmar** runs through Arunachal Pradesh (520 km), Nagaland (215 km), Manipur (398 km), and Mizoram (510 km). 1,472 km of the border has been demarcated.
- The revised **Free Movement Regime (FMR)** has led to the activation of 22 border gates out of the 43 planned crossing points along the **India-Myanmar border**, aimed at regulating movement while maintaining border security.
- **FMR:** Introduced in 1968 to facilitate **movement due to ethnic and familial ties** across the largely unfenced northeastern border.
- The **free movement limit was reduced from 40 km to 16 km in 2004** and is now **10 km**.
- **Border residents can travel** without a **visa or passport** but require a **QR code-enabled border pass**. **Biometric data is recorded** and uploaded to a centralized portal to check against a **negative list**.
- **Assam Rifles** is responsible for issuing border passes and conducting initial security verification. Border pass validity is up to 7 days.

98. Correct Answer : B

Explanation

Austrahind (and not Shakti) is a joint military exercise between India and Australia that focuses on enhancing interoperability between

the two countries' armed forces. Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.

Sampriti is a joint military exercise between the armies of India and Bangladesh. It is held annually to strengthen defense cooperation between the two countries. Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.

The **"Hand in Hand" exercise** is a joint military training exercise between India and China, focused on counter-terrorism operations under a United Nations mandate. Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.

99. Correct Answer : C

Explanation

Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RP Act, 1951):

- **Section 8(1):** Lists specific offenses (such as promoting enmity between groups, bribery, undue influence, corruption, etc.) that lead to immediate disqualification **for six years** from the conviction date. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Section 8(3):** A person convicted of an offense and sentenced to imprisonment for **two years or more** shall be disqualified from contesting elections **from the date of conviction and for an additional six years** after release. However, this does not apply to preventive detention cases. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Section 11:** Allows the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** to remove or reduce the disqualification period imposed under **Sections 8, 9, or 10**, granting discretionary relief in certain cases. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

100. Correct Answer : B

Explanation

- Founded in **1971**, the **World Economic Forum (WEF)** was officially recognized by the Swiss Federal Council as an **international organization in 2015**. It is dedicated to **public-private cooperation** and brings together **key political, business, cultural, and other societal leaders** to shape **global, regional, and industry agendas**.
- WEF regularly publishes globally recognized reports, including the **Global Cybersecurity Outlook Report**, **Global Competitiveness Report** and the **Global Gender Gap Report**, **Energy Transition Index**, **Global Risk Report**, **Global Travel and Tourism Report**.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**