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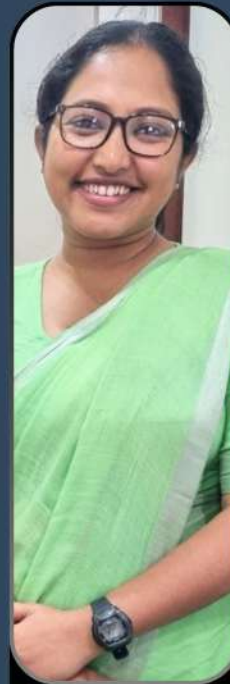
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November CA MCQs

Q1. With reference to *Bordetella holmesii*, recently seen in the news, consider the following statements:

1. It is a gram-positive bacterium that primarily causes tuberculosis-like symptoms.
2. It was first identified in the 1990s and can cause pertussis-like illness in humans.
3. The current DTaP vaccine provides direct protection against *Bordetella holmesii*.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b) 2 only

Explanation:

- *Bordetella holmesii* is a **gram-negative coccobacillus, not gram-positive**.
- It was **first identified in 1995** and causes **pertussis-like (whooping cough-like)** symptoms and invasive infections such as pneumonia, endocarditis, and arthritis.
- The **DTaP vaccine** protects against *Bordetella pertussis* but **does not cover *B. holmesii***.

Q2. With reference to the *Neasden Temple*, recently seen in the news, consider the following statements:

1. It is the first traditional Hindu stone temple built in Europe.
2. It was constructed under the guidance of Pramukh Swami Maharaj and opened in 1995.
3. It was funded entirely by the Government of India as part of a cultural outreach initiative.

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

Correct Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- *Neasden Temple*, officially *BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir*, London, is **the first traditional Hindu stone temple in Europe**.
 - It was **built under Pramukh Swami Maharaj's guidance** and **opened in 1995**.
 - It was **entirely funded by the Hindu community**, not by the Government of India.
- Hence, statements **1 and 2** are correct.

Q3. With reference to the *Global Virus Network (GVN)*, consider the following statements:

1. It is an intergovernmental organization established under the World Health Organization (WHO).
2. It is a voluntary consortium of virology laboratories and scientists aimed at combating global viral threats.
3. Its key focus areas include research support, public education, and advocacy.

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

Correct Answer: (b) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- The **Global Virus Network (GVN)** is a **voluntary, non-governmental consortium** of leading virology labs and scientists — **not established under WHO**.
- It works to **prevent and control viral threats** through **research, education, and advocacy**.
- It includes members from **25+ countries**, pooling expertise across all major viral disease classes.

Q4. With reference to the *Meteor Missile*, consider the following statements:

1. It is a radar-guided beyond visual range air-to-air missile developed by a European consortium.
2. It is powered by a ramjet engine, enabling sustained high speed and long-range engagement.
3. It is equipped with an infrared seeker and cannot be updated in flight.
4. India plans to acquire it to enhance air combat capability after *Operation Sindoor*.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

Correct Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation:

The **Meteor Missile**, developed by MBDA (European consortium), is a **radar-guided BVRAAM** powered by a **ramjet engine** allowing speeds above Mach 4 and a range up to 200 km. It features an **active radar seeker** and a **two-way datalink** for in-flight updates. India plans large-scale acquisition post *Operation Sindoor* to boost air combat strength.

Q5. With reference to Tajikistan, consider the following statements:

1. It shares its southern border with Uzbekistan and northern border with Afghanistan.
2. Its highest peak is Qullai Ismoili Somoni, located in the Pamir Mountains.
3. It is a landlocked member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).
4. The Ayni Airbase in Tajikistan continues to host Indian military personnel.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

Tajikistan is a **landlocked Central Asian country**, bordered by **Afghanistan (S)**, **China (E)**, **Uzbekistan (W)**, and **Kyrgyzstan (N)**. Its highest peak, **Qullai Ismoili Somoni (7,495 m)**, lies in the **Pamir Mountains**. It is a **member of the SCO**. India's presence at the **Ayni Airbase** has ended following the expiry of a bilateral agreement.

Q6. With reference to *Amphipods*, consider the following statements:

1. They are small molluscs found only in marine habitats.
2. The term *Amphipoda* refers to "different-footed," indicating their non-uniform legs.
3. They play an important role in nutrient recycling by feeding on dead organic matter.
4. Two new species — *Grandidierella geetanjalae* and *Grandidierella khambhatensis* — were recently discovered in India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

(c) 2, 3 and 4 only

(d) 1, 3 and 4 only

Correct Answer: (c) 2, 3 and 4 only

Explanation:

- Amphipods are **crustaceans**, not molluscs.
- “Amphipoda” literally means **different-footed**, due to variation in leg types.
- They are **detritivores**, feeding on dead organic matter, helping in **nutrient recycling**.
- In 2025, two new Indian species — *Grandidierella geetanjale* (Odisha) and *G. khambhatensis* (Gujarat) — were reported.

Q7. With reference to *Pilia malenadu*, consider the following statements:

1. It is a newly discovered species of jumping spider found in the Western Ghats of Karnataka.
2. The genus *Pilia* was last reported from India over a century ago.
3. The species was found only on *Memecylon umbellatum* and *Memecylon malabaricum* plants.
4. Only male specimens of the species were identified.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1, 2 and 4 only

(b) 1, 2 and 3 only

(c) 2, 3 and 4 only

(d) 1 and 4 only

Correct Answer: (b) 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- *Pilia malenadu* is a **new jumping spider species** discovered in **Chikkamagaluru, Karnataka (Western Ghats)**.
- The last *Pilia* species was reported **123 years ago (1902)** from Kerala.
- Found on **two plant species** — *Memecylon umbellatum* and *M. malabaricum*.
- **Both male and female** specimens were identified (hence statement 4 is incorrect).

Q8. With reference to *Pampadum Shola National Park*, consider the following statements:

1. It is the smallest national park of Kerala, located in the eastern part of the Southern Western Ghats.
2. It serves as a vital ecological link between Eravikulam National Park and the Palani Hills.
3. The park lies entirely within Tamil Nadu and receives rainfall mainly from the Southwest monsoon.

4. It was recently in news for successful restoration of grasslands after removal of invasive Australian wattle.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (a) 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation:

- *Pampadum Shola NP* is in Kerala, not Tamil Nadu.
- It connects Eravikulam NP with Palani Hills and receives heavy Northeast monsoon rainfall.
- It was recently in news for restoration of native grasslands after removing invasive Australian wattle.

Q9. With reference to the *Encephalomyocarditis Virus (EMCV)*, consider the following statements:

1. It is an enveloped, double-stranded RNA virus belonging to the Flaviviridae family.
2. The virus is transmitted to animals and humans primarily through rodent excreta contaminating food or water.
3. It is a zoonotic virus that can infect pigs, primates, and elephants.
4. Specific antiviral treatment is available to cure the infection.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (d) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- EMCV is a **non-enveloped, positive-sense single-stranded RNA virus** of the **Cardiovirus genus (Picornaviridae family)** — hence statement 1 is incorrect.
- It is **rodent-borne** and spreads via **food or water contaminated** by feces/urine — statement 2 is correct.
- It is **zoonotic**, affecting pigs, elephants, primates, etc. — statement 3 is correct.
- **No specific antiviral treatment** exists; only supportive care — statement 4 is incorrect.

Q10. With reference to *Heavy Metals*, consider the following statements:

1. Heavy metals are metallic elements with high density and can be toxic even at low concentrations.
2. Mercury (Hg), Cadmium (Cd), and Lead (Pb) are among the most harmful heavy metals.
3. Heavy metals can be degraded or destroyed through natural biological processes.
4. Bioaccumulation refers to the increase in concentration of heavy metals in organisms over time.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (a) 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation:

- Heavy metals are **toxic, high-density elements** like Hg, Cd, Pb, As, Cr, and Tl — (1 & 2 correct).
- They **cannot be degraded or destroyed**, only accumulate — (3 incorrect).
- **Bioaccumulation** means buildup of toxic metals in living organisms — (4 correct).

Q11. With reference to *mussels*, consider the following statements:

1. Mussels are marine-only organisms belonging to the phylum Arthropoda.
2. They act as natural bioindicators by filtering contaminants and microplastics from water.
3. Mussels are used in pearl cultivation and pollution monitoring.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- Mussels are **bivalve mollusks** (not arthropods) found in **both marine and freshwater** habitats.
- They are **filter feeders**, absorbing contaminants and **microplastics**, making them effective **bioindicators** of marine pollution.
- Mussels are also used in **pearl cultivation** and **environmental monitoring**.
Hence, statements **2 and 3** are correct, while **1** is incorrect.

Q12. With reference to *Gogabeel Lake*, recently declared a Ramsar Site, consider the following statements:

1. It is an ox-bow lake formed by the confluence of the Mahananda and Ganga rivers.
2. It is Bihar's first site to be designated both as a Community Reserve and a Ramsar Site.
3. It is located in the Terai region of Bihar and supports mangrove vegetation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- *Gogabeel Lake* lies in **Katihar district, Bihar**, within the **Trans-Gangetic plains**, not the Terai region.
- It is an **ox-bow lake** formed by the **Mahananda and Ganga rivers**.
- It is **Bihar's first Community Reserve** and became a **Ramsar Site in 2025**.
- The area supports **tropical dry deciduous vegetation**, not mangroves.

Q13. With reference to *Water Lettuce (Pistia stratiotes)*, consider the following statements:

1. It is a free-floating aquatic plant native to tropical regions of Asia, Africa, and America.
2. Its dense growth can deplete dissolved oxygen and disrupt aquatic biodiversity.
3. It is a rooted emergent plant commonly used in paddy cultivation for nitrogen fixation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- *Water Lettuce (Pistia stratiotes)* is a **free-floating invasive aquatic weed**, not a rooted emergent plant.
- Native to **tropical regions of Asia, Africa, and America**, it forms dense mats that **block sunlight, reduce oxygen**, and **harm fish and biodiversity**.
- It recently caused ecological disruption in **Lake Suchitlán, El Salvador**.

Q14. With reference to the *Ramnami Tribe*, consider the following statements:

1. They are a devotional community from Chhattisgarh that worships *nirgun Ram* — the formless aspect of God.
2. Their traditional attire and ornaments include white garments inscribed with “Ram” and peacock-feather crowns.
3. The community originated as a 19th-century reformist movement led by Parsuram Bhardwaj against caste discrimination.
4. They primarily inhabit the western Himalayan region of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c) 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- The *Ramnami Tribe* originated in **central and northern Chhattisgarh**, not the Himalayan region.
- Founded by **Parsuram Bhardwaj** in the **19th century**, it was a **peaceful anti-caste Bhakti movement**.
- They **tattoo “Ram”** on their bodies, wear **white robes with “Ram” inscriptions**, and adorn **peacock-feather crowns** and **ghungroos** during bhajans — symbolizing devotion and equality.

Q15. With reference to the military exercise ‘*Poorvi Prachand Prahar*’, consider the following statements:

1. It is a tri-service exercise involving the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force.
2. The exercise focuses on multi-domain integration across land, air, and maritime fronts.
3. It is conducted in Mechuka, Arunachal Pradesh, under high-altitude operational conditions.
4. It was first launched in 2025 as a bilateral drill between India and Japan.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- ‘*Poorvi Prachand Prahar*’ is a **tri-service Indian military exercise**, not a bilateral one.
- Conducted in **Mechuka, Arunachal Pradesh**, it tests **joint operational readiness** across land, air, and maritime domains.
- It follows earlier tri-service drills — ‘*Bhala Prahar*’ (2023) and ‘*Poorvi Prahar*’ (2024) — and aims to refine **interoperability, command control, and technological adaptation** in high-altitude terrain.

Q16. With reference to the *Cycad Plant*, consider the following statements:

1. Cycads are ancient gymnosperms that coexisted with dinosaurs and reproduce through cones.
2. They are found only in tropical rainforests with high moisture and organic-rich soils.
3. Recent studies in India have linked Cycad plants to a potential neurotoxin called BMAA.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** Cycads are ancient *gymnosperms* (~300 million years old), woody and cone-bearing, resembling palms.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** They inhabit diverse environments — from rainforests to semideserts, rocky and even saline soils.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** *AIIMS Bhubaneswar* is studying Cycads for the presence of *BMAA*, a possible neurotoxin.

Q17. With reference to the *Indian Mouse Deer (Indian Spotted Chevrotain)*, consider the following statements:

1. It is the smallest deer species in India and is endemic to the Indian subcontinent.
2. Unlike other ruminants, it possesses a three-chambered stomach instead of four.
3. It is classified as ‘Vulnerable’ under the IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

(c) 2 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** The Indian Mouse Deer (*Moschiola indica*) is the smallest deer species in India, found mainly in the Western and Eastern Ghats and parts of central India.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** It has a *three-chambered stomach*, unlike most ruminants which have four.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect:** Its *IUCN status* is **Least Concern**, not Vulnerable.

Q18. With reference to the *Ramman Festival* of Uttarakhand, consider the following statements:

1. It is dedicated to Lord Badrinath and celebrated in the Kedarnath valley of Uttarakhand.
2. The festival involves masked dances, ritual performances, and oral recitations of the *Ramayana*.
3. It has been inscribed in UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: (c) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect:** Ramman is celebrated in *Saloor–Dungra villages* of Uttarakhand in honour of *Bhumiyal Devta*, not Lord Badrinath.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** It includes *masked dances, rituals, and recitations* of the *Ramayana* along with folk songs.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** It was *inscribed in UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage List in 2009*.

Q19. With reference to the *Umngot River*, consider the following statements:

1. It originates from the Eastern Shillong Peak in Meghalaya.
2. It forms part of the natural boundary between India and Myanmar.
3. It is famous for its crystal-clear waters and annual boat race.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** The Umngot River originates from the *Eastern Shillong Peak* in Meghalaya (~1,800 m).
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** It forms a boundary between *India and Bangladesh*, not Myanmar.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** It is renowned for its *crystal-clear waters* and hosts an *annual boat race* in March–April.

Q20. With reference to Tanzania, consider the following statements:

1. It was formed through the merger of Tanganyika and Zanzibar in 1964.
2. Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa, lies in Tanzania.
3. Dodoma is the administrative capital of Tanzania, while Dar es Salaam is the legislative capital.
4. It shares its eastern border with the Indian Ocean.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** Tanzania was formed in **1964** by the union of **Tanganyika** (mainland) and **Zanzibar** (islands).
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** **Mount Kilimanjaro**, a dormant volcano, is the **highest peak in Africa** and lies within Tanzania.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect:** The **legislative capital** is **Dodoma**, while **Dar es Salaam** serves as the **administrative and commercial capital**, not the other way around.
- **Statement 4 – Correct:** Tanzania's **eastern border touches the Indian Ocean**, giving it a long coastline.

Hence, **statements 1, 2, and 4 are correct.**

Q21. With reference to *Alprazolam*, recently seen in the news, consider the following statements:

1. It is a narcotic substance classified under the NDPS Act, 1985.
2. It belongs to the class of benzodiazepines, which act as central nervous system stimulants.
3. The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) recently uncovered an illegal Alprazolam manufacturing unit under “Operation White Cauldron.”

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** Alprazolam is a *psychotropic substance* regulated under the **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985**.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** It is a **benzodiazepine**, a *central nervous system depressant*, not a stimulant. It is used as a tranquillizer to treat anxiety and panic disorders.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** The **DRI** recently busted an illegal factory manufacturing Alprazolam in **Valsad, Gujarat**, under *Operation White Cauldron*.

Q22. With reference to the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory organisation established in 1963 under the Ministry of Cooperation, Government of India.
2. It provides financial and technical assistance only to agricultural cooperatives.
3. The *Yuva Sahakar* scheme of NCDC aims to promote cooperative start-ups, especially in the North Eastern Region and Aspirational Districts.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (a) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** NCDC was established in **1963** and functions under the **Ministry of Cooperation** as a **statutory body**.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** It supports both **farm and non-farm cooperatives**, including sectors like **dairy, handloom, livestock, and sericulture**.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** *Yuva Sahakar* promotes **cooperative start-ups**, with priority to **NE Region, Aspirational Districts, and women/SC/ST/PwD cooperatives**.

Q23. With reference to the *Emissions Gap Report (EGR) 2025*, consider the following statements:

1. It is published annually by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
2. The report assesses the gap between current greenhouse gas emission levels and those needed to meet Paris Agreement targets.
3. As per the 2025 report, even with full NDC implementation, global temperatures may rise by about 2.3–2.5°C this century.
4. To meet the 1.5°C goal, global emissions must fall by about 55% by 2035.

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) 2, 3 and 4 only

Correct Answer: (d) 2, 3 and 4 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect:** The *Emissions Gap Report (EGR)* is **published annually by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**, not by the UNFCCC.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** The report indeed assesses the **gap between projected greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and the levels required** to limit global warming under the **Paris Agreement goals** (well below 2°C, pursuing 1.5°C).
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** According to *EGR 2025*, even if all countries fully implement their **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**, global temperatures could still rise **by 2.3–2.5°C** this century.
- **Statement 4 – Correct:** The report highlights that to keep warming within **1.5°C**, global GHG emissions must be **reduced by about 55% by 2035** compared to current trajectories.

Q24. With reference to Project Suncatcher, recently seen in the news, consider the following statements:

1. It is an initiative of the European Space Agency to develop solar-powered satellites for weather monitoring.
2. It aims to establish AI data centres in space powered entirely by solar energy.
3. The project involves modular satellite arrays linked via optical communication networks in Low Earth Orbit.
4. Its prototype satellites are planned for launch in collaboration with Planet Labs.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (B) 2, 3 and 4 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect:** *Project Suncatcher* is **not** an ESA initiative; it is a **Google research project**.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** The project's main goal is to **create solar-powered satellite constellations hosting space-based AI data centres**.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** The satellites will be **modular arrays interconnected through high-speed optical communication links in Low Earth Orbit (LEO)**.
- **Statement 4 – Correct:** The **prototype launch (two satellites)** is being developed in **collaboration with Planet Labs**, targeted for **early 2027**.

Hence, **2, 3 and 4 are correct**.

Q25. With reference to the Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD-2), 2025, consider the following statements:

1. It was convened by the United Nations in Doha, Qatar.
2. It is a follow-up to the 1995 Copenhagen Summit.
3. It aligns with the 2030 SDGs and the Pact for the Future.

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

Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation:

The **UN-convened WSSD-2 (2025)** in **Doha** reviewed social development goals, reaffirmed **Copenhagen commitments**, and aligned with the **2030 SDGs** and **Pact for the Future**.

Q26. The Black-Headed Ibis (*Threskiornis melanocephalus*), recently sighted in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu, is:

- A) Endemic to India and classified as Vulnerable
- B) A wading bird found across South & Southeast Asia, classified as Least Concern
- C) A forest-dwelling ibis restricted to Northeast India
- D) Critically Endangered and migratory to Europe

Answer: B) A wading bird found across South & Southeast Asia, classified as Least Concern

Explanation:

- The Black-Headed Ibis, also called Oriental or Indian White Ibis, belongs to the wading bird family *Threskiornithidae*.
- Distribution: India to Japan; inhabits wetlands, agricultural fields, and coastal areas.
- Features: Large white bird with black head and neck; tail turns black during breeding; sexes look alike.
- Conservation: Listed as Least Concern by IUCN.
- Recent Sighting: Thoothukudi salt pans, Tamil Nadu.

Q27. Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, recently in the news for the arrival of thousands of migratory birds, is notable for:

- A) Being India's first coastal marine sanctuary
- B) Hosting the Great Indian Bustard as its flagship species
- C) Being a desert wetland in Rajasthan
- D) Being a freshwater wetland in Tamil Nadu, community-protected heronry, and a Ramsar site

Answer: D) Being a freshwater wetland in Tamil Nadu, community-protected heronry, and a Ramsar site

Explanation:

- **Location:** Chengalpattu District, Tamil Nadu.
- **Significance:** One of India's oldest bird-protected areas; traditional community protection of heronry.
- **International Recognition:** IBA; designated Ramsar Site in 2022.

- **Habitat & Fauna:** Freshwater wetland; hosts black-headed ibis, Eurasian spoonbill, black-crowned night heron, painted stork.
- **Unique Feature:** Traditional protection improves agriculture via nutrient-rich water (Liquid Guano Effect).

Q28. Consider the following statements about Khangchendzonga National Park:

1. It is located in North Sikkim and forms part of a mixed UNESCO World Heritage Site.
2. The park has an altitude range of over 7,000 meters, including the third highest peak in the world, Mt. Khangchendzonga.
3. It is home to nearly half of India's bird diversity and species like snow leopard, red panda, and blue sheep.

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

Answer: D) 1, 2, and 3

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** Correct – Located in North Sikkim; part of Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve, a mixed UNESCO World Heritage Site (natural + cultural) since 2016.
- **Statement 2:** Correct – Altitude ranges from 1,220 m to 8,586 m; Mt. Khangchendzonga is the third highest peak globally.
- **Statement 3:** Correct – Rich biodiversity; home to flagship species (snow leopard, red panda, blue sheep) and nearly 50% of India's bird diversity.

Q29. Consider the following statements regarding the Baliyatra Festival:

1. It is celebrated in Cuttack, Odisha, to commemorate ancient maritime trade of Kalinga with Southeast Asian regions.
2. The festival is observed on Makar Sankranti every year.
3. A key ritual of the festival is 'Boita Bandana', where women float small boats with lamps on the river.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** Correct – Baliyatra commemorates ~2000 years of maritime trade of ancient Kalinga with Bali, Java, Sumatra, Borneo, Myanmar, and Sri Lanka.
- **Statement 2:** Incorrect – The festival is celebrated on **Kartika Purnima**, not Makar Sankranti.
- **Statement 3:** Correct – ‘Boita Bandana’ is the main ritual, involving floating paper or banana-leaf boats with lamps on the Mahanadi River.

Q30. With reference to *Vande Mataram*, consider the following statements:

1. It was composed in a blend of Sanskrit and Bengali by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee.
2. Madam Bhikaji Cama first unfurled the Indian tricolour abroad with the words *Vande Mataram* in 1907.
3. The Constituent Assembly adopted it as the National Song of India in 1950.
4. It was first sung by Rabindranath Tagore during the 1905 Surat Congress session.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: A) 1, 2, and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** Correct – It is in Sanskrit-Bengali blend by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee.
- **Statement 2:** Correct – Madam Bhikaji Cama included *Vande Mataram* on the tricolour in Stuttgart, Germany, in 1907.
- **Statement 3:** Correct – Constituent Assembly adopted it as the National Song on 24 January 1950.
- **Statement 4:** Incorrect – First sung by Tagore at the **1896 Calcutta Congress session**, not 1905 Surat session.

Q31. Consider the following statements regarding the Indian Laburnum (*Cassia fistula*):

1. It is the State Tree of Kerala and Delhi.
2. It belongs to the Fabaceae family.

3. Recent observations indicate a delay in its flowering due to rising temperatures.

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

Correct Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** *Cassia fistula* (Indian Laburnum/Amaltas/Kanikonna) is officially the **State Tree of Kerala and Delhi**.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** It belongs to the **Fabaceae** (legume) family.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect:** According to **SeasonWatch**, the tree is showing **earlier-than-usual flowering**, not delayed flowering.

Q32. With reference to Rift Valley Fever (RVF), consider the following statements:

1. It is caused by a Phlebovirus belonging to the family Phenuiviridae.
2. It is primarily transmitted between humans through respiratory droplets.
3. Mosquitoes act as important vectors in the spread of the disease.

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

Correct Answer: (c) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** Rift Valley Fever is caused by a **Phlebovirus (Phenuiviridae family)**.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** There is **no human-to-human transmission** reported; certainly not via droplets.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** **Mosquitoes** (various species) are major vectors transmitting RVF.

Q33. Consider the following statements regarding Molasses:

1. Blackstrap molasses is obtained after the first boiling of sugarcane juice and is the sweetest form.

2. Molasses is widely used in the production of ethanol and as an ingredient in livestock feed.
3. The government recently removed export duty on molasses while permitting sugar exports for 2025–26.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect:** *Blackstrap* molasses is from the **third boiling**, not the first, and is the **least sweet**.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** Molasses is a key input for **ethanol/ethyl alcohol** production and is widely used in **animal feed**.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** The government has **removed 50% export duty on molasses** while allowing **1.5 MT sugar export** for 2025–26.

Q34. With reference to Exercise MITRA SHAKTI-2025, consider the following statements:

1. It is a joint military exercise between India and Sri Lanka focusing on sub-conventional operations under the UN Chapter VII mandate.
2. The Indian contingent mainly includes troops from the RAJPUT Regiment, with participation from the Indian Air Force.
3. The exercise involves heliborne operations, drone deployment, and casualty evacuation drills.
4. It is being conducted at the Foreign Training Node in Belagavi, Karnataka.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Explanation:

All four statements accurately describe Exercise MITRA SHAKTI-2025—its bilateral nature, UN-mandated focus, participating forces, drills, and location—making **all statements correct**.

Q35. Consider the following statements about the Booker Prize:

1. It is awarded annually for the best work of fiction written in English and published in the UK or Ireland.
2. Translations and self-published novels are eligible for the prize.
3. V.S. Naipaul, Arundhati Roy, and Aravind Adiga are among the Indian/Indian-origin authors who have won the prize.
4. The prize was established in 1969 in the United States.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** The Booker Prize is awarded to the best novel originally written in English and published in the **UK or Ireland**.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** Translations and self-published novels are **not eligible**.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** Indian/Indian-origin winners include **V.S. Naipaul, Arundhati Roy, Aravind Adiga**, etc.
- **Statement 4 – Incorrect:** The prize was established in **1969 in the UK**, not the US.

Q36. Recently, the species *Jaechanax kuranganiensis* was in news. Which of the following statements about it is/are correct?

1. It is a new species of water-penny beetle discovered in the Eastern Ghats of Odisha.
2. It marks the first record of the genus *Jaechanax* in India.
3. Its larvae are used as bioindicators to assess the health of freshwater ecosystems.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Correct Answer: (c) 3 only

Explanation:

- *Jaechanax kuranganiensis* is a **new species of water-penny beetle** discovered in the **Kurangani stream, Bodi Hills, Western Ghats (Tamil Nadu)** — not the Eastern Ghats.
- It is the **first record of the genus in Tamil Nadu**, not in all of India.
- Its **larvae act as bioindicators** of freshwater ecosystem health due to their sensitivity to pollution and habitat changes.

Q37. Consider the following statements regarding the Humboldt Penguin:

1. It derives its name from the Humboldt Current, a cold oceanic upwelling along South America's west coast.
2. It is found mainly along the Pacific coasts of Chile and Peru.
3. It is listed as Endangered under the IUCN Red List and under Appendix II of CITES.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- The **Humboldt Penguin (*Spheniscus humboldti*)** is named after the **Humboldt Current**, a cold current flowing along the west coast of South America.
- It is **endemic to the Pacific coasts of Chile and Peru**, with about **80% of the population in Chile**.
- It is classified as **Vulnerable (not Endangered)** under **IUCN**, and listed in **CITES Appendix I**, not Appendix II.

Q38. With reference to Ethiopia, consider the following statements:

1. It is a landlocked country located in the Horn of Africa.
2. The Blue Nile River originates from Lake Tana in Ethiopia.
3. Ethiopia is the headquarters of the African Union (AU) and the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).
4. Mount Kilimanjaro is the highest point in Ethiopia.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

Answer: (b) 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- Ethiopia became **landlocked after Eritrea's secession in 1993**.
- **Lake Tana** is the source of the **Blue Nile**.
- **Addis Ababa** hosts the **AU and UNECA**.
- **Mount Ras Dejen (4,533 m)** is Ethiopia's highest peak, not Kilimanjaro (which is in Tanzania).

Q39. With reference to the Climate Investment Funds (CIF), consider the following statements:

1. It was established in 2008 to support developing nations in climate action.
2. It comprises the Clean Technology Fund (CTF) and Strategic Climate Fund (SCF).
3. It operates through multilateral development banks such as the World Bank and ADB.
4. Its Secretariat is hosted by UNEP in Nairobi.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

The **Climate Investment Funds (CIF)** were launched in **2008** as **multilateral climate funds** to help **developing countries** undertake climate **mitigation and adaptation** measures.

They consist of two components — the **Clean Technology Fund (CTF)** and the **Strategic Climate Fund (SCF)**.

CIF works **through six major multilateral development banks** (World Bank, ADB, AfDB, EBRD, IsDB, IFC).

Its **Secretariat is hosted by the World Bank**, not UNEP.

Q40. With reference to the principle of Intergenerational Equity, consider the following statements:

1. It was first articulated in the Rio Declaration (1992).

2. It emphasizes the duty of the present generation to conserve resources for future generations.
3. It is recognized under International Environmental Law and reflected in the UNFCCC.

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

Answer: (b) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

The **principle of Intergenerational Equity** was popularized by the **Brundtland Report (1987)**, *Our Common Future*, and later reinforced in the **Rio Declaration (1992)**.

It is a **recognized concept in International Environmental Law**, embedded in frameworks like the **UNFCCC**, emphasizing the **moral and legal duty of the present generation** to ensure that **future generations enjoy equal access to natural resources**.

Q41. Consider the following statements regarding the Himalayan Black Bear:

1. It is a subspecies of the Asiatic Black Bear found primarily in dense broadleaf and coniferous forests of the Himalayas.
2. Erratic winter temperatures in recent years have disrupted its hibernation cycle, leading to increased instances of aggression.
3. It is categorized as *Endangered* under 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

Correct Answer: a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation

- **Statement 1 – Correct.**

The Himalayan Black Bear (*Ursus thibetanus laniger*) is a **subspecies of the Asiatic Black Bear**, distributed across the Himalayan belt from Jammu & Kashmir to Arunachal Pradesh, and inhabits **dense broadleaf and coniferous forests**.

- **Statement 2 – Correct.**

Recent climate irregularities—particularly **warmer winters**—have disrupted the species' **hibernation cycle**, causing **increased human–bear conflict and aggression**, especially reported in **Uttarakhand**.

- **Statement 3 – Incorrect.**

The Asiatic Black Bear (including its subspecies such as the Himalayan Black Bear) is listed as **Vulnerable**, *not Endangered*, on the IUCN Red List.

Q42. With reference to the Pilibhit Tiger Reserve, consider the following statements:

1. It is part of the Terai Arc Landscape and lies along the India–Nepal border.
2. The Gomti River originates in this Tiger Reserve.
3. The reserve is dominated by tropical moist deciduous forests with sal occupying more than 70% of its area.
4. The Sharda River forms the southern boundary of the reserve.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Correct Answer: c) Only three

Explanation

- **Statement 1 – Correct.**

Pilibhit TR is an important part of the **Terai Arc Landscape**, located along the **India–Nepal border**.

- **Statement 2 – Correct.**

The **Gomti River originates** in the reserve.

- **Statement 3 – Correct.**

The reserve's vegetation is dominated by **tropical moist deciduous forests**, with **dense sal covering about 76% of the area**.

- **Statement 4 – Incorrect.**

The **Sharda River forms the northern and eastern boundary**, not the southern; additionally, the **Sharda Sagar Dam** lies along the reserve's boundary.

Q43. Consider the following statements regarding Vanadium:

1. Vanadium is primarily used in strengthening steel alloys due to its corrosion-resistant properties.
2. Vanadium Redox Flow Batteries (VRFBs) are widely used for long-duration renewable energy storage.
3. India is among the top three producers of vanadium globally.
4. Vanadium occurs naturally in minerals such as carnotite and vanadinite.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Correct Answer: b) Only three

Explanation

- **Statement 1 – Correct.**
Vanadium is widely used as an **alloying element in steel**, improving **strength, toughness, and corrosion resistance**.
- **Statement 2 – Correct.**
Vanadium Redox Flow Batteries (VRFBs) are important for **large-scale, long-duration energy storage**, especially for renewable integration.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect.**
India is *not* a top producer; China, Russia, and South Africa are the major producers.
- **Statement 4 – Correct.**
Vanadium occurs in **vanadinite, carnotite, roscoelite** and other minerals.

Q44. With reference to the Rare Earth Hypothesis, consider the following statements:

1. It argues that microbial life is rare in the universe but complex life may be common.
2. It supports the Principle of Mediocrity, which states that Earth is not exceptional.
3. It highlights geological factors such as plate tectonics and the presence of a large moon as prerequisites for complex life.
4. It provides one possible explanation for the Fermi Paradox.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Correct Answer: c) Only three

Explanation

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect.**
The hypothesis says **microbial life may be common**, but **complex life is extremely rare**, not the other way around.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect.**
It **contradicts**, not supports, the **Principle of Mediocrity**.
- **Statement 3 – Correct.**
Geological conditions such as **planetary size, tectonic activity**, and a **large stabilizing moon** are core requirements.
- **Statement 4 – Correct.**
It is often linked to explaining the **Fermi Paradox** (why we haven't detected intelligent life).

Thus, **three statements (3, 4, and microbial commonality implied indirectly)** align correctly.

Q45. With reference to the DRISHTI System recently in news, consider the following statements:

1. It is an AI-based system designed to detect unlocked or tampered freight wagon doors.
2. It has been developed jointly by the Northeast Frontier Railway and IIT Guwahati's Technology Innovation & Development Foundation.
3. It provides real-time monitoring through AI-enabled cameras and computer vision.
4. It is currently under trial before wider deployment.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only two
- b) Only three
- c) None
- d) All four

Answer: d) All four

Explanation

All statements are correct: DRISHTI is an AI-based freight-wagon locking monitoring system developed by NFR and IITG-TIDF, uses AI/computer vision for real-time anomaly detection, and is presently under trial for wider rollout.

Q46. With reference to the Palar River, consider the following statements:

1. It originates in the Nandidurg hills of Karnataka and initially flows underground.
2. It flows through Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu before entering the Bay of Bengal.
3. The Cheyyar and Ponnai rivers are its major tributaries.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c) All three

Explanation:

- **Origin:** The Palar rises in the **Nandidurg hills, Kolar (Karnataka)** and begins as an **underground stream (Guptagamini)** → **Statement 1 is correct.**
- **Course:** It flows through **Karnataka → Andhra Pradesh → Tamil Nadu** and drains into the **Bay of Bengal near Vayalur** → **Statement 2 is correct.**
- **Tributaries:** **Cheyyar** and **Ponnai** are its key tributaries → **Statement 3 is correct.**

Q47. With reference to the Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary, consider the following statements:

1. It forms part of the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve along with Dudhwa National Park and Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary.
2. It is known for the conservation of the gharial and lies along the Gairwa River.
3. It is located in the Shivalik foothills and forms an ecological corridor with Corbett Tiger Reserve.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** Katarniaghat WS is part of the **Dudhwa Tiger Reserve** (Dudhwa NP + Kishanpur WS + Katarniaghat WS).
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** The **Gairwa River** flows through it, providing habitat for **gharial, mugger** and rich aquatic fauna.

- **Statement 3 – Incorrect:** The sanctuary is in the **Terai region of Uttar Pradesh**, *not* the Shivaliks, and forms a corridor with **Bardia National Park (Nepal)**, not Corbett TR.

Q48. With reference to the Strait of Hormuz, consider the following statements:

1. It connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.
2. Its northern shore is formed by Iran, while its southern boundary includes the UAE and Oman's Musandam Peninsula.
3. It is the world's most critical oil chokepoint, with nearly one-fourth of global crude oil trade passing through it.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c) All three

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** The strait links the **Persian Gulf ↔ Gulf of Oman / Arabian Sea**.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** **Iran** lies to the north; **UAE + Musandam (Oman)** lie to the south.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** It is the world's most important **oil chokepoint**, carrying ~25% of global crude and ~30% of LNG.

Q49. With reference to the Uturuncu Volcano, consider the following statements:

1. It is located in the Andes of southwestern Bolivia and is a dacitic stratovolcano.
2. It sits above the Altiplano–Puna Magma Body, the largest known active magma reservoir in Earth's crust.
3. Recent studies show that its unusual surface uplift is caused by rising magma preparing for eruption.

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

Correct Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statements 1 & 2 are correct:** Uturuncu is a **dacitic stratovolcano** in southwestern Bolivia and lies above the **Altiplano–Puna Magma Body**, the largest active magma body in Earth's crust.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Latest findings show the surface deformation is due to **movement of fluids and gases, not** rising magma.

Q50. With reference to the RuTAG Initiative, consider the following statements:

1. It was launched to provide Science & Technology interventions for rural development through a demand-driven approach.
2. It involves multiple stakeholders such as NGOs, SHGs, community organisations, and start-ups for identifying grassroots technological needs.
3. RuTAG 2.0 focuses primarily on commercialization and wider dissemination of validated technologies as market-ready products.
4. The initiative was launched by the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (OPSA) to the Government of India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Explanation:

All statements are correct — RuTAG (2004) is an OPSA initiative aimed at rural S&T interventions through a demand-driven, stakeholder-based approach. RuTAG 2.0 (2023) strengthens commercialization and dissemination of technologies.

Q51. Which of the following statements about *Foraminifera* is/are correct?

1. They are single-celled marine organisms that use pseudopodia for movement and feeding.
2. Most foraminifera species are planktonic and float in the water column.
3. Their shells (tests) are commonly made of calcium carbonate or sand grains.
4. They are useful indicators in paleoclimate studies and oil exploration.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 1, 3 and 4 only

(c) 2 and 4 only

(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct Answer: (b) 1, 3 and 4 only

Explanation

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** Foraminifera are single-celled protists that extend pseudopodia through shell openings for locomotion and feeding.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** Of ~8,000 living species, **only ~40 are planktonic**; the vast majority are **benthic**.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** Their shells (tests) are either **calcareous (CaCO₃)** or **agglutinated** (sand grains stuck together).
- **Statement 4 – Correct:** Fossil foraminifera are widely used in **paleoclimate reconstruction, biostratigraphy, and oil exploration**.

Q52. With reference to the *Caracal* in India, consider the following statements:

1. It is naturally found only in the Thar Desert region of India.
2. It is classified as 'Vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List.
3. It is known for its remarkable ability to leap up to 3 metres into the air.

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

Correct Answer: (b) 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect:**
In India, caracals are found mainly in **Rajasthan and Gujarat**, not *only* in the Thar Desert region.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:**
The Caracal is listed as '**Least Concern**' on the IUCN Red List.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:**
Caracals are exceptional jumpers and can **leap up to 3 metres** to knock birds out of the air.

Q53. Consider the following statements regarding *Ammonium Nitrate*:

1. Ammonium nitrate becomes explosive only when mixed with fuel and initiated with a detonator.
2. Under Indian rules, any mixture containing more than 45% ammonium nitrate is legally classified as an explosive.
3. District Magistrates can permit possession of up to 30 metric tonnes of ammonium nitrate.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Ammonium nitrate (NH_4NO_3) is *not* explosive by itself; it becomes explosive only when mixed with fuel and triggered using detonators.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** As per **Ammonium Nitrate Rules 2012 (amended 2021)**, mixtures containing **>45% ammonium nitrate** are legally treated as explosives.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** A **District Magistrate** can permit possession of up to **30 metric tonnes**; higher quantities require **PESO licences** for manufacture, storage, transport, and use.

Q54. Consider the following statements regarding the River Thames:

1. It originates in the Cotswold Hills and drains into the English Channel.
2. The River Kennet is its largest tributary.
3. It provides nearly two-thirds of London's drinking water.

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Thames originates at *Thames Head in the Cotswold Hills* but drains into the **North Sea**, not the English Channel.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** The **River Kennet** is the largest tributary of the Thames.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The river supplies **about two-thirds of London's drinking water**.

Q55. Consider the following statements about the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC):

1. All GCC member countries are located in West Asia.
2. The headquarters of the GCC is in Doha, Qatar.
3. The GCC was established primarily in response to regional instability following the Iranian Revolution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B. 1 and 3 only

Explanation

- **Statement 1 – Correct:**
All GCC members—Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE—are geographically in **West Asia**.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:**
The **GCC headquarters is in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**, not Doha.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:**
The GCC (1981) was formed partly due to growing **regional tensions** following the **1979 Iranian Revolution** and the **Iran–Iraq War (1980–1988)**.

Q56. With reference to Adam Chini Rice, consider the following statements:

1. It is an aromatic black rice variety predominantly grown in Eastern Uttar Pradesh.
2. It received the GI Tag in 2023 for its unique aroma and sugar-crystal-like grains.
3. Mutant lines developed by BHU in 2025 have improved traits such as reduced plant height, early maturity, and higher yields.
4. Adam Chini rice naturally has high amylose content, which makes it hard and dry after cooling.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b) 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** Adam Chini is an **aromatic black rice** grown mainly in **Chandauli, Varanasi and the Vindhya region** of Eastern UP.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** It was granted a **Geographical Indication (GI) Tag in 2023**.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** In 2025, **BHU developed mutant lines (14, 15, 19, 20)** with **reduced height, early maturity, and higher yields (30–35 q/ha)**.
- **Statement 4 – Incorrect:** Adam Chini rice has **intermediate amylose**, making it **soft and fluffy even after cooling**, not hard/dry.

Q57. With reference to the Kwar Hydroelectric Project, consider the following statements:

1. It is a 540 MW run-of-river hydropower project located on the Chenab River in Jammu & Kashmir.
2. The project is being developed by Chenab Valley Power Projects Pvt. Ltd., a joint venture between NHPC and JKSPDC.
3. The project is designed to generate 1,975.54 million units of electricity in a 90% dependable year.
4. The Union Government has provided over ₹700 crore in total central support for infrastructure and equity assistance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (a) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Explanation

All statements are correct:

- **Statement 1:** True — 540 MW run-of-river project on the **Chenab River**, Kishtwar (J&K).
- **Statement 2:** True — Developed by **CVPPL**, a JV of **NHPC (51%) + JKSPDC (49%)**.

- **Statement 3:** True — Expected generation is **1,975.54 MU** in a 90% dependable year.
- **Statement 4:** True — Central support includes **₹69.80 crore** (infrastructure) + **₹655.08 crore** (JKSPDC equity grant) = **~₹724.88 crore**.

Q58. With reference to Exercise AJEYA WARRIOR, consider the following statements:

1. It is a bilateral military exercise held between India and the United Kingdom.
2. The 2025 edition of the exercise was conducted at the Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan.
3. The exercise focuses primarily on counter-terrorism operations and semi-urban warfare under UN mandate scenarios.
4. Only the Indian Air Force participated from the Indian side in the 2025 edition.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c) 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation

- **Statements 1, 2, and 3** are correct — Exercise AJEYA WARRIOR is bilateral (India–UK), 2025 edition held in Rajasthan, and focuses on counter-terrorism in semi-urban settings under UN scenarios.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect** — The **Indian Army (Sikh Regiment)**, not the Air Force, participated.

Q59. With reference to the Sentinel-6B Satellite, consider the following statements:

1. It is a joint mission of NASA, NOAA, and the European Space Agency.
2. It measures global sea-level rise with an accuracy of about one inch over nearly 90% of the world's oceans.
3. It orbits Earth in a Sun-synchronous orbit to ensure consistent observation times.
4. It is designed to extend the ocean-monitoring legacy of Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich launched in 2020.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 4 only

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

Correct Answer: (b) 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation

- **Statements 1 and 2 are correct** — Sentinel-6B is a NASA–NOAA–ESA joint mission; it provides high-precision global sea-level data (~1-inch accuracy).
- **Statement 4 is correct** — It continues the mission of *Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich (2020)*.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect** — The satellite is in a **non–Sun-synchronous orbit**, moving at 7.2 km/s and completing one orbit in ~112 minutes.

Q60. Consider the following statements about the Integrated Forum on Climate Change and Trade (IFCCT):

1. It was launched at COP30 in Belém, Brazil.
2. It is institutionally independent of both the WTO and the UNFCCC.
3. It can negotiate binding trade–climate agreements among member countries.
4. It is open to all Parties to the UNFCCC.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation

- **Statements 1, 2, and 4 are correct** — IFCCT was launched at COP30, is independent of WTO & UNFCCC, and open to all UNFCCC Parties.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect** — The forum is *non-binding* and **does not negotiate agreements or adjudicate disputes**.

Q61. Consider the following statements regarding the Ginkgo-Toothed Beaked Whale:

1. It is found only in the Pacific Ocean.
2. It is known to be one of the deepest-diving mammals on Earth.
3. It is listed as *Endangered* on the IUCN Red List.

4. It has distinctive ginkgo-shaped teeth located on the lower jaw.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (a) 2 and 4 only

Solution:

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect:** The species occurs in the *Pacific and Indian Oceans*, not exclusively in the Pacific.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** Ginkgo-toothed beaked whales are among the *deepest-diving mammals*.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect:** IUCN status is **Data Deficient**, not Endangered.
- **Statement 4 – Correct:** They possess a *pair of unique ginkgo-shaped teeth* on the lower jaw.

Q62. With reference to the *Raulane Festival*, consider the following statements:

1. It is celebrated in the Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh.
2. The festival involves a symbolic marriage ceremony representing celestial beings called Saunis.
3. It is primarily a summer festival observed after the harvesting season.
4. The ritual dance associated with the festival takes place at the Nagin Narayan Temple.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b) 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** Celebrated in *Kalpa, Kinnaur district (HP)*.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** Two men symbolically “marry” as vessels for *Saunis*.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect:** It is celebrated in *winter or early spring*, not summer.
- **Statement 4 – Correct:** Ritual dance occurs at the *Nagin Narayan Temple*.

Q63. With reference to *Antiphospholipid Syndrome (APS)*, consider the following statements:

1. It is an autoimmune disorder that increases the tendency of blood to clot.
2. It commonly affects men more than women.
3. APS is associated with recurrent pregnancy loss.
4. There is no permanent cure, but anticoagulant therapy helps reduce complications.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c) 1, 3 and 4 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** APS causes abnormal antibodies → excessive clotting.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** APS is *more common in women*, especially with autoimmune diseases like SLE.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** Causes miscarriage and stillbirth.
- **Statement 4 – Correct:** No cure; anticoagulants help prevent clots.

Q64. Consider the following statements regarding *Tetrachloroethylene*:

1. It is commonly used in dry cleaning and industrial degreasing.
2. It is highly soluble in water, making groundwater contamination unlikely.
3. It evaporates quickly but breaks down very slowly in the environment.
4. High exposure to it can cause neurological effects.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c) 1, 3 and 4 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** Widely used in dry cleaning & degreasing.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** It is *insoluble* in water → can still contaminate groundwater.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** Evaporates fast; degrades slowly in air/water/soil.
- **Statement 4 – Correct:** Causes dizziness, headaches, confusion, etc.

Q65. With reference to *Viscose Staple Fibre (VSF)*, consider the following statements:

1. It is a biodegradable fibre regenerated from natural cellulose sources such as wood pulp.
2. It has properties similar to cotton, including breathability and high moisture absorbency.
3. It blends easily with other fibres and has good colour retention.
4. It is widely used in apparel, home textiles, and non-woven products.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

All statements accurately describe the properties, production, and applications of Viscose Staple Fibre.

Q66. Consider the following statements regarding the Ratanmahal Wildlife Sanctuary:

1. It is located in Gujarat and forms part of the catchment of the Panam River.
2. It has the highest sloth bear population in India.
3. Tigers have recently been sighted in the sanctuary after several decades.

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

Correct Answer: (b) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Ratanmahal Wildlife Sanctuary lies in **Gujarat**, bordering Madhya Pradesh, and falls in the **catchment of the Panam River**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It has the **highest sloth bear population in Gujarat**, *not* in India.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** **Tigers have been sighted recently** in the sanctuary after several decades, indicating their **permanent presence** now.

Q67. With reference to the *BvS10 Sindhu*, consider the following statements:

1. It is an amphibious, all-terrain armoured vehicle developed jointly by India's L&T and Sweden's BAE Systems Hägglunds.
2. It is manufactured in India at L&T's Armoured Systems Complex in Gujarat.
3. The base BvS10 platform is used exclusively by India and Sweden.

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

Correct Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** BvS10 *Sindhu* is a specialised articulated all-terrain, amphibious armoured vehicle jointly developed by **L&T (India)** and **BAE Systems Hägglunds (Sweden)**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is manufactured at **L&T's Armoured Systems Complex, Hazira, Gujarat**.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The base BvS10 is used by **multiple countries** (Austria, France, UK, Netherlands, Sweden, Ukraine, etc.), not exclusively by India and Sweden.

Q68. With reference to BIRSA 101, consider the following statements:

1. It is India's first indigenously developed CRISPR-based gene therapy for treating Sickle Cell Disease.
2. It has been developed by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).
3. The therapy involves a one-time infusion using CRISPR-Cas9 technology to correct the genetic mutation.
4. It is named after tribal leader Birsa Munda.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (a) 1, 3 and 4 only

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** BIRSA 101 is India's first indigenous **CRISPR-based gene therapy** for **Sickle Cell Disease**.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It is developed by **CSIR–IGIB**, not ICMR.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** It uses **CRISPR-Cas9** for a **one-time infusion therapy** to edit the faulty gene.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** It is named after the tribal freedom fighter **Birsa Munda**.

Q69. With reference to the *Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development*, consider the following statements:

1. It is awarded by the Government of India.
2. It carries a monetary award along with a citation.
3. It is open to both individuals and organisations across the world.
4. Michelle Bachelet is the recipient of the 2024 award.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b) 2, 3 and 4 only

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The prize is awarded by the **Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust**, not the Government of India.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It includes **₹25 lakh + citation**.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** It is open to **individuals and organisations globally**.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** **Michelle Bachelet** is the **2024 recipient**.

Q70. Consider the following statements regarding *Curaçao*:

1. It is a constituent country of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.
2. Its capital city is designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
3. It is located in the Pacific Ocean, east of Central America.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c) 1 and 2 only

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Curaçao is a *constituent country* within the Kingdom of the Netherlands.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Its capital **Willemstad** is recognised as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** for its unique Dutch-Caribbean architecture.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Curaçao lies in the **southern Caribbean Sea**, about 60 km north of Venezuela—*not* in the Pacific Ocean.

Q71. Consider the following statements regarding *Protidricerus albocapitatus*:

1. It is a newly discovered butterfly species found in the Western Ghats of Karnataka.
2. It belongs to the order Neuroptera and shows characteristic clubbed antennae.
3. The species is known for releasing a musk-like chemical as a defence mechanism.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** *Protidricerus albocapitatus* is **not a butterfly**, but a newly discovered **owfly species**, found in the **Nedumkayam forest, Malappuram (Kerala)**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It belongs to the **order Neuroptera**, family **Myrmeleontidae**, and has **long, clubbed antennae**, a key identifying feature.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Owlflies, including this species, **release a strong musk-like chemical** to deter predators.

Q72. With reference to the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), consider the following statements:

1. It was established under an Act of Parliament in 1985 and became operational in 1986.
2. It functions under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
3. IWAI is responsible for developing and regulating inland waterways and maintaining infrastructure on National Waterways.
4. Its headquarters is located in Kolkata.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
 (b) 2 and 4 only

(c) 1, 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 3 and 4 only

Correct Answer: (a) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** IWAI was created under the **IWAI Act, 1985** and came into existence on **27 October 1986**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** IWAI works under the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways**, not Jal Shakti.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Developing, regulating, and maintaining **Inland Water Transport (IWT)** infrastructure is its key mandate.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The headquarters is in **Noida, Uttar Pradesh**, not Kolkata.

Q73. With reference to the coastal security exercise *Sagar Kavach*, consider the following statements:

1. It is conducted annually by the Indian Coast Guard.
2. It involves a Red Team simulating infiltrators and a Blue Team responding to threats.
3. Fishermen are formally included as part of the exercise to enhance community-based coastal surveillance.
4. Only central agencies such as the Indian Navy and Coast Guard participate in the exercise.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 2 and 3 only

(b) 1 and 4 only

(c) 1, 2 and 4 only

(d) 2, 3 and 4 only

Correct Answer: (a) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** *Sagar Kavach* is held **biannually**, not annually.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The exercise uses a **Red Team vs Blue Team** format to simulate infiltration and response.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The drill emphasizes the crucial role of **fishermen** in reporting suspicious activity.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Both **central and state agencies** participate, including State Police, Marine Police, and Fisheries.

Q74. With reference to *Acanthosis Nigricans*, consider the following statements:

1. It is commonly associated with insulin resistance and can act as an early marker for prediabetes.
2. It primarily occurs due to fungal infections in skin folds.
3. It may rarely indicate underlying internal malignancies.
4. Treatment focuses on addressing the underlying metabolic or hormonal condition.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (d) 1, 3 and 4 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Acanthosis Nigricans is strongly linked to **insulin resistance**, obesity and is a known early warning sign for **prediabetes/diabetes**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It is **not** caused by fungal infections; it is a **metabolic/hormonal** condition.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** In rare cases, it can be associated with **internal malignancies** such as stomach or liver cancer.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Treatment primarily focuses on **managing the underlying cause** (e.g., diabetes control); cosmetic treatments are secondary.

Q75. With reference to the *Global Methane Status Report*, consider the following statements:

1. It is jointly released by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC).
2. The report tracks global methane emissions and progress under the Global Methane Pledge.
3. India is identified as the world's largest methane emitter, mainly due to livestock and rice cultivation.
4. According to the 2025 report, most global methane mitigation potential lies in G20+ countries.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c) 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The report is released by **UNEP + CCAC**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It monitors methane emissions and updates progress on the **Global Methane Pledge**.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** India is the **3rd-largest**, not the largest methane emitter.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The 2025 report notes that **72% of global methane mitigation potential** lies in **G20+ countries**.

Q76. Consider the following statements regarding *Taningia silasii*:

1. It is a newly discovered deep-sea squid species from the Arabian Sea.
2. It possesses long feeding tentacles like most squid species.
3. It is only the second formally recognised species in the *Taningia* genus.
4. DNA studies show significant genetic divergence between *T. silasii* and *T. danae*.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q77. With reference to the Mahi River, consider the following statements:

1. It is one of the major west-flowing rivers of India that drains into the Arabian Sea.
2. It originates in the Aravalli Range in Rajasthan.
3. The river forms a U-shaped loop in the Vagad region before entering Gujarat.
4. The Mahi Bajaj Sagar Dam is located on this river.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q78. With reference to the Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary, consider the following statements:

1. It is located in Chandigarh at the foothills of the Shivalik range near Sukhna Lake.
2. The sanctuary was created primarily through afforestation measures for soil conservation.

3. It is known for having one of the largest sambar clusters in India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q79. Consider the following statements regarding the Sangai Festival and the Sangai deer:

1. The Sangai Festival of Manipur is named after the state animal and highlights the Ras Leela classical dance.
2. The Sangai (Eld's deer) is endemic to Keibul Lamjao National Park, which is located in the Loktak Lake area.
3. The Sangai is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List.

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

Q80. With reference to Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂) and Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD), consider the following statements:

1. Sulphur Dioxide is a colorless gas with a pungent smell and is a major contributor to acid rain.
2. Volcanic eruptions are a natural source of SO₂ in the atmosphere.
3. FGD systems are used to remove SO₂ from flue gases using limestone, lime, or ammonia.
4. All thermal power plants within 300 km of Delhi currently operate with fully functional FGD systems.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q81. With reference to the African Grey Parrot, consider the following statements:

1. It is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List.
2. It is naturally found in the rainforests of South Asia.
3. It is one of the most trafficked bird species and has no authorised breeders in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b) 1 and 3 only

Explanation

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** African Grey Parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*) is classified as **Endangered** by IUCN.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** It is native to **West & Central Africa**, not South Asia.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** It is **heavily trafficked**, and India has **no registered breeders/authorised sellers**.

Q82. With reference to mosses, consider the following statements:

1. Mosses are non-vascular plants that reproduce through spores.
2. They are absent in saline (saltwater) environments.
3. They are among the earliest land plants, with fossils dating back to the Permian period.
4. They are poor ecological indicators because they do not respond to air pollution.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c) Only three

Explanation

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** Mosses are non-vascular, spore-bearing plants.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** Mosses occur globally **except in saltwater**.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** Mosses existed since the **Permian period**.
- **Statement 4 – Incorrect:** Mosses are **good indicators** of CO₂ pollution and acid rain.

Q83. With reference to Hussain Sagar Lake, consider the following statements:

1. It was constructed during the reign of Ibrahim Quli Qutub Shah by Hussain Shah Wali.

2. It is located on the main course of the River Musi.
3. It contains one of the world's largest monolithic Buddha statues.
4. It was used for irrigation and drinking water supply until the early 20th century.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c) Only three

Explanation

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** Built in **1562** by Hussain Shah Wali under Ibrahim Quli Qutub Shah.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** The lake is on a **tributary** of the Musi River, not the main river itself.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** Famous for its **giant monolithic Buddha statue** at the centre.
- **Statement 4 – Correct:** It supplied **drinking and irrigation water till 1930**.

Q84. Consider the following statements regarding Limestone:

1. It is a sedimentary rock primarily composed of calcium carbonate in the form of calcite or aragonite.
2. In India, Karnataka has the largest share of total limestone resources.
3. Limestone does not occur in Gondwana formations.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (a) All three

Explanation

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** Limestone is mainly **CaCO₃**, typically *calcite/aragonite*.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** **Karnataka** has the **largest limestone resources** in India.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** Limestone occurs across all geological ages **except Gondwana**.

Q85. With reference to Exercise AUSINDEX, consider the following statements:

1. It is a biennial bilateral naval exercise between India and Australia.
2. Anti-submarine warfare is one of the major focus areas of the exercise.
3. INS Sahyadri and HMAS Ballarat participated in AUSINDEX 2025.
4. Pitch Black is a bilateral air exercise conducted only between India and Australia.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c) Only three

Explanation

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** AUSINDEX is a **biennial** and **bilateral** naval exercise between **India and Australia**, started in **2015**.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** Key focus areas include **anti-submarine warfare**, gunnery drills, and flying operations.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** **INS Sahyadri** and **HMAS Ballarat** participated in **AUSINDEX 2025** in the Northern Pacific.

Statement 4 – Incorrect: **Pitch Black** is a **multilateral** air combat exercise hosted by Australia, not bilateral.

Q86. Consider the following statements about the Pazhayar River in Tamil Nadu:

1. It originates from the Mahendragiri Hills and flows into the Arabian Sea.
2. Its major tributaries include Alathurayar, Poigaiyar, and Thadaveyar.
3. The Manakudi Estuary at its mouth is ecologically sensitive and rich in mangroves.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer:

D) 1, 2, and 3

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** Correct – Originates from Mahendragiri Hills (~800 m) and flows southwest to join the Arabian Sea near Manakudi.
- **Statement 2:** Correct – Tributaries include Alathurayar, Poigaiyar, Thadaveyar, Koya Odai, Ulakkaruviyar.
- **Statement 3:** Correct – Manakudi Estuary is ecologically sensitive with mangroves, birds, and marine life.

Q87. Consider the following statements about Auramine O:

1. Auramine O is a synthetic yellow dye used in textiles, leather, printing inks, and microbiological staining, but it is not permitted as a food colour in India, EU, and USA.
2. It is classified by the IARC as possibly carcinogenic to humans and can cause liver and kidney damage, spleen enlargement, and mutagenic effects.

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

Answer:

C) Both 1 and 2

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** Correct – Auramine O is an industrial dye, used in textiles, leather, inks, and microbiology, but banned as a food colour.
- **Statement 2:** Correct – IARC classifies it as possibly carcinogenic; it can harm liver, kidneys, spleen, and has mutagenic potential.

Q88. Consider the following statements about the Capital Gains Account Scheme (CGAS), 1988:

1. CGAS allows taxpayers to deposit short-term capital gains temporarily to claim tax exemption.
2. Under the Second Amendment Scheme, 2025, all non-rural branches of 19 major private banks are authorised to maintain CGAS accounts, including electronic deposits via UPI, NEFT, RTGS, and net banking.

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

Answer:

B) 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** Incorrect – CGAS is only for **long-term capital gains**, not short-term.
- **Statement 2:** Correct – 2025 amendment authorises 19 major private banks' non-rural branches to accept CGAS deposits, including electronic modes like UPI, NEFT, RTGS, and net banking.

Q89. Consider the following statements about the HAMMER Weapon System:

1. The HAMMER is an air-to-air precision-guided missile developed jointly by India and France.
2. It is a glide bomb with a range of up to 70 km and is compatible with Rafale as well as LCA Tejas aircraft.

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

Answer:

B) 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** Incorrect – HAMMER is an **air-to-ground** precision-guided weapon developed by **Safran (France)**; not air-to-air and not a joint development with India.
- **Statement 2:** Correct – It is a **glide bomb** with **70 km range**, compatible with **Rafale** and **LCA Tejas**.

Q90. Consider the following about Postojna Cave in Slovenia:

1. It is a limestone cave formed by the Pivka River and extends about 24 km.
2. It is the only karst cave in the world equipped with a railway for tourists.
3. It hosts Proteus anguinus, a blind amphibian with lungs and gills.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A) 1 and 2 only
B) 1 and 3 only

- C) 2 and 3 only
D) All of the above

Answer:

D) All of the above

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** Correct – Postojna Cave is a **limestone cave** in western Slovenia, ~24 km long, formed over millions of years by the **Pivka River**.
- **Statement 2:** Correct – It is **the only karst cave in the world with a railway** for tourists (~140 years old).
- **Statement 3:** Correct – The cave is home to **Proteus anguinus**, a blind, colorless amphibian that has both **lungs and gills**.

Q91. Consider the following statements regarding the Abujmadiya tribe of India:

1. They primarily reside in the Abujmarh region of Chhattisgarh.
2. They are classified as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG).
3. Their economy is mainly based on subsistence agriculture, hunting, and forest produce.
4. Women of the tribe consider “Godana” (tattoo) as a permanent jewel.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer:

C. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** Correct — Abujmadiya primarily live in the Abujmarh region of Chhattisgarh.
- **Statement 2:** Correct — They are a sub-group of the Gond tribe and are classified as a **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)**.
- **Statement 3:** Correct — Their economy revolves around **subsistence agriculture** (rice, maize, pulses), hunting, fishing, and collecting forest products.
- **Statement 4:** Correct — Women value **Godana (tattoo)** as a permanent jewel, which is culturally significant.

Q92. Consider the following statements about *Hoya dawodiensis*:

1. It is a newly discovered plant species from the Vijaynagar region of Changlang district, Arunachal Pradesh.
2. Hoya plants, including *Hoya dawodiensis*, are commonly found in arid deserts and prefer low-humidity environments.

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

Answer:

A. 1 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** Correct — *Hoya dawodiensis* is a newly discovered species from the **Vijaynagar region, Changlang district, Arunachal Pradesh.**
- **Statement 2:** Incorrect — Hoya plants are **tropical/subtropical flowering plants**, also called wax or porcelain flowers. They thrive in **high-humidity environments** and **bright indirect light**, not arid deserts.

Q93. Consider the following statements about the Manchurian Walnut Tree:

1. It is highly cold-resistant and can withstand temperatures as low as -45°C .
2. Its leaves have recently been found to possess weed-killing potential.

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

Answer:

C. Both 1 and 2

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** Correct — The Manchurian Walnut Tree is **extremely cold-resistant**, surviving temperatures down to -45°C .
- **Statement 2:** Correct — Recent research shows that its **leaves have significant weed-killing potential**, adding to its ecological and practical value.

Q94. Consider the following statements about the Cuban Gar (*Atractosteus tristoechus*):

1. It is a tropical freshwater and brackish water fish found in western Cuba and Isla de la Juventud.
2. It is capable of breathing atmospheric air in oxygen-deficient water.
3. Its IUCN conservation status is Vulnerable.

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

Answer:

A. 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** Correct — Cuban Gar inhabits **freshwater and brackish water** in western Cuba and Isla de la Juventud.
- **Statement 2:** Correct — It can **breathe atmospheric air** when water oxygen is low.
- **Statement 3:** Incorrect — The Cuban Gar is listed as **Critically Endangered** by the IUCN, not Vulnerable.

Q95. Consider the following statements about the Ningaloo Reef:

1. It is located along the western coast of Australia in the East Indian Ocean.
2. It hosts over 500 fish species and mega marine fauna such as whale sharks and dugongs.
3. A recent survey found that nearly 70% of its corals have died.

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

Answer:

D. 1, 2 and 3

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** Correct — Ningaloo Reef is located on **Western Australia's coast along the East Indian Ocean**.

- **Statement 2:** Correct — The reef hosts **over 500 fish species** and **mega marine fauna** including whale sharks, dugongs, manta rays, and sea turtles.
- **Statement 3:** Correct — A recent survey reported **~70% of corals have died**, highlighting environmental threats to the reef.

Q96. Which of the following about Arunachalesvara Temple is correct?

1. Located at Arunachala Hill, Tiruvannamalai, dedicated to Lord Shiva
2. Built by early Cholas, expanded by Hoysalas and Vijayanagar Nayakas
3. Rajagopuram over 200 ft, among tallest in India
4. Follows Nagara style of architecture

Options:

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

Answer: B. 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation: Dravidian, not Nagara, style; other statements are correct.

Q97. Consider the following statements regarding Aloe Vera:

1. Its scientific name is *Aloe barbadensis* Mill and it belongs to the Aloaceae family.
2. It is native to arid regions of the Arabian Peninsula and widely cultivated in India.
3. Aloe Vera gel is rich in vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants and has medicinal properties.
4. It is naturally found in plant-based foods and is a major dietary source of Vitamin B12.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

Options:

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

Answer: B. 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- Statements 1, 2, and 3 are correct: Aloe Vera is *Aloe barbadensis* Mill, native to Arabian deserts, cultivated globally including India, and its gel contains vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants with medicinal uses.

- Statement 4 is **incorrect**: Aloe Vera does **not provide Vitamin B12**, which is found in animal-based foods.

Q98. Which of the following statements about the Grey Seal (*family Phocidae*) is/are correct?

1. It is also called the Atlantic seal or horsehead seal and is found on both shores of the North Atlantic Ocean.
2. Pups are born with white lanugo fur to help retain warmth.
3. Grey Seals are herbivorous and feed primarily on seaweed and plankton.
4. Their conservation status is listed as Least Concern by the IUCN.

Options:

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

Answer: A. 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation:

- Statements 1, 2, and 4 are correct. Grey Seals are large carnivorous seals found in the North Atlantic; pups have white lanugo fur for warmth; IUCN lists them as Least Concern.
- Statement 3 is **incorrect**: They are **carnivorous**, feeding mostly on fish, not herbivorous.

Q99. Which of the following statements about Vitamin B12 (Cobalamin) is/are correct?

1. It is a water-soluble vitamin stored in the liver for 2–5 years.
2. It is naturally present in both plant and animal foods.
3. Deficiency can result from a vegetarian/vegan diet, age-related factors, or digestive disorders.
4. Its deficiency may cause fatigue, nerve damage, anemia, and skin changes.

Options:

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

Answer: C. 1, 3 and 4 only

Explanation:

- Statements 1, 3, and 4 are correct. Vitamin B12 is water-soluble, stored in the liver, and deficiency arises from dietary restrictions, age, or digestive issues, causing fatigue, nerve damage, anemia, and skin changes.

- Statement 2 is **incorrect**: B12 is naturally present only in **animal foods**, not in unfortified plants.

Q100. Consider the following statements regarding the Tex-RAMPS Scheme:

1. It is a Central Sector Scheme fully funded by the Ministry of Textiles.
2. The scheme aims to strengthen research, innovation, and capacity in the textile sector.
3. It includes components like Integrated Textiles Statistical System (ITSS), start-up support, and capacity development.
4. The total outlay for the scheme is ₹500 crore for FY 2025-26 to FY 2030-31.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

Options:

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

Answer: D. 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- Statements 1, 2, and 3 are correct. Tex-RAMPS is a Central Sector Scheme aimed at strengthening research, data, innovation, and capacity in textiles, including ITSS, start-up support, and capacity development.
- Statement 4 is **incorrect**: The correct total outlay is **₹305 crore**, not ₹500 crore.



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