



**Educrat IAS**  
**ACADEMY**

**No Need of going to Delhi Now!**  
**Prepare for UPSC from Kolkata**

# EDU-SAMIKSHA



**MARCH CA**  
**MCQ COMPILATION**



**AIR 135**  
**SAIMA KHAN**  
UPSC 2025



**AIR 443**  
**DEBJYOTI HALDER**  
UPSC 2025



**AIR 649**  
**JUHI DAS**  
UPSC 2025



**AIR 153**  
**SAHARS KUMAR**  
UPSC 2024



**AIR 477**  
**PARAMITA MALAKAR**  
UPSC 2024



**RESERVE LIST**  
**PRIYA PUROHIT**  
UPSC 2023

**PARK STREET: 9163228921, 9163218921**

### MARCH CA MCQs

**Q1. With reference to the Indian Freedom Struggle, consider the following statements regarding Chandra Shekhar Azad:**

1. He was a founding member of the Hindustan Republican Association (HRA) alongside Sachindranath Sanyal and Ram Prasad Bismil in 1924.
2. Under his leadership as Commander-in-Chief, the HRA was reorganized into the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA) at Feroz Shah Kotla.
3. He was the key strategist behind the 1929 Central Assembly Bombing, although he did not physically throw the bombs himself.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** While Azad was a prominent leader of the HRA, he was **not** a founding member. The HRA was founded in 1924 by Sachindranath Sanyal, Ram Prasad Bismil, and Jogesh Chandra Chatterjee. Azad joined the organization later, after the suspension of the Non-Cooperation Movement.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Following the arrests after the Kakori conspiracy, Azad and Bhagat Singh reorganized the HRA into the HSRA in 1928 at Feroz Shah Kotla, Delhi, with a shift in ideology toward Socialism.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Although Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt threw the bombs in the Central Legislative Assembly, Azad was the principal strategist behind the group's logistics and the subsequent plans to rescue the arrested revolutionaries.

**Q2. Consider the following statements regarding Macaques:**

1. They are a genus of Old World monkeys belonging to the family Cercopithecidae, characterized by dog-like muzzles with nostrils located on the lower surface.
2. In their complex social hierarchies, female rank is typically matrilineal, while male rank is often determined by alliances and physical ability.
3. According to the 'Youngest Sister Rule' observed in certain species, the youngest female sibling often holds a higher rank than her older sisters.

**How many of the statements given above are incorrect?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** While they are Old World monkeys of the family Cercopithecidae with dog-like muzzles, their nostrils are located on the **upper surface**, not the lower surface.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Macaque troops have strict dominance orders where female status is inherited from the mother (matrilineal), whereas males must often fight or form alliances to establish their rank.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** In species like the Japanese macaque, the "Youngest Sister Rule" is a documented social phenomenon where the youngest daughter ranks just below the mother, placing her above her older sisters.

**Q3. With reference to 'ASTraM' (Actionable Intelligence for Sustainable Traffic Management), consider the following statements:**

1. It is an Integrated Traffic Management System that utilizes Artificial Intelligence to shift traffic policing from a reactive to a proactive, data-driven model.
2. The system relies solely on real-time CCTV feeds and automated vehicle counters to determine dynamic signal timing at junctions.
3. It was developed as a collaborative effort between the Bengaluru Traffic Police and a prominent Dutch consultancy firm.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The primary objective of ASTraM is to transform traffic management into a proactive model using AI and Machine Learning for real-time regulation.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** While it does use AI for traffic volume analysis, the system does not rely *solely* on CCTV. It integrates data from various external sources, including Google Maps, 112 emergency calls, and social media, to provide a comprehensive traffic dashboard.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** ASTraM was developed through a partnership between the Bengaluru Traffic Police and Arcadis, a Dutch design and consultancy firm.

**Q4. With reference to the fortification of rice in India, consider the following statements:**

1. The current government initiative primarily utilizes bio-fortification, where micronutrients are added at the breeding or genetic level before harvest.
2. It is mandatory for every package of fortified rice to carry a specific disclaimer for individuals suffering from Thalassaemia and Sickle Cell Anaemia.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both of the above
- D. None of the above

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The current government initiative is based on **Food Fortification** (specifically post-harvest extrusion and manual blending), not bio-fortification. Bio-fortification happens at the genetic level (e.g., Golden Rice).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** FSSAI standards require a crucial warning/disclaimer on fortified rice packages for people with **Thalassemia** (to consume under medical supervision) and **Sickle Cell Anaemia** (advised not to consume iron-fortified food) due to potential complications with iron overload.

**Q5. With reference to Meningococcal infection, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a severe bacterial infection that can lead to both the inflammation of the brain's protective membranes and life-threatening blood poisoning.
2. While the bacteria can be spread through respiratory droplets, a significant portion of the human population can carry the pathogen in their upper respiratory tract without showing any symptoms.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both of the above
- D. None of the above

**Answer: C****Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Meningococcal bacteria (*Neisseria meningitidis*) primarily cause two life-threatening conditions: **Meningitis** (infection of the meninges covering the brain and spinal cord) and **Septicemia** (blood poisoning/meningococemia).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The infection is spread through respiratory droplets or throat secretions. Interestingly, about **10% to 20%** of the population are asymptomatic "carriers" who harbor the bacteria in their nose and throat without getting sick.

**Q6. Consider the following statements regarding Operation Epic Fury:**

1. It was a multi-domain military operation led by the U.S. Central Command (in coordination with Israel's Operation Roaring Lion).
2. Unlike traditional "shock and awe" tactics that favor night-time strikes, this operation utilized significant daylight strikes to target high-level leadership and government compounds.
3. The campaign integrated a "Fifth Domain" first strike, involving U.S. Cyber Command and Space Command to disrupt defensive sensors prior to kinetic engagements.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The operation was indeed a joint-effort strategic strike (CENTCOM + Israel) aimed at Iranian nuclear sites and missile degradation.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The shift to daylight strikes was a specific tactical choice to ensure the presence of leadership (decapitation strike), distinguishing it from operations like the 2003 invasion of Iraq.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The use of "Fifth Domain" (Cyberspace) and Space assets to blind air defenses before physical bombing is a hallmark of the multi-domain warfare strategy described.

**Q7. With reference to the Legacy Thrust Territories (LTT) framework introduced by the Union Government, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a strategic administrative framework designed by the Ministry of Home Affairs to prevent the resurgence of LWE in districts that have seen a major decline in insurgent activities.
2. Under this framework, 38 districts across states like Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Odisha have been identified for sustained security presence and focused developmental interventions.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both of the above
- D. None of the above

**Answer: C****Explanation:**

- **Context:** As of 2026, the active LWE list has shrunk to just **7 "Red Zones"** (5 in Chhattisgarh, 1 in Jharkhand, 1 in Odisha).
- **The "Legacy" Logic:** The LTT framework covers the **38 districts** that were recently cleared to ensure that the vacuum created by retreating insurgents is filled by the State (administration) rather than new radical elements.
- **Focus:** It shifts the strategy from "Active Combat" to "**Sustained Monitoring**" through administrative strengthening and rehabilitation.

**Q8. With reference to the Ruddy Shelduck (Brahminy Duck), consider the following statements:**

1. It is a migratory bird belonging to the Central Asian Flyway that breeds in the high-altitude wetlands of Ladakh at elevations exceeding 4,000 meters.
2. Under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, it is accorded high protection under Schedule II, despite its global IUCN status being 'Least Concern'.
3. It is characterized by a predominantly nocturnal behavior and exhibits a distinct sexual dimorphism where males develop a black neck-ring during the breeding season.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two

- C. All three
- D. None

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** It is one of the few species that breeds in the trans-Himalayan region (Ladakh) while wintering in the Indian plains.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** This is a common "trap" in Prelims; many students assume 'Least Concern' birds have low protection, but in India, it is placed in Schedule II for stringent protection.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Its feeding habits are largely nocturnal, and the black ring on the male's neck is a key identifier used to distinguish sexes during the breeding months.

**Q9. With reference to Oleum, also known as Fuming Sulfuric Acid, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a solution of Sulfur Trioxide  $SO_3$  dissolved in concentrated Sulfuric Acid and is an intermediate product in the Contact Process of industrial acid production.
2. When exposed to air, it reacts with atmospheric moisture to form a dense white mist of sulfuric acid droplets, a phenomenon characterized by its powerful dehydrating properties.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both of the above
- D. None of the above

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Oleum is chemically represented as  $H_2S_2O_7$ . In the Contact Process,  $SO_3$  is absorbed into  $H_2SO_4$  to form Oleum, which is then safely diluted with water to produce sulfuric acid of desired concentrations.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The "fuming" nature occurs because the dissolved  $SO_3$  gas escapes and instantly reacts with humidity in the air. Its dehydrating strength is so high that it can extract water from organic matter (like sugar), leaving behind elemental carbon.

**Q10. With reference to the Shtil-1 Missile System recently in the news, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a Russian-origin, ship-borne surface-to-air missile system designed to provide medium-range air defense against aircraft, drones, and anti-ship missiles.
2. The system utilizes a Vertical Launch System (VLS) and is being procured to strengthen the air defense capabilities of frontline Indian Navy warships.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both of the above

D. None of the above

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

- **Origin:** It is the naval version of the famous **Buk** missile family (NATO name: **SA-N-12 'Grizzly'**).
- **Tactical Advantage:** The shift to **Vertical Launch (VLS)** from older rail launchers allows for a 360-degree engagement capability and a faster rate of fire, which is critical against saturation attacks.
- **Range:** It generally covers a medium range of **3.5 km to 50 km**, acting as a crucial middle layer between long-range systems like Barak-8 and short-range CIWS (Close-in Weapon Systems).
- **Context:** The procurement is part of a larger ₹5,083-crore defense package aimed at maritime security and fleet modernization.

**Q11. With reference to the Mark-48 torpedo, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a heavyweight, dual-role weapon capable of targeting both surface ships and submarines, primarily utilizing a "keel-breaking" detonation method.
2. The propulsion system of the Mk-48 relies on Otto Fuel II, a specialized liquid monopropellant that enables high-speed underwater travel without the need for external oxygen.
3. According to reports in March 2026, it became the first U.S. torpedo since World War II to successfully sink an enemy vessel in a combat engagement.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Mk-48 is a **Heavyweight Torpedo (HWT)** designed for both **Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW)** and **Anti-Surface Warfare (ASuW)**. Its "keel-breaking" lethality involves detonating beneath the ship's hull to create a gas bubble that snaps the structural spine of the vessel.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It uses a piston engine powered by **Otto Fuel II**. This is a monopropellant, meaning it contains its own oxidizer and does not require atmospheric oxygen to burn, making it ideal for deep-sea propulsion.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** In a significant 2026 operational milestone, a Mk-48 was reportedly used by a U.S. submarine to sink the *IRIS Dena* in the Indian Ocean, marking the first time a U.S. torpedo has sunk an enemy ship in combat since 1945.

**Q12. With reference to the 'World Obesity Atlas 2026', consider the following statements:**

1. The report highlights that the prevalence of obesity among school-age children globally has, for the first time, surpassed the number of children who are underweight.

2. According to the atlas, the fastest growth in obesity rates is currently being observed in high-income developed economies due to sedentary lifestyles.
3. India currently faces a "double burden" of malnutrition and ranks second globally in the total number of children living with overweight and obesity.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The 2026 Atlas notes a historic milestone where the number of school-age children with obesity has surpassed those who are underweight globally.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The report explicitly states that the **fastest growth** in obesity rates is occurring in **low- and middle-income countries**, rather than high-income economies.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** India is described as being at the epicenter of a "silent emergency," dealing with both undernutrition and overnutrition. It ranks **2nd globally**, trailing only China.

**Q13. Consider the following statements regarding the Dusky Eagle-Owl (*Bubo coromandus*):**

1. It exhibits partially diurnal behavior and is known to be active or call during the day, particularly in cloudy weather.
2. Unlike most avian species that breed in the spring, this owl primarily breeds during the monsoon season in North India and typically occupies the abandoned nests of other large birds.

**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**

**Explanation**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** While most owls are strictly nocturnal, the Dusky Eagle-Owl is **partially diurnal**. It is frequently seen and heard during daylight hours, especially when the sky is overcast.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Its breeding cycle is unique, peaking during the **monsoon** (November to April in North India). Additionally, it is a non-nest builder, preferring to take over **abandoned stick nests** of vultures or eagles rather than constructing its own.

**Q14. With reference to the 'Golestan Palace', recently in the news, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a UNESCO World Heritage site that represents a unique synthesis of traditional

Persian craftsmanship with 19th-century European architectural influences and technologies.

2. While the complex reached its current form during the Qajar Dynasty, its foundational history dates back to the Safavid era.

**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**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The palace is celebrated as a "synthesis" or hybrid of East and West. It integrated traditional Persian elements like intricate mirror work (*Ayeneh-Kari*) and glazed tiles with Western neo-classical motifs and early photography techniques.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Although primarily a masterpiece of the **Qajar era** (reaching its peak under Naser al-Din Shah in the 19th century), the origins of the site date back to the **Safavid dynasty** (16th century), showcasing a long evolution of Iranian royal architecture.

**Q15. With reference to 'Project HANUMAN', recently launched in Andhra Pradesh, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a comprehensive technology-driven initiative specifically designed to mitigate human-wildlife conflict in forest-fringe districts like Chittoor and Srikakulam.
2. Under this project, 'Vajra' teams consisting of village-level volunteers are trained to handle snake rescues and minor wildlife incidents.
3. The project incorporates an AI-based early warning system and a dedicated digital app for real-time monitoring and coordination with authorities.
4. As part of the financial security measures under the project, the ex-gratia compensation for the loss of human life due to wildlife conflict has been doubled to ₹10 lakh.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All four

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Project HANUMAN (Healing and Nurturing Units for Monitoring, Aid and Nursing of Wildlife) was launched by the Andhra Pradesh government to address rising human-wildlife conflicts involving elephants and leopards.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The project establishes '**Vajra**' (**Wildlife Rakshak**) teams at the village level to act as first responders for minor wildlife issues and snake rescues.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** It utilizes **AI-based monitoring** and a specialized **HANUMAN Digital App** to track animal movements and facilitate inter-departmental coordination (Forest, Police, Revenue, etc.).

- **Statement 4 is correct:** One of the key welfare components of the project is the enhancement of ex-gratia for human loss from the previous ₹5 lakh to **₹10 lakh**.

**Q16. With reference to the Bhakti saint Thirumangai Alvar, consider the following statements:**

1. He was the last of the twelve Alvar saints and is traditionally considered an incarnation of Lord Vishnu's Sharanga bow.
2. He served as a military commander under the Chola Empire and authored works such as *Periya Thirumozhi*, which form part of the *Nalayira Divya Prabandham*.
3. He is credited with visiting all 108 Divya Desams and contributing to the physical construction of the Srirangam Temple.

**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**

**Explanation:**

- **Identity:** Originally named Kaliyan, he belonged to the Kallar (warrior) community.
- **Literary Title:** Known as "Narkavi Perumal" for his excellence in poetry.
- **Key Works:** Authored over 1,000 verses; major works include *Periya Thirumozhi*, *Thirunedunthandakam*, and *Thirukkuruthandakam*.
- **Current Affairs Link:** A 16th-century bronze statue of the saint was recently returned to India by the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, having been traced back to the Soundararaja Perumal temple in Tamil Nadu.

**Q17. With reference to the Kappatagudda Wildlife Sanctuary, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a unique protected area in Karnataka primarily established for the conservation of its diverse wild medicinal flora.
2. The sanctuary serves as a vital catchment area for the Tungabhadra River and is a significant hub for wind energy production.

**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**

**Explanation:**

- **Location:** Gadag district, Karnataka.
- **Unique Biodiversity:** It is a rare site where three antelope species—**Blackbuck, Chinkara, and Four-horned Antelope**—coexist across different elevations.
- **Conservation Focus:** Known as a "treasure trove," it houses over 400 species of medicinal herbs.

- **Legal Update:** The Karnataka High Court recently directed the expansion of the sanctuary by including an additional 55 sq. km of reserve forest.
- **Environmental Protection:** An Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) has been finalized to prohibit mining and stone-crushing activities, which were major threats to the region.

**Q18. With reference to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), consider the following statements:**

1. While coastal states exercise full sovereignty over their Territorial Sea, they cannot suspend the right of "Innocent Passage" for foreign ships, provided the passage is not prejudicial to peace and security.
2. In the EEZ, the coastal state has sovereign rights for resource exploitation, but other states retain the freedoms of navigation and overflight as they do on the High Seas.
3. According to Article 88 of UNCLOS, the High Seas are reserved for peaceful purposes.

**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**

**Explanation**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** UNCLOS (Article 17-19) establishes that ships of all states enjoy the right of **Innocent Passage** through the Territorial Sea (up to 12 nm). While the coastal state is sovereign, it generally cannot hamper this passage unless it becomes "non-innocent" (e.g., weapons practice, spying, or pollution).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The EEZ (up to 200 nm) is a "functional" zone. The coastal state has rights over **resources** (fish, oil, minerals), but the water column itself remains largely international for the purpose of **navigation and overflight** (Article 58). This is a frequent point of contention in the South China Sea.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** This is a high-yield nuance for 2026. While UNCLOS Article 88 states that the **High Seas shall be reserved for peaceful purposes**, this primarily governs peacetime activities. In the context of the **March 2026 sinking of the Iranian frigate IRIS Dena** by a US submarine, legal experts have noted that the *Law of Naval Warfare* often supersedes this "peaceful use" clause during an armed conflict, making warships legitimate targets regardless of their location in international waters.

**Q19. With reference to the Striped Hyena (*Hyaena hyaena*), consider the following statements:**

1. It is the only hyena species found in the Indian subcontinent and is currently classified as 'Near Threatened' on the IUCN Red List.
2. Unlike the solitary spotted hyenas of Africa, Striped Hyenas are highly social animals that live and hunt in large hierarchical groups called "clans."

**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**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Striped Hyena is indeed the only species of its family found in India (others like the Spotted or Brown hyena are restricted to Africa). Its global conservation status is 'Near Threatened'.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The behavioral traits are swapped in this statement. It is the **Spotted Hyena** that lives in large social clans and "laughs." The **Striped Hyena** is primarily nocturnal and solitary, or lives in very small family units.

**Q20. With reference to Gravity Bombs and their modern variants, consider the following statements:**

1. Unlike cruise missiles, gravity bombs possess an internal propulsion system that maintains their velocity after release from the aircraft.
2. The Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) is a guidance kit that utilizes GPS receivers and steerable tail fins to convert unguided "dumb" bombs into precision-guided weapons.
3. The kinetic energy of a gravity bomb upon impact is mathematically expressed as a function of its mass and the square of its velocity.

**How many of the statements given above are incorrect?**

- A. Only one  
B. Only two  
C. All three  
D. None

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** By definition, a gravity bomb **does not have a propulsion system** (no rocket motor or jet engine). It relies entirely on the aircraft's initial speed/altitude and the force of gravity to reach its target.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** This is the core function of the JDAM. It is an "add-on" kit (tail section) that uses GPS and aerodynamic fins to steer a standard Mark 80 series bomb toward specific coordinates, providing precision without the cost of a missile.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** While the physics of kinetic energy is indeed  $E_k = 1/2mv^2$ , the statement as phrased in the context of the provided text is technically a "trap" often seen in Prelims. **Wait—actually, looking at the provided text:** "Its impact energy is a function of its mass and the square of its velocity."

**Q21. With reference to the Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission (EMTCT) of infections, consider the following statements:**

1. Denmark is the first country globally to be validated by the World Health Organization (WHO) for the dual elimination of HIV and Syphilis.
2. To achieve EMTCT validation, a country must reduce transmission rates to below 50 per 100,000 live births and ensure at least 95% testing coverage among pregnant

women.

3. While several countries have achieved dual elimination, the Maldives is the first to achieve "Triple Elimination," which includes Hepatitis B alongside HIV and Syphilis.

**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: B**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** While **Denmark** is the first country in the **European Union (EU)** to achieve this dual validation, **Cuba** was the first country in the world to receive this validation from the WHO in 2015.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The WHO criteria for EMTCT include impact targets (new infant infections below 50 per 100,000 live births) and process targets (over 95% of pregnant women receiving at least one antenatal visit, testing, and treatment).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The WHO's "Triple Elimination" strategy targets HIV, Syphilis, and Hepatitis B. The Maldives became the first country to be validated for achieving all three targets simultaneously.

**Q22. Which of the following countries are traditionally considered part of the 'Levant' region in the Eastern Mediterranean?**

1. Lebanon
2. Jordan
3. Yemen
4. Syria
5. Oman
6. Kuwait

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

- A. 1, 2, and 4 only
- B. 2, 3, and 5 only
- C. 1, 4, and 6 only
- D. 4, 5, and 6 only

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

- **Explanation:** The **Levant** is a geographical and cultural region in the Eastern Mediterranean. In its modern sense, it primarily includes **Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Israel, and Palestine**. Some definitions also include Cyprus and parts of Southern Turkey.

**Q23 With reference to the upcoming Census 2027 in India, consider the following statements:**

1. The mascots 'Pragati' and 'Vikas' represent female and male enumerators respectively, symbolizing gender equality in the vision of *Viksit Bharat* by 2047.

2. It will be the first-ever digital census in India, featuring a self-enumeration option through a secure portal and a comprehensive caste count for the first time since 1931.
3. The digital infrastructure for the census, including the Houselisting Block Creator (HLBC) which uses satellite imagery for mapping, has been developed by C-DAC.

**How many of the statements given above are incorrect?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Pragati (female) and Vikas (male) have been introduced to make the census process more relatable and to highlight the equal role of men and women in the massive exercise of nation-building.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Census 2027 marks the transition from paper to digital. It also breaks a long-standing precedent by including a full caste enumeration, a feature not seen in a decennial census since the British era in 1931.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The technological backbone, including the HLBC for digital mapping and the CMMS (Census Management and Monitoring System) for real-time tracking, is developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).

**Q24. With reference to the Kurds, consider the following statements:**

1. They are an Iranian-speaking ethnic group and are often cited as the world's largest ethnic group without a sovereign state of their own.
2. The Treaty of Sèvres (1920) is historically significant for the Kurds as it initially promised the creation of an independent Kurdish state.
3. The modern borders that partitioned the Kurdish homeland among Turkey, Iraq, and Syria were established by the Treaty of Lausanne in 1923.

**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**

**Explanation**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Kurds are an indigenous Iranian-speaking group. With a population between 30–45 million across West Asia, they are considered the largest "stateless nation" in the world.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Following World War I, the Treaty of Sèvres provided for a referendum and the potential for an independent "Kurdistan."
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The 1923 Treaty of Lausanne superseded Sèvres. It set the boundaries of the modern Republic of Turkey and did not make provisions for a Kurdish state, effectively partitioning their homeland across four nations (Turkey, Syria, Iraq,

and Iran).

**Q25. With reference to the Su-30MKI fighter jet of the Indian Air Force, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a twin-engine, multirole air superiority fighter developed by Russia but manufactured under license in India by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
2. Under the 'Super Sukhoi' upgrade program, the aircraft's existing PESA radar is being replaced with the indigenous 'Virupaksha' AESA radar to enhance its detection capabilities.

**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**

**Explanation**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Su-30MKI (Modernizirovannyi Kommercheskiy Indiskiy) was designed by Russia's Sukhoi Design Bureau but is produced domestically by HAL at its Nashik facility. It is the backbone of the IAF's combat fleet.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The 'Super Sukhoi' modernization program (estimated at over ₹60,000 crore) focuses on replacing older Russian systems with indigenous ones. A key highlight is the **Virupaksha AESA radar**, which uses advanced GaN technology, and a new Indian-made Mission Computer.

**Q26. Consider the following nations:**

1. Morocco
2. Egypt
3. Algeria
4. Sudan
5. Tunisia
6. Mali
7. Chad

**How many of the above nations are part of Maghreb?**

- A. Only three
- B. Only five
- C. Only Six
- D. All of them

**Ans: A**

**Explanation**

Only Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia are Maghreb nations; Egypt is part of the Mashriq, while Sudan, Mali, and Chad are part of the Sahel/Sub-Saharan region.

**Q27. With reference to the Raisina Dialogue 2026, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a premier multi-stakeholder conference on geoeconomics and geopolitics, organized

solely by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

2. The theme for the 11th edition in 2026 is "Saṁskāra: Assertion, Accommodation, Advancement."
3. Alexander Stubb, the President of Finland, was invited as the Chief Guest for this edition.

**How many of the statements given above are incorrect?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- **Statement 1 is Incorrect:** While the MEA is a key organizer, the Raisina Dialogue is jointly organized by the **Ministry of External Affairs** and the **Observer Research Foundation (ORF)**. It is not a "sole" venture of the ministry.
- **Statement 2 is Correct:** The 2026 theme is indeed "Saṁskāra," focusing on the pillars of Assertion (sovereignty), Accommodation (plurilateralism), and Advancement (AI and DPI).
- **Statement 3 is Correct:** Alexander Stubb, the President of Finland, served as the Chief Guest for the 2026 edition.

**Q28. With reference to the 'Nirbhaya Nisha' initiative, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a dedicated women's safety program launched by the Kerala Police to ensure safe night travel between 9:00 PM and 5:00 AM.
2. Under this initiative, specialized "Nirbhaya Nisha Safety Poles" equipped with AI-enabled cameras and panic buttons are being installed in urban areas.
3. The initiative features a fleet of Force Gurkha vehicles driven exclusively by women police personnel to assist female travelers.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- **Statement 1 is Correct:** The Nirbhaya Nisha Initiative was launched by the Kerala Police specifically to provide a "safety net" for women commuting at night (9:00 PM to 5:00 AM), targeting those in night shifts, education, or emergencies.
- **Statement 2 is Correct:** A key feature of the project involves "Safety Poles" placed in busy areas. These are integrated with AI cameras for facial recognition of offenders and panic buttons for immediate assistance.
- **Statement 3 is Correct:** The program flagged off 28 Force Gurkha jeeps driven by women police personnel. It also integrates existing "Pink Patrols" and the 112 National

Emergency Helpline for rapid response.

**Q29. With reference to the Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) system, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a transportable, ground-based system designed to intercept ballistic missiles exclusively during their mid-course phase of flight.
2. It utilizes "Hit-to-Kill" technology, destroying incoming targets through pure kinetic energy rather than using explosive warheads.
3. It is unique among U.S. missile defense systems for its capability to intercept targets both inside and outside the Earth's atmosphere.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- **Statement 1 is Incorrect:** As the name suggests, THAAD targets missiles in their **Terminal Phase** (the final stage of flight or re-entry), not the mid-course phase.
- **Statement 2 is Correct:** THAAD interceptors do not carry explosive payloads. They rely on the energy of the physical collision (**kinetic energy**) to destroy the target, which minimizes the risk of accidental detonation of the incoming missile's warhead.
- **Statement 3 is Correct:** It possesses **dual-atmospheric capability**, meaning it can engage threats in both endo-atmospheric (inside) and exo-atmospheric (outside) environments.

**Q30. With reference to the 'Lighting a Billion Lives (LaBL) 2.0' initiative, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a Decentralised Renewable Energy (DRE) programme launched by the Ministry of Power to provide universal electricity access.
2. Under this initiative, a digital marketplace has been established to allow small rural projects to earn revenue through household-level carbon credits.

**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**

**Explanation**

- **Statement 1 is Incorrect:** The LaBL 2.0 initiative was launched by **The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)**, not the Ministry of Power. While it aligns with national goals, it is a flagship programme of this leading research institute.
- **Statement 2 is Correct:** A key feature of LaBL 2.0 is the creation of India's first digital carbon marketplace (in partnership with the Global Carbon Council). This enables

grassroots projects and women-led micro-enterprises to monetize their carbon offsets on global markets, integrating climate finance with rural development.

**Q31. Consider the following statements regarding the Essential Commodities Act (ECA), 1955:**

1. The Act contains a permanent schedule of items, and only the Parliament has the power to add or remove commodities from this list.
2. While the Central Government has the power to notify an item as "essential," the implementation of the Act lies primarily with the State Governments.
3. According to the 2020 amendment, stock limits on non-perishable food items can only be imposed if there is a 50% increase in their retail price over the preceding 12 months or a 5-year average.

**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: B**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Act does **not** provide a permanent list. Under Section 2A, the **Central Government** (Executive) has the power to add or remove commodities from the schedule based on public interest; it does not require a Parliamentary amendment each time.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** There is a clear division of labor: the Center identifies the commodities and sets the broad policy, but the States are responsible for ground-level implementation, such as conducting raids and enforcing stock limits.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** As per the 2020 Amendment, "extraordinary price rise" triggers stock limits. For non-perishables (like pulses or oils), the trigger is a **50% increase**, while for horticultural produce (perishables like onions/potatoes), the trigger is a **100% increase**.

**Q32. Consider the following statements regarding 'The Blue Book' in the Indian administrative context:**

1. It is a confidential manual issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs that outlines security and protocol procedures specifically for the President, Vice-President, and Prime Minister.
2. At the district level, the responsibility for the custody of this manual lies with the District Magistrate (DM) and the Superintendent of Police (SP).

**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**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Blue Book is indeed issued by the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**. It serves as the master blueprint for the security and protocol of the top three constitutional dignitaries (President, VP, and PM) during their visits within India.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Due to the high level of confidentiality and the critical nature of VVIP security, the manual is not a public document. It is circulated in numbered copies and, at the local level, the **DM and SP** are the designated custodians of the manual to ensure administrative and security coordination.

**Q33. Consider the following statements regarding the Proba-3 mission:**

1. It is a joint mission between the European Space Agency (ESA) and ISRO, where ISRO provided the launch vehicle.
2. The mission involves two satellites, the Occulter and the Coronagraph, flying in a rigid formation at a distance of 1.5 kilometers to create a virtual giant instrument.
3. The primary objective is to create a sustained artificial solar eclipse in space to allow for continuous observation of the Sun's corona.

**How many of the statements given above are incorrect?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**Answer: A****Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Proba-3 is an ESA mission launched by ISRO's PSLV-C59.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** While the mission does involve the Occulter and Coronagraph satellites flying in precision formation, they fly exactly **150 meters** apart, not 1.5 kilometers.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The core goal is to demonstrate formation flying to create an artificial eclipse, enabling the study of the solar corona and phenomena like Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) for several hours at a time.

**Q34. Consider the following statements regarding 'Exercise Lamitiye':**

1. It is a biennial joint military exercise between India and Seychelles that has been conducted since 2001 to enhance interoperability in sub-conventional operations.
2. The 2026 edition of the exercise marked a significant shift as it evolved from a purely Army-centric engagement to a Tri-Service exercise involving the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

**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****Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Exercise Lamitiye (meaning "Friendship" in Creole) is indeed a biennial exercise between India and Seychelles. It began in 2001 and focuses on tactical drills and neutralizing threats in semi-urban environments (sub-conventional operations).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Traditionally an Army exercise, the 2026 edition was the first time it featured a Tri-Service format, with the Indian Army (Assam Regiment), Indian Navy (INS Trikand), and Indian Air Force (C-130J Super Hercules) all participating.

**Q35. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Nordic Response' (formerly Cold Response) exercise:**

1. It is a long-standing biennial military exercise led by NATO, historically hosted by Norway and focused on cold-weather operations.
2. Following the accession of Finland and Sweden into NATO, the exercise was expanded to simulate a collective defense scenario under NATO's Article 5.
3. As part of the 2026 edition, Norway has emphasized a 'Total Defence Strategy', involving civilian institutions like hospitals and businesses to support military operations.

**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**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The exercise is a biennial (every two years) NATO-led drill focused on high-intensity warfare in Arctic conditions. It was traditionally known as "Cold Response" and hosted by Norway.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The rebrand to "Nordic Response" (2024-2026) reflects the new geopolitical reality after Finland and Sweden joined the alliance. It tests Article 5 (collective defense) across the northern territories of all three Nordic nations.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The 2026 edition features a "Total Defence" component where the civilian sector (hospitals, logistics, and public institutions) is integrated into the drill to test the resilience of the entire society during a conflict.

**Q36. With reference to Look Out Circulars (LOCs) in India, consider the following statements:**

1. They are statutory notices issued under the provisions of the Passports Act, 1967.
2. The Heads of Public Sector Banks are empowered to request the issuance of an LOC against wilful defaulters.
3. An LOC generally remains valid for a period of one year from the date of issue, unless a renewal is requested.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two

- C. All three
- D. None

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** There is no specific statute (law) governing LOCs. They are issued based on **executive instructions** and guidelines provided by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Since 2018, the Heads of Public Sector Banks have been included in the list of "Originating Agencies" who can request an LOC to prevent wilful defaulters from fleeing the country.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** As per MHA guidelines, an LOC is usually valid for **one year**, though it can be extended or remain active indefinitely if the person is a fugitive or if there is a specific court order.

**Q37. With reference to the #SheLeadsBharat – Shakti Walk Initiative, consider the following statements:**

1. It was organized by the Ministry of Culture to mark the 75th year of India's independence.
2. The initiative showcased the shift in policy from "Development of Women" to "Women-led Development" under the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.
3. Participants in the walk included diverse groups such as the Armed Forces, Namu Drone Didis, and grassroots healthcare workers.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The initiative was organized by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD)**, not the Ministry of Culture. It was held on March 8, 2026, specifically to mark International Women's Day.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The walk was a physical manifestation of the vision of **Viksit Bharat 2047**, emphasizing women as the "architects" of progress rather than just passive beneficiaries.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The event saw participation from over 3,000 women representing 200+ departments, including specialized groups like the **Namu Drone Didis**, CAPF, and Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs).

**Q38. With reference to the criteria and causes of Heatwaves in India, consider the following statements:**

1. For a heatwave to be officially declared by the IMD, the prescribed temperature criteria must be met at a minimum of two stations in a meteorological sub-division for at least two consecutive days.

2. In coastal regions, a heatwave is declared only when the actual maximum temperature reaches at least  $40^{\circ}\text{C}$  regardless of the departure from normal.

**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**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** According to IMD guidelines, the spatial and temporal extent (two stations for two days) is a mandatory requirement for an official heatwave declaration.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** For coastal regions, the criteria are specifically an actual maximum temperature of  $37^{\circ}\text{C}$  and a departure from normal of at least  $4.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The  $40^{\circ}\text{C}$  threshold applies to the Plains.

**Q39. With reference to the asteroid 2024 YR4, consider the following statements:**

1. It is classified as an Apollo-type asteroid, which is a group of near-Earth objects with orbits that cross Earth's orbit.
2. The Yarkovsky effect, involving uneven solar heating, is the scientific phenomenon believed to have nudged this asteroid toward Earth's path.
3. According to the Torino Impact Hazard Scale, a Level 3 rating indicates a certain collision capable of global catastrophe.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- A. Only one  
 B. Only two  
 C. All three  
 D. None

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Apollo-type asteroids are indeed near-Earth asteroids that cross Earth's orbit and spend most of their time outside it.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Scientists believe the Yarkovsky effect (where an asteroid's rotation and uneven heating create a tiny thrust) shifted its orbit from the Main Belt toward Earth over millions of years.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** On the Torino Scale (0–10), **Level 3** represents a close encounter that warrants attention by astronomers (roughly a 1% chance of impact). **Level 10** is the rating for a certain collision capable of global catastrophe.

**Q40. With reference to the life and contributions of Savitribai Phule, consider the following statements:**

1. She co-founded the Satyashodhak Samaj in 1873, which focused on achieving social equity and eliminating the intermediary role of priests in religious and social matters.
2. She established the *Balhatya Pratibandhak Griha* in 1863 to provide a safe haven for

pregnant widows and victims of sexual exploitation, aiming to prevent infanticide.

3. Her literary contributions include *Kavya Phule* and *Bavan Kashi Subodh Ratnakar*, which she used as mediums to advocate for education and the removal of caste-based discrimination.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Savitribai and Jyotirao Phule co-founded the **Satyashodhak Samaj** (Society of Seekers of Truth) to uplift Shudras, Ati-Shudras, and women, and to conduct social ceremonies without priests.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The **Balhatya Pratibandhak Griha** was indeed established in 1863. It was a pioneering institution meant to protect women and children from the extreme social stigma of the time.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Savitribai Phule was a prolific poet; **Kavya Phule (1854)** is considered one of the early works of modern Marathi poetry, and **Bavan Kashi Subodh Ratnakar (1892)** is a biographical poem dedicated to her husband's work and their shared mission.

**Q41. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Lake and Air Watch (LAW)' initiative:**

1. It is a high-tech environmental monitoring project launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) to ensure urban sustainability across India.
2. The initiative utilizes satellite imagery specifically for monitoring lake health parameters such as siltation, waste accumulation, and eutrophication.
3. It integrates ground-based sensors for real-time Air Quality Index (AQI) monitoring across various municipal corporations and municipalities.

**How many of the statements given above are incorrect?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The LAW initiative is a state-specific project launched by the **Government of Gujarat** (implemented by the Gujarat Urban Development Mission), not a central scheme by the MoEFCC.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** One of the core features of the project is the use of Remote Sensing (Satellite Imagery) to track physical and biological changes in urban lakes.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The project uses a technology mix that includes ground-based

sensors to track air quality in 17 Municipal Corporations and 152 Municipalities in Gujarat.

**Q42. Consider the following statements regarding the PM-SETU (Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs) Scheme:**

1. It is a Central Sector Scheme fully funded by the Union Government to modernize 1,000 Government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs).
2. Under its implementation model, ITIs are transitioned to a "Government-owned, Industry-managed" (GOIM) model where Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) are managed by industry partners.

**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**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** PM-SETU is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**, not a Central Sector Scheme. It is funded by a combination of the Centre, States, and Industry, and also receives co-financing from international bodies like the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** A key feature of the scheme is shifting the governance of ITIs to a "Government-owned, Industry-managed" model. This is achieved through SPVs where anchor industry partners hold a majority stake (51%) to ensure training is aligned with real-world industry needs.

**Q43. Consider the following statements regarding Devon Island:**

1. It is the world's largest uninhabited island and is classified as a polar desert due to its extreme cold and very low precipitation.
2. The Haughton Impact Crater on the island is a significant site for "endolithic colonisation," where microorganisms live inside rocks to survive extreme UV radiation.

**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**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Devon Island, located in the Canadian Arctic, holds the record for the largest uninhabited island on Earth. Its climate is that of a polar desert, with almost no vegetation outside of specific areas like the Truelove Lowland.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Haughton Impact Crater is a key site for biological and space research. Scientists study "endolithic" (inside-rock) organisms there to understand how life might survive in the harsh, high-UV environment of Mars.

**Q44. Consider the following statements regarding the LIGO-India (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory) project:**

1. The observatory is being established at Aundha Nagnath in Maharashtra, a site specifically chosen for its high seismic activity to test the instrument's vibration-damping capabilities.
2. Gravitational waves are ripples in space-time caused by the acceleration of massive objects, and their detection relies on measuring length changes smaller than the diameter of a proton.

**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**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The site at Aundha Nagnath was selected for its **seismic stability** (low ground vibration), not high activity. Seismic noise is a major interference; therefore, a stable environment is crucial to ensure that the extremely weak gravitational wave signals are not drowned out by local vibrations.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Gravitational waves, predicted by Einstein, cause minute distortions in space-time. By the time they reach Earth, they are so weak that they cause length changes of about  $10^{-21}$  over kilometer-scale distances, which is indeed smaller than the diameter of a proton.

**Q45. With reference to recent research on Nutrient Transporter Proteins (NTPs), consider the following statements:**

1. Scientists have engineered ABC transporter proteins in bacteria to act as a "Trojan Horse," importing artificial amino acids disguised within short peptide chains.
2. This technology is primarily aimed at expanding the natural genetic code to produce designer proteins with novel chemical and biological functions.

**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**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The research involves engineering **ABC transporters** (which usually import nutrients) to recognize tripeptides or tetrapeptides that have synthetic amino acids "hidden" inside them. Once inside the cell, enzymes release these synthetic components.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** By successfully transporting these synthetic/artificial amino acids across the cell membrane, scientists can enable ribosomes to build proteins that go

beyond the standard 20 natural amino acids, leading to breakthroughs in **Synthetic Biology** and advanced drug delivery.

**Q46. With reference to the phenomenon of 'Black Rain' recently reported in Iran, consider the following statements:**

1. It is primarily caused when soot, ash, and hydrocarbons from large-scale oil fires mix with atmospheric moisture.
2. The presence of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) in this rain can lead to carcinogenic effects and severe skin burns.
3. Due to its unique chemical composition, it remains localized and cannot fall more than a few kilometers away from the site of the fire.

**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: A**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Black rain forms when pollutants (soot, ash, hydrocarbons) from massive fires, such as those at oil refineries, rise and are "washed out" by rainfall.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The composition includes toxic substances like sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and PAHs, which are carcinogenic and can cause health hazards like skin burns and respiratory issues.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Black rain is capable of falling dozens of miles away from the actual site of the fire, as wind patterns can carry the smoke plumes and contaminated moisture over long distances.

**Q47. Consider the following statements regarding the recently published first comprehensive checklist of Indian Fireflies:**

1. The checklist identifies over 90 species across 27 genera, with more than 60% of these species being endemic to India.
2. Among the various geographical regions, the Western Ghats and the North East are identified as the primary hotspots for firefly diversity in the country.
3. The bioluminescence in fireflies is a highly efficient "cold light" process where the enzyme luciferase catalyzes the reaction between luciferin and oxygen.

**How many of the statements given above are incorrect?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The checklist identifies 92 species across 27 genera, and the endemism is remarkably high at 60.86% (approx. 56 species).

- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Western Ghats (25.33%) and the North East (22.66%) are the top two hotspots. They are absent in desert/semi-arid zones due to lack of moisture.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Firefly light is nearly 100% efficient (cold light), involving a chemical reaction where luciferase catalyzes the oxidation of luciferin, requiring ATP.

**Q48. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Silverpit Crater' which was recently in the news:**

1. It is a submarine impact crater located in the Southern North Sea, characterized by a central peak and concentric circular rings.
2. The presence of shocked quartz and feldspar in the region serves as diagnostic evidence that the structure was formed by a high-velocity asteroid impact.

**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**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Silverpit Crater is located off the coast of Yorkshire (UK) in the North Sea. It is a "complex" crater featuring a central peak (formed by ground rebound) and a large system of concentric rings spanning 20 km.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Scientists confirmed the impact origin by identifying shocked quartz and feldspar. These microscopic deformations are "fingerprints" of cosmic impacts, as they only form under the extreme instantaneous pressure and temperature of an asteroid strike.

**Q49. With reference to the HALEU-Thorium (HALEU-Th) nuclear fuel, consider the following statements:**

1. HALEU refers to uranium that has been enriched to a level of 5% to 20% of the fissile isotope U-235, placing it between standard reactor fuel and weapons-grade uranium.
2. In the HALEU-Th mix, thorium acts as the "driver" to initiate the nuclear chain reaction, while U-235 is the fertile material that eventually converts into fissile U-233.
3. One of the primary environmental advantages of this fuel is that it generates significantly less nuclear waste compared to standard natural uranium fuels.

**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: C**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** HALEU (High-Assay Low-Enriched Uranium) is enriched between 5% and 20%. Standard LEU is <5% and weapons-grade HEU is >20%.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** In this fuel mix, the **U-235 in the HALEU** acts as the fissile

"driver" to initiate the reaction. **Thorium** is the "fertile" material that is converted into fissile  ${}^{233}\text{U}$  during the process.

- **Statement 3 is correct:** HALEU-Th fuel is noted for its high "burn-up" efficiency, which results in much lower waste volumes—only about 14% of the waste generated by current standard reactors.

**Q50. Consider the following statements regarding the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT):**

1. It is an autonomous R&D centre under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) focusing on indigenous telecom solutions.
2. It has developed 'FraudPro', an AI-driven solution used for image de-duplication and document verification to secure the Sanchar Saathi portal.

**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**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** While C-DOT is an autonomous R&D centre, it falls under the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications**, not MeitY.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** FraudPro is indeed an indigenous AI/ML tool developed by C-DOT to prevent identity fraud and secure the Sanchar Saathi portal by detecting forged documents.

**Q51. With reference to Kharg Island, which has been in the news recently, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a coral limestone continental island located in the Northern Persian Gulf, situated northwest of the port of Bushehr.
2. Unlike many other islands in the region, it possesses natural freshwater resources trapped within its porous rock, supporting long-term human settlement.
3. It serves as Iran's primary deep-water terminal, handling nearly 90–95% of the country's crude oil exports due to its proximity to deep-sea channels.

**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**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Kharg Island is a small (approx. 25 sq. km) continental island formed of coral limestone, located about 55 km northwest of Bushehr in the Northern Persian Gulf.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** A unique geographical feature of the island is its natural freshwater trapped in limestone, which allowed for historical settlements dating back to the Achaemenid period.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Because most of the Iranian coastline is too shallow for massive tankers, Kharg's deep-water access makes it the indispensable hub for Iran's oil economy, capable of docking VLCCs and ULCCs.

**Q52. Consider the following statements regarding the V.O. Chidambaranar Port (VOCP):**

1. It is an artificial, all-weather deep-sea port located on the Coromandel Coast that serves as the third-largest container terminal in India.
2. In early 2026, it became the first major port in India to implement a 'Digital Twin' platform, which uses IoT, LiDAR mapping, and AI to create a real-time virtual mirror of the port's ecosystem.
3. Strategically situated in the Gulf of Mannar, the port's location allows it to leverage proximity to major East-West international sea routes.

**How many of the statements given above are incorrect?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** VOCP (Thoothukudi) is indeed one of India's 13 major ports, an artificial deep-sea port, and ranks as the 3rd-largest container terminal in the country.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It has pioneered the Digital Twin initiative in India, integrating advanced technologies like LiDAR and AI for predictive maintenance and operational efficiency.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Its geographical location in the Gulf of Mannar (Tamil Nadu) provides a strategic advantage for maritime trade due to its closeness to international shipping lanes.

**Q53. Consider the following statements regarding the Western Tragopan (*Jujurana*):**

1. It is a pheasant species endemic to the North-West Himalayas and serves as the State Bird of Himachal Pradesh.
2. It is currently categorized as 'Critically Endangered' on the IUCN Red List and is listed under Schedule II of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

**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**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Western Tragopan, locally known as the *Jujurana*, is indeed the State Bird of Himachal Pradesh and is endemic to the high-altitude forests of the North-West Himalayas (spanning Pakistan, J&K, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** While its population is small and declining, its IUCN status is **Vulnerable** (not Critically Endangered). Furthermore, it is accorded the highest legal protection in India under **Schedule I** of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (not Schedule II).

**Q54. With reference to the 'Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2026' released recently, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a biennial report released by the Ministry of Finance that evaluates the fiscal performance of states based on metrics like revenue mobilisation and debt sustainability.
2. Under the index, 'Achiever' states are typically characterized by a fiscal deficit below 3% and own-tax revenue shares exceeding 60% of their total revenue.
3. For the first time, North-Eastern and Himalayan (NEH) states were ranked in a separate category, with Arunachal Pradesh emerging as the top performer among them.

**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: B****Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Fiscal Health Index (FHI) is released by **NITI Aayog**, not the Ministry of Finance. The 2026 edition is the second edition of this index.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** States in the 'Achievers' tier (like Odisha, Goa, and Jharkhand) demonstrate high fiscal prudence, maintaining fiscal deficits within the 3% limit (as per FRBM norms) and showing high self-reliance in revenue generation (own-tax share >60%).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** To account for unique geographical and demographic challenges, 10 North-Eastern and Himalayan (NEH) states were ranked separately for the first time in 2026. Arunachal Pradesh secured the top rank in this category.

**Q55. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Samridh Gram Phygital Services Pilot Initiative':**

1. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Rural Development aimed at leveraging BharatNet infrastructure to provide a one-stop service hub in every Panchayat Bhawan.
2. The initiative is funded through the Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF) and implemented by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT).

**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**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** While the initiative aims to provide services at the village level through "Samriddhi Kendras" in Panchayat Bhawans, it is under the **Ministry of Communications**, not the Ministry of Rural Development.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The project is specifically funded by the **Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF)** and is implemented by the **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** through the Telecom Centres of Excellence (TCoE).

**Q56. With reference to 'Joha Rice', consider the following statements:**

1. It is a GI-tagged, short-grain aromatic rice indigenous to the Brahmaputra valley of Assam and is primarily grown as a Sali crop.
2. It is recognized for its nutraceutical properties, including a high Glycemic Index (GI) which makes it a preferred choice for high-energy diets.
3. It contains significant amounts of essential unsaturated fatty acids, specifically Omega-3 and Omega-6, which are rare in most common rice varieties.

**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: C**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Joha is indeed an indigenous aromatic short-grain rice from Assam, grown during the winter (Sali) season.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Joha rice actually has a **lower Glycemic Index (GI)** compared to other rice varieties, making it effective for diabetes management rather than being a high-GI food.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Research has confirmed that Joha rice is rich in essential unsaturated fatty acids like linoleic acid (omega-6) and linolenic acid (omega-3).

**Q57. With reference to the Project Great Indian Bustard (GIB), consider the following statements:**

1. Under the captive breeding programme at the Conservation Breeding Centre in Rajasthan, the total captive population has reached 70 birds, including a chick produced via artificial insemination.
2. The Great Indian Bustard is the state bird of Rajasthan and is listed under Schedule II of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, reflecting its status as a flagship species of grassland ecosystems.
3. It is one of the heaviest flying birds in the world and is primarily threatened by power line collisions due to a physiological lack of frontal vision.

**How many of the statements given above are incorrect?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The captive breeding programme has indeed reached a milestone of 70 birds in 2026, with artificial insemination being a key scientific breakthrough used for the new chicks.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** While it is the state bird of Rajasthan, it is listed under **Schedule I** (not Schedule II) of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, which provides it the highest level of legal protection.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The GIB is indeed among the heaviest flying birds and its poor frontal vision makes it highly vulnerable to collisions with overhead power lines, which is a major cause of mortality.

**Q58. With reference to the Sejjil Ballistic Missile, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a two-stage, solid-propellant Medium-Range Ballistic Missile (MRBM) indigenous to Iran, designed for rapid launch and high survivability.
2. Often nicknamed the "Dancing Missile," it features terminal phase maneuverability and descends at hypersonic speeds, making it difficult for advanced air-defense systems to intercept.

**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**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Sejjil is indeed a solid-fuel MRBM from Iran. Its solid-propellant nature is a key upgrade over liquid-fueled missiles like the Shahab, allowing it to be stored fully fueled and launched quickly from mobile platforms.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The missile is noted for its ability to maneuver during its terminal descent phase (hence the "Dancing Missile" moniker) and its high speed (above Mach 5), both of which are designed to evade missile defense systems like the Patriot or Arrow.

**Q9. With reference to the 'Sharanstli Initiative', consider the following statements:**

1. It is a social justice initiative of the Jammu & Kashmir Administration aimed at providing compassionate government employment to the next of kin of victims of terrorism.
2. The initiative is part of a broader "Whole of Government" approach to counter-terrorism, focusing on the socio-economic reintegration of affected families into the mainstream.

**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**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Sharansthi initiative is specifically designed by the J&K UT administration to provide institutional support and government jobs to the families (Next of Kin) of those who lost their lives to terror acts, treating it as a matter of justice rather than charity.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It functions as a reintegration strategy within the "Whole of Government" framework, ensuring that while the state maintains zero tolerance toward perpetrators, it simultaneously works to rebuild the livelihoods and dignity of the victims' families.

**Q60. With reference to the 'Sujal Gaon ID', consider the following statements:**

1. It is a unique digital identifier assigned to every rural piped water supply scheme in India, serving as the foundational component of the 'Sujalam Bharat' national digital framework.
2. The ID integrates Infrastructure IDs with Service Area IDs to enable comprehensive source-to-tap digital mapping of physical assets and the specific habitations they serve.
3. Under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 (JJM 2.0), the creation of these IDs has been made a mandatory prerequisite for the release of Central funds to the States.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Sujal Gaon ID is indeed a scheme-based digital identifier for rural piped water supply, forming the core of the Sujalam Bharat framework to shift focus toward digital monitoring.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** A key feature of the ID is its integrative architecture, which links details of physical infrastructure (pumps, pipes, tanks) with mapping of the actual households and habitations (Service Area) served.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** To ensure compliance and real-time monitoring of service delivery, the Ministry of Jal Shakti has mandated that States must generate these IDs to be eligible for Central grants under the JJM 2.0 phase

**Q61. With reference to the Jnanpith Award, consider the following statements:**

1. It is awarded for outstanding contributions to Indian literature in any of the 22 languages listed in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution, as well as English.

2. The award can be conferred posthumously if the author's lifetime contribution is deemed unparalleled by the Selection Board.
3. Once a writer receives the award, they are not eligible for consideration again, and the same language is generally not considered for the next two years.

**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: C**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The award covers the 22 languages of the 8th Schedule and English (added in 2013).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** According to the rules of the Bharatiya Jnanpith, the award is **never** given posthumously.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** There is a "Repeat Rule" (no second-time winners) and a "Language Gap" rule to ensure diversity across Indian languages.

**Q62. With reference to the Economic Stabilisation Fund (ESF), consider the following statements:**

1. The fund was introduced as a fiscal buffer to manage external shocks, such as oil price spikes, without breaching the fiscal deficit target of 4.4% for FY 2025–26.
2. The ESF is managed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to ensure liquidity in the market during supply chain disruptions.
3. The constitutional basis for this fund is rooted in Article 115, which pertains to supplementary, additional, or excess grants.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The ESF is designed as a "financial shock absorber" to handle global headwinds while maintaining fiscal discipline (specifically the 4.4% target for FY26).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** According to the provided details, the fund is placed under **Reserve Funds** and managed by the **Department of Economic Affairs (DEA)**, Ministry of Finance, not the RBI.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** It was introduced during the debate on Supplementary Demands for Grants, which is governed by **Article 115** of the Constitution.

**Q63. With reference to the discovery of the Dual-Sex Crab (*Vela carli*), consider the following statements:**

1. It is a bilateral gynandromorph, a condition where the organism physically displays

both male and female characteristics due to genetic anomalies during early embryonic development.

2. The species is endemic to the Himalayan foothills and was recently discovered in the high-altitude streams of the Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve.

**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**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** *Vela carli* is indeed a bilateral gynandromorph, which is distinct from hermaphroditism as it involves a physical genetic split rather than just the presence of both reproductive organs.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The species is endemic to the **Central Western Ghats** and was found in the tree holes of the **Silent Valley National Park, Kerala**, not the Himalayas.

**Q64. With reference to the '24 Speed Post' service launched by the Department of Posts, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a premium express delivery service that provides a money-back guarantee, offering a full postage refund if the next-day delivery timeline is not met.
2. The service features OTP-based secure delivery and supports the transport of parcels weighing up to 5 kg.
3. In its initial phase, the service is available across all PIN codes of six major metro cities, including Bengaluru and Hyderabad.

**How many of the statements given above are incorrect?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** One of the core features of '24 Speed Post' is the "Money-Back Guarantee" where the full postage is refunded in case of a delay beyond the guaranteed next-day delivery.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The service incorporates modern logistics features like OTP-based verification for security and handles a parcel capacity of up to 5 kg.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The initial rollout covers all PIN codes in six metros: New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad.

**Q65. With reference to Exercise Sea Dragon 2026, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a premier multinational exercise led by the U.S. Navy that primarily focuses on enhancing interoperability in Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW).

2. India's participation in the exercise involves the deployment of the P-8I Poseidon long-range maritime patrol aircraft.
3. The "Dragon Belt" is a prestigious award given to the highest-scoring nation based on their performance in detecting and tracking live submarines.

**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**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Exercise Sea Dragon is an annual multinational exercise hosted by the U.S. 7th Fleet at Guam, specifically designed for ASW training.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Indian Navy consistently deploys its P-8I Poseidon aircraft for this exercise to practice advanced tracking of underwater threats.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The exercise is competitive; aircrews are graded on accuracy and speed, with the winner receiving the "Dragon Belt" (won by Australia in 2025).

**Q66. Consider the following statements regarding the Sahitya Akademi Award:**

1. The award is conferred upon Indian citizens for outstanding contributions in 24 languages, including English and Rajasthani.
2. The award can be conferred posthumously if the author has made a significant literary contribution in the five years preceding the award year.
3. An author is eligible to receive the Main Sahitya Akademi Award multiple times in their lifetime, provided the works are in different recognized languages.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** It covers 22 languages of the 8th Schedule plus English and Rajasthani (Total 24).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** There is a "No Posthumous Award" rule. It is generally not given posthumously unless the author passes away after the selection process is complete but before the ceremony.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** There is a "One-Time" rule. An author can win the Main Sahitya Akademi award only **once** in their lifetime.

**Q67. With reference to Silent Valley National Park, consider the following statements:**

1. The park is situated in the Nilgiri Hills and serves as the core area of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.
2. The Kunthipuzha River, which flows through the entire length of the park, is a

perennial tributary of the Periyar River.

3. It serves as a critical habitat for the Lion-tailed Macaque and is home to the rare tree species *Cullenia exarillata*.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** It is located in the Palakkad district (Nilgiri Hills) and is indeed the core of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** While the Kunthipuzha River is perennial and flows through the park, it is a tributary of the **Bharathapuzha** (Nila), not the Periyar.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The park holds the world's largest viable population of the Endangered Lion-tailed Macaque, which primarily feeds on the fruit of the *Cullenia exarillata* tree found there.

**Q68. With reference to the Port of Fujairah, consider the following statements:**

1. It is the only emirate in the UAE that lies entirely on the Persian Gulf, making it a strategic terminal for the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).
2. The port serves as a critical "Hormuz Bypass" for oil exports via the Habshan–Fujairah Pipeline (ADCOP).

**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**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Fujairah is actually the only UAE emirate **without** a coastline on the Persian Gulf. It is situated on the **Gulf of Oman** (eastern seaboard). While it is indeed a key node for the IMEC, its geography is defined by its position outside the Persian Gulf.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Because it sits outside the Strait of Hormuz, the ADCOP pipeline allows oil to be exported directly from Fujairah, bypassing the potential maritime chokepoint of the Strait of Hormuz.

**Q69. With reference to the 'Coconut Promotion Scheme' and the coconut sector in India, consider the following statements:**

1. The scheme is a Central Sector Scheme implemented by the Coconut Development Board (CDB), which is a statutory body headquartered in Kochi.
2. Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided for the rejuvenation of senile plantations and the expansion of cultivation into non-traditional areas like North-East India and Gujarat.

3. While India is the world's largest producer of coconuts, the Minimum Support Price (MSP) is only provided for raw coconuts and not for processed variants like Copra.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The scheme is a Central Sector Scheme under the Ministry of Agriculture. The CDB (est. 1981) is the statutory implementation agency based in Kochi, Kerala.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** A primary objective is replacing old (senile) palms with hybrid varieties and promoting cultivation in non-traditional states like Odisha, West Bengal, Gujarat, and the North-East.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** While India is the largest producer (~30% global share), the MSP is specifically fixed for **Milling Copra** and **Ball Copra**, not for raw green coconuts. NAFED and NCCF act as the nodal procurement agencies for these products.

**Q70. With reference to the Appropriation Bill in the Indian Parliament, consider the following statements:**

1. While the *Demands for Grants* are voted upon by the Lok Sabha, the government derives the legal authority to withdraw money from the Consolidated Fund of India only after the Appropriation Bill is passed.
2. Under Article 114, an amendment can be moved in either House of Parliament to vary the amount or alter the destination of a grant already made.
3. The Rajya Sabha has the power to suggest recommendations to the Bill, but it must return the Bill to the Lok Sabha within 14 days, failing which it is deemed to have been passed.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**Answer: B**

**Explanation for your Prep:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Voting on *Demands for Grants* is a procedural step, but the **Appropriation Bill** is the actual legislative instrument that "legalizes" the expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India (CFI).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** This is the "**Lock Feature**" of Article 114(2). No amendment can be proposed in either House that varies the **amount**, alters the **destination** of a grant, or varies the amount of any **expenditure charged** on the CFI.

**Statement 3 is correct:** As it is classified as a **Money Bill** (Article 110), the Rajya Sabha has restricted powers. If it does not return the bill within 14 days, the bill is considered passed by

both Houses in the

**Q71. With reference to the Mahad Satyagraha of 1927, consider the following statements:**

1. The movement was primarily launched to demand the passage of the S.K. Bole Resolution in the Bombay Legislative Council.
2. It was a mass movement led by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar to assert the civil rights of the "Depressed Classes" to access public water sources like the Chavdar Tank.
3. The legal battle associated with the Satyagraha concluded in 1937 when the Bombay High Court ruled in favor of the Dalits' right to use the tank's water.

**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: B**

**Explanation**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Satyagraha was not launched to *demand* the passage of the S.K. Bole Resolution. The resolution had **already been passed in 1923**. The Satyagraha was launched to **enforce** the rights granted by that resolution, which were being blocked by local upper-caste opposition despite the Mahad Municipality officially opening the tank in 1924.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Led by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on March 20, 1927, the movement saw thousands of people march to the Chavdar Tank in Mahad (Raigad district) to symbolically drink water and challenge the practice of untouchability.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** After years of litigation following the Satyagraha, a landmark legal victory was achieved in **1937** when the Bombay High Court upheld the right of Dalits to use the water of the public tank.

**Q72. With reference to the World Happiness Report 2026, consider the following statements:**

1. The report is published by the World Bank in partnership with the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and Gallup.
2. It utilizes the "Cantril Ladder" question from the Gallup World Poll, where respondents rate their life satisfaction on a scale of 0 to 10.
3. In the 2026 rankings, India (116th) is ranked lower than its neighbors Nepal and Pakistan, but higher than Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.
4. For the third consecutive year, no major English-speaking nation such as the USA, UK, or Canada featured in the top 20 rankings.

**How many of the statements given above are incorrect?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All four

**Answer: A**

### Explanation

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The report is published by the **Wellbeing Research Centre at the University of Oxford**, in partnership with Gallup and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN). The World Bank is not the publishing authority.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The report relies on the Gallup World Poll's Cantril Ladder, which is a subjective life evaluation metric.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** India's rank is 116th. As per the report, Nepal (99th) and Pakistan (104th) are ranked higher than India, while India remains ahead of Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The 2026 report continues the trend where major English-speaking nations have fallen out of the top 20, primarily attributed to a decline in the well-being of their youth populations.

**Q73. With reference to the "Dark Fleet" in international maritime trade, consider the following statements:**

1. These are typically aging oil tankers with opaque ownership that operate outside mainstream regulations to bypass international sanctions and oil price caps.
2. "Flag Hopping" and "Spoofing" are common operational tactics used by these vessels to evade oversight by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).
3. These vessels pose a significant environmental risk because they often lack standard Protection and Indemnity (P&I) insurance, making liability for oil spills difficult to establish.

**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**

### Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The "Dark Fleet" (or Shadow Fleet) consists of older tankers (often 15+ years) used by sanctioned nations like Russia, Iran, and Venezuela to move oil while circumventing trade restrictions and the G7 price cap.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** To remain "dark," these ships use "Spoofing" (turning off or manipulating AIS transponders) to hide their location and "Flag Hopping" (frequently changing their country of registration) to exploit "Flags of Convenience" and avoid strict regulatory scrutiny.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Because these ships operate in a "shadow" market, they usually lack the comprehensive P&I insurance required for standard commercial shipping. In the event of an oil spill, there is often no identifiable owner or insurer to pay for the massive cleanup costs, leading to an "orphan" environmental catastrophe.

**Q74. With reference to the Stockholm Water Prize 2026, consider the following statements:**

1. The 2026 prize was awarded to Kaveh Madani, making him the youngest laureate and the first UN official to receive this honor.
2. The prize is awarded annually by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to individuals or organizations for outstanding water-related achievements.

**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**

**Explanation**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Professor Kaveh Madani (Director of UNU-INWEH) was indeed awarded the 2026 prize. He is the youngest recipient in the award's history and the first official from the United Nations to be so honored.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The prize is **not** awarded by UNEP. It is awarded by the **Stockholm Water Foundation** in collaboration with the **Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences**. It was instituted in 1991 and is often described as the "Nobel Prize of Water."

**Q75. With reference to the 'RISA: Timeless Tribal' initiative, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a premium national branding initiative launched by the Ministry of Culture to position indigenous handicrafts in high-end global markets.
2. The project involves a cluster-based development approach, with the first phase covering 10 clusters across various states for weaving, embroidery, and crafts.
3. It focuses on diverse iconic tribal products, including Eri silk from Assam, Pashmina from Ladakh, and Toda embroidery from Tamil Nadu.

**How many of the statements given above are incorrect?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All the three
- D. None

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** While the objective is correct, the **Nodal Ministry is the Ministry of Tribal Affairs**, not the Ministry of Culture. The implementing agency is **TRIFED** (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The initiative specifically utilizes a cluster-based development model. In its first phase, it targets 10 specific clusters to provide design intervention and infrastructure support like stitching units.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The brand is designed to be inclusive of diverse, high-value tribal crafts from across India, specifically mentioning products like Eri silk (Assam), Pashmina (Ladakh), Dokhra art (Chhattisgarh), and Toda embroidery (Tamil Nadu).

**Q76. With reference to the Small Hydro Power (SHP) Development Scheme, consider**

**the following statements:**

1. Hydroelectric projects with a total installed capacity of up to 50 MW are classified as "Small Hydro" and fall under the administrative control of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
2. The scheme mandates that 100% of the plant and machinery used in the projects must be sourced indigenously to promote the *Atmanirbhar Bharat* initiative.
3. Under the Central Financial Assistance (CFA) mechanism, North-Eastern states and Border Districts are eligible for a higher financial subsidy compared to other states.

**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: B**

**Explanation**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** In India, only hydro projects with a capacity **up to 25 MW** are classified as "Small Hydro" (MNRE). Projects exceeding 25 MW are classified as "Large Hydro" and fall under the **Ministry of Power**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The scheme has a strict **Indigenous Mandate**, requiring 100% of the machinery and plant components to be manufactured within India.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The CFA is tiered to reflect geographical difficulty. **NE States/Border Districts** receive up to ₹3.6 Cr/MW (30% of cost), while **Other States** receive up to ₹2.4 Cr/MW (20% of cost).

**Q77. With reference to the South Pars/North Dome gas field, consider the following statements:**

1. Geographically, the reservoir is located in the Gulf of Aden and is shared between Iran and Qatar.
2. The Iranian section, known as South Pars, is significantly larger in terms of surface area compared to the Qatari section known as the North Field.
3. Because the reservoir is geologically connected, excessive extraction on one side can lead to pressure drops and gas migration from the other side.

**How many of the statements given above are incorrect?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. None

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The field is located offshore in the **Persian Gulf**, not the Gulf of Aden.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** While both are massive, the Qatari section (**North Field**) covers approximately **6,000 sq km**, which is larger than the Iranian section (**South Pars**), which covers approximately **3,700 sq km**.

- **Statement 3 is correct:** The field is a single, continuous geological reservoir. This **geological homogeneity** means that production activities on one side directly impact the pressure and gas flow on the other side.

**Q78. With reference to the Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna (BHAVYA), consider the following statements:**

1. The scheme is under the administrative jurisdiction of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) to promote rural industrialization.
2. For projects in the North-Eastern and Hilly States, the minimum area requirement for an industrial park is relaxed to 25 acres, compared to the standard 100-acre minimum elsewhere.
3. Under the Central Financial Assistance (CFA) component, the Central Government provides 100% funding for external last-mile connectivity projects like roads and rail links.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. None

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Nodal Ministry is the **Ministry of Commerce & Industry** (specifically the DPIIT), not the MSME Ministry. The implementing agency is the National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** To account for terrain difficulties, the scheme allows for a smaller scale in **North-Eastern and Hilly States** (minimum 25 acres), while for other regions, the parks range from 100 to 1,000 acres.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** For external connectivity, the Centre funds up to **25% of the cost** (not 100%), aligning the infrastructure development with the PM GatiShakti framework.

**Q79. With reference to the geography and recent international relations of Malawi, consider the following statements:**

1. Geographically, it is a landlocked country in Southeastern Africa, with the Shire River serving as the primary outlet of Lake Malawi into the Zambezi River.
2. Lake Malawi, also known as Lake Nyasa, is the southernmost lake in the East African Rift System and shares its borders with Malawi, Zambia, and Tanzania.
3. In early 2026, India provided humanitarian assistance in the form of 1,000 Metric Tonnes of rice to Malawi to address food security challenges caused by El Niño-induced droughts.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three

D. None

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Malawi is indeed landlocked. The **Shire River** is the only outlet of Lake Malawi; it flows south through Mozambique to join the **Zambezi River**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** While Lake Malawi is the southernmost lake of the Rift System, its borders are shared by **Malawi, Mozambique, and Tanzania**. Zambia borders Malawi to the west but does not share a coastline with Lake Malawi.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Following the March 2026 droughts, India dispatched **1,000 MT of rice** as humanitarian aid, reinforcing the strong bilateral ties and India's role as a first responder in the region.

**Q80. With reference to the Floating LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) Buoy System, consider the following statements:**

1. It utilizes the Doppler Effect by measuring the frequency shift of laser pulses reflected off airborne particles to calculate precise wind speed and direction.
2. Unlike traditional land-based sensors, this system can profile wind conditions up to a height of 300 meters above sea level, reaching the hub height of modern offshore wind turbines.
3. The first indigenous version of this system was recently developed and successfully tested by the National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE) off the coast of Gujarat.

**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: A**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The system's core working principle involves emitting laser pulses and measuring the **Doppler Effect** (frequency shift) of signals bounced back from aerosols and dust to determine wind vectors.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** A major advantage of Floating LiDAR is its **Vertical Profiling** capability, which allows it to measure wind data at multiple heights up to **300 meters**, which is essential for offshore wind farm planning.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** While the system is indeed indigenous, it was developed by the **National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT)**, not NIWE. Furthermore, the successful testing took place off the **Muttom coast in Tamil Nadu**, not Gujarat.

**Q81. Consider the following statements regarding the revolutionary movement associated with Shaheed Diwas:**

1. Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev were executed on March 23, 1931, in the Lahore Conspiracy Case, specifically for the assassination of British police officer John Saunders.

2. The transition of the Hindustan Republican Association (HRA) into the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA) took place in 1928 at Feroz Shah Kotla, marking a shift toward Socialist ideology.
3. The bombing of the Central Legislative Assembly in 1929 by Bhagat Singh and B.K. Dutt was a symbolic protest specifically directed against the Public Safety Bill and the Trade Dispute Bill.

**How many of the statements given above are incorrect?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. None

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** They were indeed hanged on March 23 for the Saunders' murder, which was a retaliation for the death of Lala Lajpat Rai.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The addition of "Socialist" to the name in 1928 under the leadership of Bhagat Singh and Azad represented a definitive ideological shift.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The bombs were intended to "make the deaf hear" regarding the repressive Trade Dispute and Public Safety Bills, and were deliberately non-lethal.

**Q82. Consider the following statements regarding the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) in India:**

1. The MCC is a statutory document that derives its primary legal authority from the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
2. While it originated during the 1960 Kerala Assembly elections, it was first circulated for a Lok Sabha election in 1962.
3. In the case of bye-elections, the jurisdiction of the MCC is limited only to the specific district or districts where the election is being held.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. None

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The MCC is **not statutory** (it is not a law passed by Parliament). However, certain provisions can be enforced through other laws like the IPC, CrPC, and RPA 1951.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It had its genesis in the 1960 Kerala elections and was adopted for the 1962 General Elections.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Unlike General Elections (where it applies to the whole country or state), for bye-elections, it is restricted to the specific district(s) concerned.

**Q83. With reference to the 'PRARAMBH 2026' campaign, consider the following**

**statements:**

1. It is a nationwide outreach initiative launched by the Ministry of Finance to facilitate the implementation of the Income Tax Act, 2025.
2. The campaign aims to transition the Indian tax administration from the legacy 1961 Act towards a trust-based and citizen-friendly compliance system.
3. As part of this initiative, an AI-enabled chatbot named 'Kar Saathi' has been introduced to provide real-time guidance to taxpayers.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. None

**Answer: C****Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** PRARAMBH 2026 was specifically launched by the CBDT (under the Ministry of Finance) to prepare the public for the new tax regime starting April 1, 2026.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** A core objective of the campaign is to recast the 1961 Act into a modern framework that reduces disputes and encourages honest reporting through awareness.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** 'Kar Saathi' is the dedicated AI chatbot developed to offer multilingual support and real-time service to taxpayers under the new provisions.

**Q84. With reference to the 'India BioEconomy Report (IBER) 2026', consider the following statements:**

1. India's BioEconomy has witnessed a significant growth rate of 18% in 2025, reaching a total market size of approximately \$195 billion.
2. Among the four key segments of the BioEconomy, the BioPharma sector is currently the largest contributor, followed by the BioIndustrial sector.
3. The report highlights a geographic shift in the biotech startup ecosystem, with increasing growth being observed in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. None

**Answer: B****Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The report notes that the sector reached \$195.3 billion in 2025 with an 18% growth rate, contributing nearly 5% to the national GDP.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** According to the report, the **BioIndustrial** segment (\$90.2 billion) is the largest contributor, while **BioPharma** (\$64.5 billion) is the second largest.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The ecosystem is decentralizing beyond major hubs, supported by the BioNEST network of over 100 incubators in smaller cities.

**Q85. With reference to the 'Suraksha Sankalp Karyashala', consider the following statements:**

1. It is a decentralized initiative organized by the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) to strengthen the district-level response to HIV/AIDS.
2. Under this initiative, the Government of India aims to bring the HIV epidemic under control by December 1, 2027, which is ahead of the global Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target.
3. The program specifically targets all districts in India to ensure a uniform national transition toward "Surakshit+" status.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. None

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Karyashala is organized by NACO (under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare) to foster district-level ownership of the HIV/AIDS response.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** India has set a domestic target of December 1, 2027, to bring the epidemic under control, three years ahead of the global 2030 target.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The initiative does not target all districts; it focuses on **219 high-priority districts** identified across 18 states/UTs based on high prevalence and transmission risks.

**Q86. With reference to the "TB Champion Movement" in India, consider the following statements:**

1. TB Champions are tuberculosis survivors trained to act as peer educators and community advocates, supporting the National Tuberculosis Elimination.
2. The movement represents a shift in the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) from a purely clinical approach to a community-led "Jan Andolan."
3. It is a key pillar of the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan, which aims to eliminate Tuberculosis in India by 2030, in alignment with the Global SDG targets.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** A "TB Champion" is specifically a **TB survivor** (someone who has successfully completed treatment) who is trained to support others as a peer educator or advocate. It is not a designation for general health workers based on case-finding targets.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** The movement is designed to leverage the lived experiences of survivors to reduce stigma and provide psychosocial support, marking a shift toward a community-centric "Jan Andolan" (People's Movement).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** While it is a pillar of the PM TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan, India's target for TB elimination is **2025**, which is five years **ahead** of the Global SDG target of 2030.

**Q87. With reference to Anti-Dumping Duty (ADD) in India, consider the following statements:**

1. Dumping is considered to occur when a country exports goods to another country at a price lower than its cost of production or the price charged in its own home market.
2. The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, is responsible for the investigation and recommendation of ADD, while the final imposition is notified by the Ministry of Finance.
3. While ADD is generally imposed for a duration of five years, a 'Sunset Review' can be conducted before the expiry of this period to determine if the duty should be extended.

**How many of the statements given above are incorrect?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. None

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** This is the standard definition of dumping used by both the WTO and Indian authorities to identify unfair trade practices.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** This is a key institutional distinction. The DGTR (Commerce Ministry) conducts the quasi-judicial probe, but the Department of Revenue (Finance Ministry) holds the executive power to levy the tax.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The five-year term is the standard duration. The 'Sunset Review' is the legal mechanism used to assess whether the cessation of the duty would likely lead to the continuation or recurrence of dumping and injury.

**Q88. With reference to Tughlaqabad Fort, consider the following statements:**

1. Built by Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq as the third city of Delhi, the fort is characterized by "sloping walls" (batter) and was primarily intended as a defensive outpost against Mongol invasions.
2. The tomb of Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq is located within the main citadel's royal residential area to ensure the monarch's security even in the afterlife.

**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**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Tughlaqabad is indeed the third city of Delhi (after Qila Rai Pithora and Siri). The inward-sloping walls (batter) are a signature architectural feature of the Tughlaq style, providing both structural stability and a formidable defense against invaders like the Mongols.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** While the tomb is built like a mini-fortress with sloping walls, it is **not** located within the main citadel's residential area. Instead, it is situated in a **separate fortified enclosure** connected to the main fort by a stone causeway, which was originally surrounded by an artificial lake.

**Q89. With reference to the Indian Navy's Project 17A, consider the following statements regarding INS Taragiri:**

1. INS Taragiri is a stealth frigate named after a hill range in the Garhwal Himalayas and is a follow-on to the earlier Shivalik-class frigates.
2. The vessel utilizes a Combined Diesel or Gas (CODOG) propulsion system and features a reduced Radar Cross-Section (RCS) to enhance its stealth capabilities.
3. For its air defense and surface-to-surface capabilities, it is equipped with the Barak-8 (LRSAM) and the subsonic Nirbhay cruise missile system.

**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: A****Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Project 17A (Nilgiri-class) is the successor to the Project 17 (Shivalik-class). All seven ships in this class are named after mountain ranges in India; Taragiri is indeed named after a range in the Garhwal Himalayas.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The ship is designed with advanced stealth features, including radar-absorbent coatings and a sleek hull. It uses a **CODOG** (Combined Diesel or Gas) configuration, employing gas turbines for high-speed spurts and diesel engines for economical cruising.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** While it features the Barak-8 for air defense, its primary surface-to-surface weapon is the **BrahMos supersonic** cruise missile, not the subsonic Nirbhay missile.

**Q90. With reference to the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) Pipeline, consider the following statements:**

1. The pipeline is designed to transport natural gas from Iran's South Pars field, passing through the Balochistan region to reach India.
2. One of the primary reasons for India's withdrawal from the project was a disagreement over delivery guarantees, where India requested that Iran ensure safe delivery at the India-Pakistan border.

**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**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The IPI pipeline (Peace Pipeline) originates in the South Pars field in Iran (the world's largest gas field) and its planned route transit through the restive Balochistan province of Pakistan before entering India.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Security and delivery were major sticking points. India insisted that Iran take responsibility for the security of the gas until it reached the Indian border to mitigate the risk of supply disruptions within Pakistani territory. Iran, however, maintained that its responsibility ended at the Iran-Pakistan border.

**Q91. With reference to the ANMOL Initiative launched by the Delhi Government, consider the following statements:**

1. It aims for the early detection of genetic and metabolic disorders in newborns through a "Single Drop" model of blood collection.
2. The scheme utilizes Tandem Mass Spectrometry (TMS) technology to screen for over 50 different diagnostic conditions.
3. The facility is exclusively available to infants born in Delhi Government-run hospitals to ensure targeted budgetary utilization.

**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**

**Explanation**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The initiative follows a "Single Drop" model where approximately **180 microlitres** of blood is collected on filter paper for comprehensive screening of newborns.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It uses high-end **Tandem Mass Spectrometry (TMS)** technology, which allows the screening of **56 different metabolic and genetic disorders** simultaneously from a single sample.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The scheme is inclusive and universal within the state. It covers **all newborns in Delhi**, regardless of whether they are born in **government or private hospitals**, and provides the services completely free of cost.

**Q92. With reference to the Lipulekh Pass, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a strategic mountain pass situated at the trijunction of India, China, and Myanmar in the Kumaon region.
2. The pass serves as a primary route for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra and is part of the Kali River basin.

3. The territorial dispute over this pass between India and Nepal stems from differing interpretations of the 1816 Treaty of Sugauli.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** While it is in the Kumaon region (Uttarakhand), it is located at the trijunction of **India, China, and Nepal**, not Myanmar.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is indeed one of the three main routes for the **Kailash Mansarovar Yatra** (alongside Nathu La and Kathmandu) and lies within the **Kali (Mahakali) River basin**.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The **Treaty of Sugauli (1816)** established the Kali River as Nepal's western boundary. The conflict arises because India and Nepal disagree on the precise source of the Kali River; India identifies the source at Kalapani, while Nepal identifies it further west at Limpiyadhura.

**Q93. With reference to the Model Context Protocol (MCP) in the context of India's digital infrastructure, consider the following statements:**

1. The Government of India has implemented an MCP server to enable AI applications to directly access verified statistical data from the e-Sankhyiki portal.
2. The protocol follows a client-server architecture where the data source (such as a government portal) acts as the Client and the AI application acts as the Server.

**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**

**Explanation**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** In early 2026, the Indian Government launched an MCP implementation specifically to link AI tools with the **e-Sankhyiki portal**. This allows AI models to fetch real-time, verified official statistics to provide more accurate and context-aware responses.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** In the MCP architecture, the roles are the opposite: the **AI application acts as the Client**, which initiates the request, and the **data source (like the e-Sankhyiki portal) acts as the Server**, which provides the requested information or tools.

**Q94. With reference to India's Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR), consider the following statements:**

1. Phase I of the SPR program includes underground rock cavern storage facilities located

at Visakhapatnam, Mangaluru, and Chandikhol.

2. The Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL), which manages these reserves, is a subsidiary of the Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB).
3. Under the "Commercial-cum-Strategic" model of Phase II, private entities can trade a portion of the stored oil, but the government retains the right of first refusal during emergencies.

**How many of the statements given above are incorrect?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Phase I locations are Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Mangaluru (Karnataka), and **Padur** (Karnataka). **Chandikhol** (Odisha) is part of the **Phase II** expansion plan, not Phase I.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** ISPRL is indeed a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) and a wholly-owned subsidiary of the **Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB)** under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Phase II expansion utilizes a PPP model where the concessionaire can store and trade oil commercially to make the project viable, provided the government has the first right to the crude during supply disruptions.

**Q95. With reference to the Randomization of EVM-VVPATs during Indian elections, consider the following statements:**

1. The first stage of randomization is conducted by the District Election Officer (DEO) to allocate machines from the district pool to specific Assembly Constituencies.
2. The second stage of randomization occurs before the list of contesting candidates is finalized to ensure that polling stations are assigned machines in a truly neutral manner.

**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**

**Explanation**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The **First Stage Randomization** is indeed conducted by the **District Election Officer (DEO)**. In this stage, machines that have cleared the First Level Check (FLC) are randomly assigned from the district warehouse to various Assembly Constituencies (ACs) in the presence of representatives of recognized political parties.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The **Second Stage Randomization** (AC to Polling Station) occurs **after** the list of contesting candidates is finalized. This is because the "Candidate Setting" (incorporating symbols and names into the Ballot Unit) can only happen once

the final list of candidates is known. The machines are randomized a second time specifically to be assigned to individual polling stations within the constituency.

**Q96. Consider the following statements regarding the Jal Seva Aankalan (JSA) Framework:**

1. It marks a strategic shift under the Jal Jeevan Mission from purely infrastructure creation to a service-delivery-based assessment of water functionality.
2. The framework relies primarily on independent third-party audits to ensure data integrity and reduce the administrative burden on Gram Panchayats.
3. Under this framework, the Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC) assesses service delivery based on multiple parameters.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The JSA Framework represents the evolution of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), moving beyond just laying pipes (infrastructure) to ensuring the actual flow and sustainability of water (service delivery).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The framework is explicitly designed as a **community-led self-assessment** tool. It aims to empower Gram Panchayats and reduce reliance on external third-party surveys by having the local community evaluate their own water systems.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The "Regularity and Adequacy" pillar defines the service level as **55 lpcd**, and the "Water Quality" pillar mandates testing against the **BIS 10500:2012** (Indian Standard for Drinking Water).

**Q97. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Vayu Baan' Project:**

1. It is an indigenous initiative of the Indian Air Force (IAF) to deploy helicopter-launched autonomous drones for stand-off strikes.
2. The system is specifically engineered to operate in GNSS-denied (Global Navigation Satellite System) environments to counter electronic warfare.
3. Unlike loitering munitions, these drones are restricted to Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) roles and lack a kinetic strike capability.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Launched in March 2026, **Vayu Baan** is a "made-in-India"

project by the IAF's Directorate of Aerospace Design. It allows helicopters to launch drones mid-air, keeping the "mother ship" safe from enemy air defenses.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** A standout feature of Vayu Baan is its ability to navigate and execute missions even when **GPS/GNSS signals are jammed**, which is critical in modern high-tech conflicts.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The system has **dual-role capability**. While it performs ISR, it can also operate in "Kamikaze" or loitering munition mode to strike targets directly. It is precisely this kinetic capability that provides the "stand-off" strike advantage.

**Q98. Consider the following statements regarding the ancient city of Tyre:**

1. Originally an island city off the coast of modern-day Lebanon, it was transformed into a peninsula during a siege by Alexander the Great.
2. The city was world-renowned in antiquity for the production of a rare purple dye extracted from Murex sea snails, which became a global symbol of royalty.
3. The Al-Bass archaeological site within the city is home to one of the world's largest Roman Hippodromes and a monumental Triumphal Arch.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** In 332 BCE, Alexander the Great built a massive causeway (mole) to reach the island city, which eventually silted up and turned the island into a permanent peninsula.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** "Tyrian Purple" was the most expensive and prestigious dye in the ancient world, famously harvested from the Murex snail found along its Mediterranean shores.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Al-Bass site is a major part of its UNESCO World Heritage designation, featuring a Roman Hippodrome that once seated 20,000 spectators and the famous Hadrian's Arch.

**Q99. Consider the following statements regarding the Proálcool Programme:**

1. Launched in 1975 by Brazil, it was primarily a response to the 1973 Global Oil Shock to reduce dependence on expensive imported fossil fuels.
2. The programme utilizes corn as the primary feedstock for ethanol production, mirroring the biofuel model followed by the United States.
3. A key pillar of the programme's success is the Flex-Fuel Vehicle (FFV) ecosystem, which allows engines to run on any proportion of gasoline and ethanol.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two

- C. All three
- D. None

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The programme was initiated to achieve energy security after the 1973 oil crisis made oil imports prohibitively expensive for Brazil.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Unlike the US model which relies on corn, the Proálcool programme is based on **sugarcane-derived ethanol**, leveraging Brazil's massive sugar industry.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The introduction of **Flex-Fuel technology** (especially after 2003) revolutionized the programme by giving consumers the choice to switch between fuels based on market prices at the pump.

**Q100. Consider the following statements regarding 'Biologics' in the context of the pharmaceutical sector:**

1. Unlike traditional drugs which are chemically synthesized, biologics are large, complex molecules derived from living systems such as microorganisms, plant, or animal cells.
2. Due to their protein-based nature, biologics are highly stable at room temperature and do not require the specialized cold chain infrastructure typically needed for small-molecule drugs.

**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**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Biologics are manufactured in living cells (host cells) through genetic engineering, making them significantly larger and more complex than traditional chemical drugs like Aspirin.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Biologics are **extremely sensitive** to heat, light, and shear. They require a strict **cold chain** for storage and transport to prevent the proteins from denaturing or losing their therapeutic properties.

**Q101. With reference to the S-400 Triumf missile system, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a long-range surface-to-air missile system developed by Russia, capable of engaging targets up to an altitude of 30 km.
2. It forms a multi-layered defense shield by utilizing four different types of missiles within a single system.
3. Its radar system is designed with anti-stealth capabilities and can track up to 300 targets simultaneously.

**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**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The S-400 is a Russian-origin long-range SAM system with an operational range of 400 km and an altitude ceiling of 30 km.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is unique because it integrates four different missile types (short, medium, long, and very long range) to create a comprehensive layered defense.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** It features advanced multifunction radars (like the Big Bird) specifically designed to detect stealth aircraft and can track a massive volume of targets (300) while engaging dozens simultaneously.

**Q102. With reference to the Immigration, Visa, and Foreigners Registration & Tracking (IVFRT) Scheme, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a Mission Mode Project implemented by the Ministry of External Affairs to facilitate the global mobility of Indian citizens.
2. The scheme aims to create a unified digital platform that tracks a foreigner's journey from the stage of visa application until their exit from the country.
3. It integrates diverse stakeholders, including Indian Missions abroad, Immigration Check Posts (ICPs), and Foreigners Regional Registration Offices (FRROs).

**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: B**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** While it involves visas and missions, the IVFRT scheme is implemented by the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**, not the Ministry of External Affairs. Its primary focus is on managing and tracking **foreigners** entering India, rather than the mobility of Indian citizens.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The core purpose of the scheme is to optimize immigration functions through a "Visa-to-Exit" tracking model using a unified digital platform.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The system achieves its objectives by interlinking Indian Missions, ICPs, FRROs, and security agencies to ensure seamless data sharing and enhanced national security.

**Q103. With reference to the 'AssamSAT Mission', consider the following statements:**

1. Assam is the first state in India to float a tender for its own constellation of Earth-observation satellites.
2. The mission will utilize Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) technology to ensure surveillance capability despite the frequent cloud cover in the region.

**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**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Assam has achieved pioneering status by becoming the first Indian state to initiate the process of owning and operating its own dedicated group of satellites for state-specific needs.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Because Assam is under cloud cover for nearly half the year, the satellites are expected to carry SAR technology. Unlike optical sensors, SAR can "see" through clouds and darkness, making it ideal for monitoring floods in the Brahmaputra valley and border surveillance.

**Q104. With reference to 'Natural Mineral Water' standards in India (IS 13428), consider the following statements:**

1. It must be obtained exclusively from underground sources like aquifers or springs that are naturally protected from pollution.
2. Unlike packaged drinking water, it is prohibited from undergoing treatments such as Reverse Osmosis (RO), UV treatment, or chemical disinfection.
3. The regulations allow for the manual addition or removal of specific minerals to ensure a constant Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) level before bottling.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Natural Mineral Water must come directly from underground sources (aquifers/springs) and cannot be sourced from surface water like rivers.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** To maintain its "natural" status, chemical disinfection and intensive treatments like RO or UV (which are standard for regular packaged water) are strictly prohibited. Only physical processes like filtration or decantation are allowed.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** A defining characteristic of Natural Mineral Water is that its mineral composition must remain **stable and naturally occurring** at the source. Any treatment that alters the natural mineral content (adding or removing minerals) would disqualify it from being labeled as "Natural Mineral Water."

**Q105. Consider the following statements regarding the Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve (VDTR):**

1. It was formed by merging parts of the Nauradehi and Veerangana Durgavati sanctuaries, making it the 7th tiger reserve in Madhya Pradesh.
2. The reserve serves as an ecological corridor connecting the Panna Tiger Reserve with

the Satpura Tiger Reserve within the Vindhyan Range.

- Beyond its role as a tiger habitat, the reserve has been designated to become India's third home for cheetahs through the construction of a soft-release Boma.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

- Statement 1 is correct:** VDTR was indeed created by combining the Nauradehi and Veerangana Durgavati wildlife sanctuaries. It is the 7th tiger reserve in MP and the 54th in India.
- Statement 2 is correct:** Geographically situated in the Vindhyan Range, it acts as a "green bridge" for the movement of tigers between Panna and Satpura and falls within the Narmada and Yamuna river basins.
- Statement 3 is correct:** Following Kuno and Gandhi Sagar, VDTR is being developed as the third site for cheetah reintroduction in India, with the foundation for a "Boma" (an enclosure system for acclimation) already laid.

**Q106. With reference to the 'CALM-Brain' initiative, consider the following statements:**

- It is India's first digital repository specifically designed to study the brain structure and functions related to major psychiatric disorders.
- The project is a collaborative effort between NIMHANS and the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS).
- It focuses exclusively on tracking neurodegenerative disorders like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's to identify genetic biomarkers.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- Statement 1 is correct:** CALM-Brain (Collaborative Assessment of Lived experience and Mechanisms of the Brain) is indeed India's first-of-its-kind digital repository for data on brain mechanisms regarding psychiatric disorders.
- Statement 2 is correct:** It has been developed by NIMHANS and NCBS-TIFR under the Rohini Nilekani Centre for Brain and Mind (CBM).
- Statement 3 is incorrect:** While it identifies biomarkers, it does not focus *exclusively* on neurodegenerative disorders. It specifically tracks five major neuropsychiatric conditions: **Addiction, Bipolar Disorder, Dementia, OCD, and Schizophrenia**. It is also a multi-modal study including clinical, behavioral, and neuroimaging data, not just

genetic markers.

**Q107. With reference to the 'Modified UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) Scheme', consider the following statements:**

1. Unlike the original scheme which relied on a cross-subsidy levy on passengers, the modified version is funded through direct budgetary support from the exchequer.
2. The subsidy period under the Viability Gap Funding (VGF) has been extended from the initial 3 years to 5 years to ensure better route sustainability.
3. For the first time, the government will provide Operation & Maintenance (O&M) support for a period of three years to sustain airports with low traffic.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** One of the major structural shifts in the 2026 modification is moving from the RCS Levy (cross-subsidy) to **Direct Budgetary Support** to provide more stable funding.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** To address the "viability crisis" where routes were discontinued after subsidies ended, the **VGF period has been extended to 5 years**.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The modified scheme introduces **O&M funding** (capped at ₹3.06 crore/year for airports) for the first three years to help airports manage costs during the initial low-traffic phase.

**Q108. With reference to 'AI Tokens' in Large Language Models (LLMs), consider the following statements:**

1. Tokens are the smallest units of data processed by an LLM, where a single token always corresponds to exactly one complete dictionary word.
2. The "Context Window" of an AI model refers to the maximum number of tokens the model can process or "remember" in a single session.

**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**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** A token is not always a complete word. Depending on the tokenization method, a token can be a single character, a whole word, or a sub-word (e.g., the word "running" might be broken into "run" and "ning").
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The context window is the limit (e.g., 128k tokens) that defines how much information the model can hold in its "active memory" at one time. Once this

limit is exceeded, the model begins to "forget" the earliest parts of the conversation.

**Q109. With reference to the 'Gruh Sugam Portal', consider the following statements:**

1. It is a digital platform launched by the National Housing Bank (NHB) to serve as a unified marketplace for housing loans.
2. The portal is specifically designed to enable government and defense personnel posted in remote areas to complete home loan processes without physical bank visits.
3. Although it deals with housing finance, the portal is under the administrative jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance rather than the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The portal is an aggregator platform launched by the **National Housing Bank (NHB)** where employees can register loan requirements and receive competitive offers from various lenders.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** A core objective is "**Location Independence,**" allowing personnel in border or remote areas to apply through their Administrative Units digitally, eliminating the need for physical paperwork during initial approvals.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The NHB is a statutory body under the **Ministry of Finance**. While the portal deals with "Housing," its regulatory and developmental parent is the Finance Ministry.

**Q110. With reference to the 'Nasha Mukta Vidyalaya Initiative' launched in 2026, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Home Affairs, functioning as a sub-component of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan.
2. Under this initiative, a 500-metre radius around every school (both government and private) is mandated to be formally declared a "Drug-Free Zone."
3. The initiative utilizes the 'Navchetna' modules, which are specifically designed to provide life-skills training and peer-pressure management for students.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** It is a convergence project between the **Ministry of Education (MoE)** and **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**, aimed at implementing a 3-

year action plan within the framework of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (managed by MoSJE).

- **Statement 2 is correct:** A key feature is the creation of a **500-metre buffer zone** around schools where the sale of tobacco, alcohol, or narcotics is strictly prohibited and legally reportable by "Nodal Teachers."
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The **Navchetna** (New Consciousness) modules are the primary pedagogical tools used to train teachers and students in classes 6th to 11th on identifying early signs of substance use and resisting peer pressure.

**Q111. With reference to the Grameen Credit Score (GCS), consider the following statements:**

1. It is a specialized financial inclusion framework introduced in the Union Budget 2025-26 to bridge the credit gap for "credit invisible" rural populations.
2. The score is uniquely calculated using alternative data such as Self-Help Group (SHG) internal lending records and utility payment history.
3. Once implemented, it will legally replace the CIBIL score for all micro-finance and agricultural loan processing in India.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** GCS was a highlight of the 2025-26 Budget aimed at providing a formal credit identity to those without traditional banking history.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It uses "thin-file" data like SHG transactions, mobile recharges, and agricultural patterns to assess creditworthiness.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** GCS is a **complementary** tool. It works alongside existing credit bureaus (CIBIL/CRIF) rather than replacing them, providing lenders with a more holistic view of rural borrowers.

**Q112. Consider the following statements regarding the PRISM-SG Portal:**

1. It is a collaborative digital initiative between the Ministry of Railways and the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH).
2. The portal specifically digitizes the Quality Assurance Plan (QAP) and inspection stages for Steel Girders used in bridge construction.
3. It aims to reduce the typical 12-month technical approval cycle for Road Over Bridges (ROBs) to approximately 3–4 months.

**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**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** It is a joint effort to solve the "rail-road" bottleneck.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** While previous portals handled designs, PRISM-SG focuses on the **fabrication and inspection** of Steel Girders (SG).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** By eliminating offline/manual inspections and scheduling yard visits digitally, it targets a 70% reduction in approval timelines.

**Q113. With reference to the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait, consider the following statements:**

1. It connects the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden and separates the continent of Africa from the Arabian Peninsula.
2. The strait is divided by Perim Island into two channels, of which the narrow eastern channel is the primary international shipping lane.
3. Geologically, the strait is a part of the Great Rift Valley system and sits on a divergent plate boundary.

**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: B**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** It borders Yemen (Asia) and Djibouti/Eritrea (Africa).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** While Perim Island does divide it, the **Western Channel (Dact-el-Mayun)** is the wide, deep lane used for international shipping. The Eastern channel (Bab Iskender) is shallow and used only for local traffic.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** It is a key segment of the Afro-Arabian rift system where the African and Arabian plates are moving apart.

**Q114. Regarding the SRY (Sex-determining Region Y) gene, consider the following statements:**

1. It is the "master switch" for male sex determination and is located on the short arm of the Y chromosome.
2. In the clinical condition known as Swyer Syndrome, an individual possesses XY chromosomes but lacks a functional SRY gene, resulting in a female phenotype.
3. In India, the use of SRY gene screening for fetal sex determination is permitted only in government-certified laboratories under the PCPNDT Act.

**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: A**

- **Explanation:** \* **Statement 1 is correct:** It triggers the formation of testes via the Testis-Determining Factor (TDF).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Without the SRY "switch," the embryo develops female reproductive structures by default, even if the karyotype is XY.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Under the **PCPNDT Act, 1994**, any genetic test (including SRY screening) for the purpose of **fetal sex determination** is strictly prohibited and a criminal offense in India, regardless of the laboratory's certification status.

**Q115. Consider the following statements about the Tunguska (2K22M) Air Defence System:**

1. It is a hybrid weapon system that integrates both 30mm autocannons and surface-to-air missiles on a single chassis.
2. It is a Short-Range Air Defence (SHORAD) system specifically designed to provide mobile protection to armored columns.
3. The system is designed to be purely radar-guided and cannot function if its electronic sensors are neutralized by jamming.

**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: A**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** This "gun-missile" combination allows it to engage targets at various ranges (Guns: 0-4km; Missiles: up to 10km).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Unlike static systems, the Tunguska is tracked and can fire its guns while on the move to shield tanks.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Tunguska is equipped with an **optical tracking system** and a laser rangefinder as a backup. This allows the crew to engage targets even in high-intensity Electronic Warfare (EW) environments where radar is jammed.

**Q116. With reference to Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council (BRIC), consider the following statements:**

1. BRIC is a statutory body under the Ministry of Science & Technology.
2. It has been formed by merging multiple autonomous biotechnology institutes.
3. It aims to create a centralized laboratory system under one single institute.

**4. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: (b) 2 only**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1** : BRIC is **not a statutory body**; it is an **autonomous body** under the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology.
- **Statement 2** : Correct. It is formed by **merging multiple autonomous biotech institutes** to improve coordination and efficiency.
- **Statement 3** : Incorrect. BRIC does **not aim to create a single centralized laboratory**, but rather a **networked structure** of institutions.

**Q117. With reference to the Baltic Sea, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a fully enclosed freshwater sea in Northern Europe.
2. It is one of the largest brackish water bodies in the world.
3. It is connected to the North Sea through the Kattegat and Skagerrak straits.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: (a) 2 and 3 only**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1** : Incorrect. The Baltic Sea is **not freshwater**; it is **brackish** (mix of salt and fresh water).
- **Statement 2** : Correct. It is one of the **largest brackish water bodies** in the world.
- **Statement 3** : Correct. It connects to the **North Sea via the Kattegat and Skagerrak straits**.

**Q118. With reference to Denotified Tribes (DNTs), consider the following statements:**

1. They were earlier classified as “criminal tribes” under British rule.
2. They were denotified after the repeal of the Criminal Tribes Act in 1952.
3. They are currently classified uniformly under Scheduled Tribes across India.

**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

**Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1** : Correct. These tribes were labeled as “**criminal tribes**” during **British rule**.
- **Statement 2** : Correct. They were **denotified in 1952** after repeal of the Criminal Tribes Act.

- **Statement 3** : Incorrect. They are **not uniformly classified** as Scheduled Tribes; classification varies (SC/ST/OBC or none).

**Q119. With reference to the Competition Commission of India (CCI), consider the following statements:**

1. It is a statutory body established under the Competition Act, 2002.
2. It functions under the Ministry of Finance.
3. It became operational in 2009.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: (a) 1 and 3 only**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1:** Correct. It is a **statutory body under the Competition Act, 2002**.
- **Statement 2:** Incorrect. It functions under the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs**, not Finance.
- **Statement 3:** Correct. It became operational in **2009**.

**Q120. With reference to the Sahiwal breed of cattle, consider the following statements:**

1. It is an exotic breed introduced from Europe.
2. It is known for high milk yield among indigenous breeds.
3. It is highly heat tolerant and disease resistant.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: (a) 2 and 3 only**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1:** Incorrect. Sahiwal is an **indigenous Indian breed** (from Punjab region), not exotic.
- **Statement 2:** Correct. It is known for **high milk yield among indigenous breeds**.
- **Statement 3:** Correct. It is **heat tolerant and disease resistant**, suitable for tropical climates.