

MAGAZINE TEST

EXPLANATION

DRISHTI CURRENT AFFAIRS TODAY

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1. (b)

Explanation:

- **Industrial effluents and untreated domestic wastewater** are the **two major contributors** to Hindon River pollution. **Hence, option (b) is correct.**
- A **2007 study by Janhit Foundation** found **lead and chromium contamination** in groundwater near the river.
- The **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** has listed the Hindon as a **'Priority 1' river** due to its extreme **biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) levels** reaching **30 mg/l**, indicating **severe pollution**.
- Approximately **220 million liters of untreated sewage** is discharged into the river daily.
- However, **agricultural runoff and contaminated handpumps** are **not identified as major contributors**.
Hence, option (b) is correct.

2. (b)

Explanation:

- **Kappaphycus alvarezii** is an **invasive seaweed species** cultivated for **commercial purposes** (such as carrageenan production).
- It has **spread aggressively** in **Tamil Nadu's Gulf of Mannar and Goa**, damaging coral ecosystems.
- The **IUCN classifies Kappaphycus as an invasive species**, and **Tamil Nadu has banned its cultivation in ecologically sensitive areas**.
- Despite this, the **Indian government continues to promote its farming for economic benefits**.
Hence, option (b) is correct.

3. (a)

Explanation:

- **Excessive lighting** in public spaces, especially **decorative lights**, is considered **light pollution**, which disrupts ecosystems and human circadian rhythms. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Artificial lights reduce** insect populations, **not prevent their predation**. **Insects are attracted to artificial light**, where they may die from exhaustion or predation. **Hence, statement 2 is NOT correct.**
- **Artificial light interferes with circadian rhythms** (not cardiac rhythms), disrupting essential biological functions such as sleep patterns, hormone regulation, and immune functions. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

4. (c)

Explanation:

- India's social security system provides **social insurance, assistance, and rights to education and food** through schemes like the **NFSA, Ayushman Bharat, and MGNREGA**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Social security is **primarily managed at the central level**, though **state governments contribute** to its implementation (e.g., in healthcare). **Hence, Statement 2 is NOT correct.**
- Social security is **not a fundamental right** under the Constitution, though it is supported through welfare policies and laws. **Hence, statement 3 is NOT correct.**

5. (d)

Explanation:

- **Article 21A** of the Indian Constitution guarantees **free and compulsory education** for children aged **6-14 years**, not for **primary and secondary education**. Hence, **Statement 1 is NOT correct**.
- The **Right to Education Act of 2009** applies to children aged **6-14 years**, not **5-14 years**. Hence, **Statement 2 is NOT correct**.

6. (c)

Explanation:

- The **National Food Security Act (2013)** aims to ensure **food security** to over **67% of the population** through the **Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)**. **statement 1 is correct**.
- The **NFSA** includes provisions for **fortified rice distribution** to combat **malnutrition** in vulnerable communities, including **children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers**. **statement 2 is correct**.

7. (a)

Explanation:

- The **Persons with Disabilities Act (1995)** mandates a **3% reservation** for persons with disabilities in government jobs. Hence, **Statement 1 is correct**.
- The **Unique Disability ID (UDID)** provides a **national platform** for disabled persons to avail benefits such as **education loans, unemployment allowances, and other welfare schemes**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- **Uttar Pradesh** has the **largest proportion** of people with disabilities in India, not **Bihar**. Hence, **statement 3 is NOT correct**.

Hence, option (a) is correct.

8. (b)

Explanation:

- **Samarth** provides **respite homes** and supports **children from BPL and LIG families**, including **orphaned or abandoned children**.
- **Gharaunda** ensures lifelong care for **adults with autism, cerebral palsy, and mental retardation**.
- **Niramaya** provides **health insurance**, not **awareness programs**, which makes statement 3 incorrect.
- **Badhte Kadam** supports **awareness and sensitization activities**, not **health insurance**.

Hence, option (b) is correct.

9. (d)

Explanation:

- **Arunachal Pradesh** has a **high percentage** of Scheduled Tribes, **Mizoram** has the **highest proportion** of STs among Northeast states. Hence, **Statement 1 is NOT correct**.
 - **Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Nagaland** are **tribal-majority** states, where the ST population is greater than **50%** of the total population. Hence, **Statement 2 is correct**.
 - **Assam** has a **large ST population** and it is **higher than that of the Scheduled Caste population**. Hence, **statement 3 is NOT correct**.
- Hence, option (d) is correct.

10. (d)

Explanation:

- **Mizoram** has the **highest literacy rate** in Northeast India, followed by **Nagaland** and **Arunachal Pradesh**.
 - **Mizoram's literacy rate** is over **91%**, while **Nagaland** and **Arunachal Pradesh** have slightly lower rates.
- Hence, option (d) is correct.

11. (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Northeast region generally reports **lower crime rates against Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Scheduled Castes (SCs)** compared to other regions of India. Hence, **statement 1 is NOT correct**.
- The **sex ratio in the Northeast** is **higher than the national average** in many states. For example, states like **Manipur and Meghalaya** report **sex ratios above the national figure**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- **Mizoram, Manipur, and Nagaland** do not have **higher infant mortality rates** than the national average. Hence, **statement 3 is NOT correct**.

12. (a)

Explanation:

- **Yevgeny Primakov**, the **Russian former Prime Minister and Foreign Minister**, is known for **developing the concept of multipolarity** in the context of global politics.
- He emphasized that the post-Cold War world should not be dominated by a single superpower, and he advocated for a world order based on multiple **power centers**, rather than one dominated by the U.S.A.

- His views became a foundation for Russian foreign policy in the 21st century, promoting a **balance of power** where nations would maintain strategic autonomy. **Hence, option (a) is correct.**

13. (a)

Explanation:

- **The Indian Constitution, in its 75 years, has demonstrated adaptability to evolving societal changes through amendments and judicial interpretations, affirming its dynamic nature.**
- Additionally, the Constitution recognizes and celebrates pluralism by ensuring equality, liberty, and cultural preservation under Articles like 14, 19, and 29.
- Statement II explains the foundation of Statement I, as the recognition of pluralism has contributed to the Constitution's adaptability.

Hence, option (a) is correct.

14. (b)

Explanation:

- The agriculture-to-non-agriculture terms of trade did increase significantly, as mentioned, indicating better relative pricing for agricultural products compared to non-agricultural goods during the period. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Real wholesale prices of agricultural commodities did grow by around 15% over the last decade, reflecting moderate growth. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- While supply-side factors like improved infrastructure and technology played a role, government support, particularly in the form of subsidies, minimum support prices (MSP), and rural development programs, was equally influential in driving agricultural growth. **Hence, statement 3 is NOT correct.**

15. (c)

Explanation:

- The **concept of redefining law in the cyber age** emphasizes how **technological advancements** such as the rise of the internet, artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity concerns influence and shape the legal landscape.

- This involves updating **existing legal frameworks** and creating new laws that **address emerging challenges** in cyberspace, such as privacy issues, data protection, and online crime.
- Legal frameworks must evolve in response to **rapid technological developments** to ensure justice, fairness, and security in the digital age.

Hence, option (c) is correct.

16. (b)

Explanation:

- BRICS is not just a platform for **bilateral agreements**; rather, it functions as a **multilateral platform** for cooperation in areas like **trade, finance, security, and development**. **Hence, statement 1 is NOT correct.**
- The **New Development Bank (NDB)**, founded by BRICS nations, focuses on **funding sustainable infrastructure projects**, particularly in emerging economies. It promotes **green projects, renewable energy, and inclusive development**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

17. (a)

Explanation:

- In rural India, there has been a notable shift towards women's emancipation, driven by opportunities for empowerment and economic independence. Combat sports provide rural women with confidence and recognition, while traditional recipes turned into entrepreneurial ventures help them achieve financial self-reliance.
- These tools align with the broader emphasis on women's liberation and economic participation, making Statement II the basis for Statement I.

Hence, option (a) is correct.

18. (b)

Explanation:

- The **Indian Military Heritage Festival** was not inaugurated by the **Chief of Defense Staff (CDS)**. Instead, the festival was held to **celebrate and conserve India's military heritage**. **Hence, statement 1 is NOT correct.**
- **Project Shaurya Gatha** was launched at the festival to promote **India's military heritage**, focusing on the preservation of **military history** and the **contribution of armed forces** to national security. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

19. (b)

Explanation:

- The **Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary** is located near the **Chorla Ghat** and plays a crucial role in connecting **tiger populations** between **Maharashtra's Sahyadri Tiger Reserves** and **Karnataka's Kali Tiger Reserve**.
- The sanctuary is part of the **Western Ghats**, a biodiversity hotspot, and supports various **endangered species**.

Hence, option (b) is correct.

20. (c)

Explanation:

- The **Chenchu tribe** is one of the **smallest Scheduled Tribes** in **Odisha**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The **Chenchus** are one of the **oldest Telugu-speaking tribes**, residing in the **forests of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Odisha**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The **Chenchu tribe** is included in the list of the **12 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG)** in Andhra Pradesh due to their **traditional and marginalized lifestyle**. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

Hence, option (c) is correct.

21. (b)

Explanation:

- The **Titan Arum**, also known as the **corpse flower**, is famous for being one of the **largest flowering plants** and for its **foul odor**, resembling that of rotting flesh.
- It is native to the **rainforests of Sumatra** in Indonesia and blooms **rarely**, often making headlines when it does.
- Its size and the unique smell are key characteristics that have made it widely known.

Hence, option (b) is correct.

22. (b)

Explanation:

- **Malabar Exercise 2024:** A joint naval exercise involving India, the US, Japan, and Australia (Quad Nations). Hence, option (b) is correct.
- **Antariksha Abhyas 2024:** Military space strategy simulation and it focuses on **space-based military strategy and simulations**, enhancing India's **defense capabilities in outer space**.

- **Mahasagar:** It is an Indian Navy outreach program to enhance **engagement with Indian Ocean Region (IOR) littoral states** through **virtual interactions and maritime collaborations**.

23. (a)

Explanation:

- The **World Cities Report** is published by **UN-Habitat, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme**. Hence, option (a) is correct.
- It focuses on urban development and sustainability issues.

24. (c)

Explanation:

- **International Snow Leopard Day** is celebrated on **23rd October** to raise awareness about the **conservation of snow leopards**, which are endangered.
- **Ayurveda Day** is celebrated on **29th October** to promote **Ayurvedic medicine** as a part of India's cultural heritage.
- **National Education Day** is observed on **11th November** to commemorate the birth anniversary of **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad**, India's first Minister of Education.

Hence, option (c) is correct.

25. (c)

Explanation:

- The Indian Constitution envisions **substantive equality**, ensuring that laws and policies address **disadvantages faced by specific groups** to achieve actual equality, as opposed to **formal equality** that treats everyone the same. Hence, Statement 1 is correct.
- The **Directive Principles of State Policy** provide the **framework for achieving social justice** through provisions for **welfare measures, education, and health** for marginalized communities. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- **Universal Adult Franchise** ensures that every **Indian citizen** has the **right to vote**, promoting **political equality** across the country. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

26. (b)

Explanation:

- Satellite spectrum allocation is **not exclusively governed by the Minister of Communications**, as it involves multiple regulatory bodies, including the **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** and international coordination through the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**. Hence, **statement 1 is NOT correct**.
- The **administrative allocation method** is preferred for **satellite communication** because **spectrum can be shared among multiple users** rather than being auctioned to a single entity. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- The **auction method** is used for **terrestrial spectrum**, such as **mobile and broadband services**, which operate in a competitive market. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

27. (b)

Explanation:

- India ranks **third globally** in phishing attacks, but **after the United States and the United Kingdom**, not China. Hence, **statement 1 is NOT correct**.
- India has achieved **Tier 1 status in the Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) 2024**, reflecting its strong commitment to cybersecurity initiatives and policies. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

28. (c)

Explanation:

- **Phishing** involves **deceptive emails or fake websites** that trick users into revealing personal information.
- **Malware** refers to **any software intended to harm or exploit computers or networks**, including viruses, worms, and spyware.
- **Ransomware** encrypts the victim's data and demands **payment (often in cryptocurrency) for decryption**. Hence, **option (c) is correct**.

29. (d)

Explanation:

- The **Indian President is elected indirectly** through an **Electoral College** of MPs and MLAs, whereas the **US President is elected through a direct vote by citizens**, which then determines the Electoral College votes. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

- The **Indian President serves a five-year term**, while the **US President serves a four-year term and can be re-elected once**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- The **Indian President's powers are largely ceremonial**, exercised on the advice of the **Council of Ministers**, whereas the **US President has direct executive authority** and can veto legislation. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**. Hence, **option (d) is correct**.

30. (c)

Explanation:

- The **President of India appoints the Chief Justice of India (CJI) under Article 124(2)** of the Constitution. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- **While the seniority convention exists**, it is **not mandated by the Constitution** but followed as a tradition. Hence, **statement 2 is NOT correct**.
- The requirement for a **Supreme Court judge** is either **five years as a High Court judge OR ten years as an advocate OR distinguished juristic experience**, not exclusively ten years as a High Court judge. Hence, **statement 3 is NOT correct**. Hence, **option (c) is correct**.

31. (a)

Explanation:

The **97th Constitutional Amendment Act (2011)** made **three key changes**:

- Added **Article 43-B** to the **Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP)**, emphasizing the promotion of **cooperative societies**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- Introduced **Part IX-B** (Articles 243-ZH to 243-ZT) for the governance of cooperative societies.
- Established the **right to form cooperative societies as a fundamental right under Article 19(1)(c)**.
- The **Cooperative Societies Act of 1912** was an expansion of the **Cooperative Credit Societies Act of 1904**, but it **did not specifically establish PACS (Primary Agricultural Credit Societies)**. Hence, **statement 2 is NOT correct**.
- Instead, it allowed the **formation of various types of cooperative societies**, including **marketing, handloom, and artisan societies**.
- **PACS evolved later as part of India's rural credit system** and were strengthened through **NABARD and government schemes**.

32. (c)

Explanation:

- Article 311 of the Indian Constitution lays down two major safeguards for civil servants:
- Dismissal or removal can only be done by the appointing authority or someone of higher rank. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Dismissal or reduction in rank requires a departmental inquiry with a reasonable opportunity to defend. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

33. (b)

Explanation:

- The **PM Vishwakarma Yojana** provides **collateral-free loans of ₹1 lakh (first tranche) and ₹2 lakh (second tranche)** at a **concessional interest rate of 5%**, with government subvention of 8%. **Statement 1 is correct.**
- The scheme offers a **stipend of ₹500 per day for skill training**, not ₹1,000 per day. It also provides a **toolkit incentive of up to ₹15,000** in the form of **e-vouchers**. **Statement 2 is NOT correct**
- The scheme is implemented by the **Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME)**, not the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship**. **Hence, Statement 3 is NOT correct**

34. (c)

Explanation:

- The **PM-Vidyalaxmi scheme** provides **collateral-free and guarantor-free loans** to students studying in **top 100 NIRF-ranked institutions**, as well as **institutions ranked 101-200 from state and central government institutions**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The scheme is implemented through the **PM-Vidyalaxmi portal**, where students can apply for loans. Payments are facilitated through **E-vouchers and Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) wallets**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

35. (a)

Explanation:

- **MPLADS is a Central Sector Scheme**, not a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**. Under the **Central Sector Scheme**, the entire funding comes from the **Union Government**, whereas Centrally Sponsored Schemes involve cost-sharing between the Centre and States. **Hence, statement 1 is NOT correct.**

- **MPLADS funds are non-lapsable**, meaning **unused funds can be carried forward to the next year**. MPs must allocate **at least 15%** of the funds for **Scheduled Castes (SCs) and 7.5% for Scheduled Tribes (STs)**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

36. (a)

Explanation:

- Statutory grants are provided under **Article 275**, which allows the Parliament to provide grants-in-aid to states in need of financial assistance. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- These grants are not restricted to SC/ST projects; they also cater to other state-specific needs. **Hence, statement 2 is NOT correct.**
- The aim is to promote equality and balanced development across states.

37. (a)

Explanation:

- **Article 243-I** mandates the establishment of the State Finance Commission (SFC) every five years to review the financial position of Panchayats and Municipalities. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The SFC recommends resource distribution between the state and local bodies, not between the Centre and states. **Hence, statement 2 is NOT correct.**
- The recommendations are advisory and not binding on state governments. **Hence, statement 3 is NOT correct.**

38. (d)

Explanation:

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) publishes all four reports:

- **Adaptation Gap Report:** Assesses progress in **climate adaptation efforts globally**.
 - **Food Waste Index Report:** Provides data on **food wastage and its environmental impact**.
 - **Methane Alert and Response System (MARS):** Tracks and reports **methane emissions**.
 - **Emissions Gap Report:** Evaluates the gap between **current emissions levels and targets needed to meet climate goals**.
- Hence, option (d) is correct.**

39. (c)

Explanation:

- D-SIBs are identified based on their size, interconnectedness, and substitutability. Their failure could have systemic implications for the economy. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The RBI mandates D-SIBs to maintain higher capital adequacy ratios to mitigate risks and ensure financial stability. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

40. (b)

Explanation:

- India's Semiconductor Policy does **not set 2027 as the deadline** for achieving **self-reliance in semiconductor manufacturing**. Instead, it focuses on **long-term development** of the semiconductor ecosystem, with phased growth over the coming decades. **Hence, statement 1 is NOT correct.**
- It offers financial incentives and support for companies to establish fabrication (fab) units in India, both domestically and internationally. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The policy encourages collaborations with foreign universities and institutions to enhance research and development in semiconductor technology.

41. (d)

Explanation:

- India is not a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), though it is a member of the other listed international agreements and regimes. **Hence, option (d) is correct.**

42. (a)

Explanation:

- Correct. The Kazan Declaration emphasized peaceful resolutions for the Ukraine crisis, stressing dialogue and diplomacy. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Correct. The BRICS Grain Exchange was proposed to bolster agricultural trade, with future plans for expansion into other agricultural sectors. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- While India's initiative for an International Big Cats Alliance was highlighted, the endorsement by all BRICS members was not explicitly stated in the summit. **Hence, statement 3 is NOT correct.**

43. (c)

Explanation:

G20 Members Countries:

- Argentina, Australia, **Brazil**, Canada, China, **Egypt**, **Ethiopia**, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy,

- Japan, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, **South Africa**, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, European Union.

Hence, option (c) is correct.

44. (c)

Explanation:

Countries Bordering the North Sea:

- United Kingdom, Norway, Denmark, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, France.

Hence, option (c) is correct.

45. (b)

Explanation:

- **AUSINDEX:** A bilateral maritime exercise between India and Australia aimed at enhancing naval cooperation.
- **Pitch Black:** A multilateral air combat exercise hosted by Australia, with India as a participant.
- **Malabar:** A quadrilateral naval exercise involving India, Australia, Japan, and the United States.
- The Varuna exercise is a yearly naval exercise between the Indian and French navies
- Mitra Shakti is the bilateral Naval exercise between India and Sri Lanka. **Hence, option (b) is correct.**

46. (a)

Explanation:

- Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), effective from 1970, has been criticized for creating a divide between nuclear and non-nuclear states. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- India refused to join the NPT, citing its discriminatory nature.
- Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) bans all nuclear weapon activities.
- It has not been ratified by any nuclear-armed country, including the P5 nations.

Hence, statement 2 is NOT correct.

47. (d)

Explanation:

- PMEGP aims to provide credit-linked subsidies for micro-enterprises, and is overseen by the Ministry of MSME.
- DAY-NRLM promotes self-employment and skilled wage employment, under the Ministry of Rural Development.

- NCS Project provides job matching and skill development services, managed by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- MGNREGA provides unskilled work opportunities, and is implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development.

Hence, option (d) is correct.

48. (c)

Explanation:

- The OECD released the **Agricultural Policy Monitoring and Evaluation 2024** report, which highlights key issues such as the implicit taxation of farmers in India and global agricultural challenges. Hence, option (c) is correct.

49. (d)

Explanation:

- India's total fertility rate (TFR) has been declining, not increasing. Hence, statement 1 is NOT correct.
- It was Andhra Pradesh that reversed its two-child policy, not Uttarakhand. Hence, statement 2 is NOT correct.

50. (a)

Explanation:

- FPIs investing above 10% can either divest or reclassify their holdings as FDI. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The reclassification of FPI to FDI must be completed within five trading days, not 10. Hence, statement 2 is NOT correct.
- Reclassification is not allowed in restricted sectors like gambling, betting, and real estate business. Hence, statement 3 is NOT correct.

51. (d)

Explanation:

Millet:

- Among the first crop to be domesticated evidence of millet consumption date back to Indus valley civilisation
- 2023 was recognized as the International Year of Millets by the Food and Agriculture Organization.
- Millets thrive in temperatures ranging from 27°C to 32°C, which is conducive to their growth.
- India is the top producer and exporter of millets, followed by Niger and China.

Hence, option (d) is correct.

52. (c)

Explanation:

- Nigeria is located on the western coast of Africa, with borders to the north by Niger, to the east by Chad and Cameroon, to the south by the Gulf of Guinea, and to the west by Benin. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Nigeria gained independence from Britain in 1960. The official language is English, but it also has various local languages such as Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo, and Ijaw. The country's geography varies from arid regions to humid equatorial zones. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

53. (b)

Explanation:

- While India is a key player in the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), not all five Central Asian nations are members of the agreement. Hence, statement 1 is NOT correct.
- The India-Central Asia Dialogue facilitates cooperation on areas like energy, connectivity, and counterterrorism. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Uzbekistan was among the early Central Asian nations to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA), strengthening energy cooperation with India. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

54. (c)

Explanation:

- **Positive aspects of Freebies Culture in India:** Freebies can support the poor, enhance welfare programs, boost industries, and improve education access.
- **negative aspects of Freebies Culture in India:** strain public finances, misallocate resources, create dependency, reduce accountability, and harm the environment.

Hence, option (c) is correct.

55. (b)

Explanation:

- PM-MKSSY is indeed a sub-scheme of PMMSY, which is designed to address the development of India's fisheries sector. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- PM-MKSSY is a **Central Sector Scheme**, not a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. It is implemented

directly by the central government through the Department of Fisheries, and not in partnership with state governments as in the case of a centrally sponsored scheme. **Hence, statement 2 is NOT correct.**

Hence, option (b) is correct.

56. (d)

Explanation:

- Cloud seeding stimulates cloud formation using aerosols and water vapour. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- CAIPEEX showed a rainfall increase of up to 46% in specific areas. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Cloud chambers simulate controlled conditions to study cloud formation and behaviour. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

57. (a)

Explanation:

- **Port Harcourt – Nigeria:** This is **correct**. Port Harcourt is a major port city in Nigeria.
- **Casablanca – Mozambique:** This is **incorrect**. Casablanca is a major port city in Morocco, not Mozambique.
- **Mombasa – Kenya:** This is **correct**. Mombasa is a prominent port city in Kenya.

Hence, option (a) is correct.

58. (d)

Explanation:

- **BRICS:** both India and Brazil are members of BRICS, a multilateral group comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- **International Solar Alliance (ISA):** India is the founder of ISA, and Brazil is also a member, making it a multilateral platform where both participate.
- **G20:** both India and Brazil are members of the G20, a major multilateral forum for economic cooperation.
- **BASIC:** BASIC (Brazil, South Africa, India, and China) is a coalition focused on climate change negotiations, and both India and Brazil are members.
- **WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization):** WIPO is a UN agency, and while both India and Brazil are members.
- **IBSA (India-Brazil-South Africa Dialogue Forum):** IBSA is a trilateral grouping where both India and Brazil are members.

Hence, option (d) is correct.

59. (b)

Explanation:

Atmospheric River:

- Atmospheric rivers are elongated corridors in the sky that carry massive amounts of water vapor from tropical regions to higher latitudes. When these “rivers” make landfall, they release moisture as intense precipitation, causing rain or snow. **Hence option (b) is correct.**

60. (d)

Explanation:

- India’s total coastline is approximately 7,516 km, including 6,100 km along the mainland and 1,316 km from the islands.
- Gujarat has the longest coastline (approximately 1,600 km), followed by Andhra Pradesh (around 974 km).
- Among Union Territories, Andaman & Nicobar Islands have the longest coastline.
- Kerala does not have the smallest coastline. Goa has the smallest coastline among states, approximately 160 km, while Kerala has a coastline of about 580 km. **Hence, option (d) is correct**

61. (c)

Explanation:

- **Parkinson’s disease** is a neurodegenerative disorder caused by the loss of dopamine-producing neurons.
- Treatments such as **dopaminergic neuron transplantation** aim to replace damaged neurons, while **deep brain stimulation** involves surgically implanted devices to modulate brain activity and alleviate symptoms like tremors and rigidity.
- **mRNA vaccines**, while innovative, do not directly address Parkinson’s treatment.

Hence, option (c) is correct.

62. (b)

Explanation:

Cancer Type	Description
Carcinoma	Originates in epithelial cells (skin, glands). Examples: breast, lung, prostate cancer, Multiple Myeloma, Cancer of plasma cells in bone marrow
Sarcoma	It forms in bone and soft tissues like muscle or fat.

Melanoma	It starts in pigment-producing cells, usually affecting the skin.
Multiple Myeloma	Cancer of plasma cells in bone marrow

Hence, option (b) is correct.

63. (b)

Explanation:

- The diffraction limit in optics determines the resolution of imaging systems like microscopes and telescopes.
- It arises due to the wave nature of light, which causes diffraction when passing through an aperture.
- This limits the ability of the system to distinguish closely spaced objects. Hence, option (b) is correct.

64. (a)

Explanation:

- Tardigrades can survive in extreme environments, including the vacuum of space. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Tardigrades are highly resistant to extreme radiation, starvation, and subzero temperatures. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Tardigrades are not exclusively aquatic and can be found in diverse ecosystems, such as deserts, deep-sea floors, and Arctic regions. Hence, statement 3 is NOT correct.

65. (a)

Explanation:

- RNA editing involves modifying RNA molecules after transcription, enabling targeted changes to protein production without altering the underlying DNA.
- It holds promise for treating neurological disorders like Huntington's and Alzheimer's disease by correcting faulty RNA sequences.

Hence, option (a) is correct.

66. (d)

Explanation:

- The Interstate Council was formed on the recommendation of the Sarkaria Commission (1988).
- The Sarkaria Commission recommended the creation of the Interstate Council to promote cooperation and coordination between the Centre and States in India. The Interstate Council was established in 1990 through a Presidential Order under Article 263 of the Indian Constitution.

- The Sarkaria Commission played a key role in suggesting the formation of this body to address disputes, policy issues, and promote federal harmony.

Hence, option (d) is correct.

67. (a)

Explanation:

- Shankari Prasad Case (1951): The Supreme Court upheld Parliament's power to amend Fundamental Rights under Article 368.
- Keshavananda Bharati Case (1973): Established the Basic Structure Doctrine, ruling that Parliament cannot alter the basic structure of the Constitution.
- Minerva Mills Case (1980): Strengthened the Basic Structure Doctrine, declaring that judicial review and limited parliamentary power are essential features.
- Waman Rao Case (1981): Reaffirmed the Basic Structure Doctrine and distinguished between amendments before and after Keshavananda Bharati.

Hence, option (a) is correct.

68. (b)

Explanation:

- ARIN-AP is indeed a multi-agency network that facilitates the tracing, freezing, confiscation, and recovery of assets obtained through unlawful activities in the Asia-Pacific region. It aims to foster cross-border collaboration among member jurisdictions. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The Secretariat of ARIN-AP is not managed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Instead, it is handled by the Korean Supreme Prosecutors' Office (SPO). Hence, statement 2 is Incorrect.
- India, represented by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED), has been included in the Steering Committee of ARIN-AP and will assume the presidency of ARIN-AP in 2026. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

69. (b)

Explanation:

- Recently, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) unveiled its Asia-Pacific (APAC) Climate Report 2024, drawing attention to the severe economic repercussions of climate change in the region. Hence, option (b) is correct.

70. (a)

Explanation:

- The **Panama Canal** is a crucial maritime route linking the **Atlantic Ocean** to the **Pacific Ocean**, facilitating global trade by significantly reducing the time and distance for ships traveling between the two oceans. **Hence, option (a) is correct.**

71. (c)

Explanation:

- Sardar Patel headed the Advisory Committee on Fundamental Rights, the Committee on Minorities and Tribal and Excluded Areas, and the Provincial Constitution Committee. He was not involved in heading the Drafting Committee of the Indian Constitution, which was led by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. **Hence, option (c) is correct.**

72. (a)

Explanation:

- Odisha temples are typically **square at the base**, but as they rise, the upper reaches of the superstructure **retain a curvilinear shape** rather than becoming circular. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Unlike temples in North India, Odisha temples usually have **boundary walls** called **meghanada pacheri**, enclosing the temple complex. **Hence, statement 2 is NOT correct.**
- The **shikhara (tower)** in Odisha temples is called **deul**, and it curves sharply inward as it reaches the top, giving it a distinct **vertical emphasis** compared to the Nagara style of North India. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

73. (c)

Explanation:

- **Vimana (Principal Sanctuary):** Correctly described as the innermost area where the primary deity is kept.
- **Shikhara (Crowning Cap):** Correctly described as the vertical tower surmounted by a high cap in traditional temple architecture.
- **Jahamogana (Audience Hall or Mandap):** Correctly described as the hall used for public gatherings, meetings, or religious activities.

Hence, option (c) is correct.

74. (b)

Explanation:

- The first **Bodoland Mahotsav** was **not organized in Guwahati** in 2024. Instead, it was **held in New Delhi** as a national-level event to promote the **culture and heritage of the Bodoland region**. **Hence, statement 1 is NOT correct.**
- The theme for the **first Bodoland Mahotsav** was **“Peace and Harmony for Prosperous Bharat”**, highlighting efforts to foster **regional peace, cultural preservation, and socio-economic development** in the **Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR)**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

75. (d)

Explanation:

- All three cultural elements—Kutiyattam, Sanskrit Theater (2008), Kumbh Mela (2017), and Garba of Gujarat (2023)—are listed as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO. **Hence, option (d) is correct.**

76. (a)

Explanation:

- **Resolution 181**, adopted on November 29, 1947, is famously known as the **Partition Plan for Palestine**, which recommended the division of Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states.

ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT

The Israel-Palestine conflict is a long-standing geopolitical dispute over territory and self-determination in the Middle East.

BEGINNING

- UN adopted **Resolution 181** - the Partition Plan in 1947
- State of Israel created in 1948, sparking the **first Arab-Israeli War** (Israel won)
 - ▶ Palestinians displaced
 - ▶ Division of territory into - State of Israel, West Bank and Gaza Strip

INITIAL TENSIONS AND CONFLICTS (1956-1979)

- Suez Crisis** and Israeli **invasion of Sinai Peninsula** in 1956
- Six-Day War (1967)** - Israel gained control over Sinai Peninsula, Gaza Strip, West Bank, East Jerusalem and Golan Heights

Controversy over Jerusalem as Capital

- **Israel view:** Complete and united Jerusalem
- **Palestinians view:** East Jerusalem future capital

- Yom Kippur War (1973)** - Surprise attack by Egypt and Syria
- Camp David Accords (1979)** b/w Egypt and Israel

Intifada (Arabic for 'shake off')

- **First Intifada** - 1987 to 1993
 - ◆ Led to the foundation of Hamas (1987) - a Palestinian political party designated as a foreign terrorist org by US
 - ◆ Response - **Madrid Conference 1991** (chaired by the US and Russia)
- **Second Intifada** - 2000-2005
- The latest escalation (2023) is being called the beginning of "Third Intifada"

OSLO ACCORDS (MEDIATED BY US)

- First (1993)**
 - ▶ Estd framework for **Palestinian self-governance** in West Bank and Gaza
 - ▶ Enabled mutual recognition between Israel and Palestine

Second (1995)

- ▶ Expanded on Oslo I Accords
- ▶ Mandated **complete Israeli withdrawal** from several cities and towns in **West Bank**

POST 2000 CONFLICT AND RESPONSES

- 2013** - US-led peace process began
- 2014-18** - Gaza Conflict (2014)
 - ▶ Palestine announced break from territorial divisions under Oslo Accords (2015)
- 2018-20** - US Cancelled funding for Palestinian refugees under UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)
 - ▶ US proposed "**Peace to Prosperity**" plan
- 2020** - **Abraham Accords**
- 2022-2023:**
 - ▶ Israel raids on **Jenin refugee camp**
 - ▶ Hamas launched "**Operation Al-Aqsa Flood**" and Israel launched "**Operation Iron Swords**" (both in 2023)
 - ◆ Israel declared a **State of War**
 - ▶ **India's Stand:**
 - ◆ Supports a **Two State solution** for Israel and Palestine
 - ◆ **Condemned the recent attack** by Hamas on Israel



Hence, option (a) is correct.

77. (a)

Explanation:

- RNA editing happens after mRNA is created from DNA but before it is used in protein synthesis. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ADAR enzymes, when guided by gRNA, can alter specific sites in mRNA. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- RNA editing is a temporary change to mRNA and does not alter the DNA sequence permanently. **Hence, statement 3 is NOT correct.**

78. (a)

Explanation:

- Gluten is composed of proteins such as gliadins and glutenins, which give dough its elasticity and provide chewiness to baked products. This is a key property that makes gluten valuable in the food industry. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Gluten resists complete digestion due to the inefficiency of the protease enzyme in breaking it down. This undigested gluten can cause gastrointestinal problems, particularly in people with gluten sensitivities or celiac disease. **Hence, statement 2 is NOT correct.**

79. (a)

Explanation:

- NISAR integrates NASA's L-band radar and ISRO's S-band radar, which work together to provide high-precision data on Earth's surface movements, ecosystems, and natural hazards like earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- NISAR is designed to map the globe every 12 days, not 30 days, providing consistent and frequent data about various environmental and geological factors. **Hence, statement 2 is NOT correct.**

80. (a)

Explanation:

- The Mars and Moon Analog Mission is conducted in Ladakh because its unique environmental conditions (high altitude, dry climate, and extreme temperature fluctuations) closely resemble those of Mars and the Moon, making it an ideal location for testing space habitats. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The mission focuses on testing life support systems and studying human adaptation to extreme environments, including physical and psychological well-being, in preparation for future space exploration. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The primary aim of the mission is to simulate life in a space habitat, not specifically to explore space tourism or the establishment of a permanent base on Mars and the Moon by 2047. **Hence, statement 3 is NOT correct.**

81. (a)

Explanation:

- The **Mental Health Care Act, 2017** defines **mental illness** as “a substantial disorder of thinking, mood, perception, orientation, or memory that grossly impairs judgment”. This is a **critical aspect** of the Act, ensuring **clarity in diagnosis** for the provision of mental health services. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Act **provides the right to make an advance directive** for mental health patients. This means individuals can specify in advance their preferences for treatment in case they lose the capacity to make decisions later. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Act does **not criminalize research on individuals with mental illness (PMI)**. In fact, the Act permits research on individuals with mental illness, but it **strictly ensures their informed consent and protection from exploitation**. **Hence, Statement 3 is NOT correct.**

82. (a)

Explanation:

- Aphantasia, first noted by Francis Galton in the 1880s; the term “aphantasia” was coined in 2015 by neurologist Adam Zeman.
- It refers to a condition where individuals cannot visualize images in their mind.
- It affects about 2% of the population, with ongoing research needed to understand its causes and implications.

Hence, option (a) is correct.

83. (d)

Explanation:

- Scandinavian countries prioritize shorter workweeks and worker well-being, not long working hours, yet they have high GDP. **Statement 1 is NOT Correct**

- Countries with shorter workweeks and a focus on worker welfare, like Norway and the Netherlands, have higher GDP. **Statement 2 is Correct**

84. (a)

Explanation:

- Khap Panchayats operate parallel to formal legal systems, primarily relying on customary norms and practices to resolve disputes in rural areas. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Efforts are being made to modernize and regulate khap panchayat and integrate them into formal alternative dispute resolution (ADR) system. No substantial outcome has come yet. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

85. (b)

Explanation:

- **National Education Day:** November 11th
 - **Ayurveda Day:** October 29th
 - **World Immunization Day:** November 10th
 - **International Snow Leopard Day:** October 23rd
- Hence, option (b) is correct.**

86. (d)

Explanation:

India's foreign exchange reserves consist of:

- Foreign Currency Assets (FCA)
- Gold reserves
- Special Drawing Rights (SDRs)
- Reserve Tranche Position (RTP) with the IMF.

Hence, option (d) is correct.

87. (b)

Explanation:

- The Equatorial Electrojet (EEJ) refers to an electric current in the **ionosphere**, not the stratosphere. It occurs at a height of around 105-110 km, not within the stratosphere. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- India's southern tip is near the **geomagnetic equator**, where a strong **Equatorial Electrojet** exists. This current flows within the ionosphere at a height of around 105-110 km. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

88. (c)

Explanation:

- OTT platforms in India are regulated by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The Government of India introduced the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021 to regulate OTT platforms and ensure that content adheres to ethical standards and guidelines. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

89. (a)

Explanation:

- The GSAT-N2 communication satellite was indeed launched by SpaceX's Falcon-9 rocket from Cape Canaveral, Florida, US. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The satellite was placed into a **geosynchronous transfer orbit (GTO)**, not a low Earth orbit (LEO). The GTO is an elliptical orbit, and the satellite's further journey involves moving to the **geosynchronous orbit (GSO)** through additional maneuvers. **Hence, statement 2 is NOT correct.**

90. (c)

Explanation:

- The following gases are **greenhouse gases (GHGs)** that trap heat in the atmosphere, contributing to the greenhouse effect:
 - ⇒ Carbon dioxide (CO₂)
 - ⇒ Methane (CH₄)
 - ⇒ Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)
 - ⇒ Water vapor (H₂O)
 - ⇒ Nitrous oxide (N₂O)
- **Oxygen (O₂) is not** a greenhouse gas, as it does not trap heat in the atmosphere. **Hence, option (c) is correct.**

91. (a)

Explanation:

- The **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** is indeed the **world's highest-level decision-making body for environmental matters**, working to coordinate international efforts in environmental conservation, policy-making, and sustainable development. UNEP is responsible for **setting the global environmental agenda** and promoting cooperation on issues like climate change, biodiversity, and pollution. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- UNEP's **headquarters** is not located in **Bern, Switzerland**. It is based in **Nairobi, Kenya**, as the **UN's environmental body**. **Hence, statement 2 is NOT correct.**

92. (b)

Explanation:

- The SAMOA Pathway is a framework to support the development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) through international cooperation and climate action. **Hence, option (b) is correct.**

93. (b)

Explanation:

- The **Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary**, recently in the news, is located in **Assam**.
- It is named after the **Western Hoolock Gibbon**, which is found in this region.
- The sanctuary is part of the **protected area network** in Assam, dedicated to preserving the **Hoolock Gibbons**, which are listed as **endangered** in India.
- The sanctuary, located in **Jorhat district**, is also home to a wide variety of flora and fauna and plays a vital role in **biodiversity conservation** in the state. **Hence, option (b) is correct.**

94. (b)

Explanation:

- Pineapple Express is a weather phenomenon transporting warm, humid air from the tropical Pacific to North America. **Hence, option (b) is correct.**

95. (a)

Explanation:

- The Supreme Court clarified that inheritance laws under the Hindu Succession Act align with cultural norms rather than being framed purely as gender equality issues. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The 2005 amendment granted daughters equal coparcenary rights, but it is applicable only to property partitions that occurred after 2005. **Hence, statement 2 is NOT correct.**

96. (c)

Explanation:

- **Egypt:** Shares a boundary with the Mediterranean Sea.
- **Jordan:** Does not share a boundary with the Mediterranean Sea; it has access only to the Red Sea through the Gulf of Aqaba.
- **Lebanon:** Shares a boundary with the Mediterranean Sea.
- **Syria:** Shares a boundary with the Mediterranean Sea.
- **Turkey:** Shares a boundary with the Mediterranean Sea. **Hence, option (c) is correct.**

97. (a)

Explanation:

- The National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) was renamed the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) with the enactment of the Disaster Management Act, 2005. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The NDRF is managed by the **Central Government**, not the State Governments, and it supplements the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) in case of severe disasters when the SDRF has insufficient funds. **Hence, statement 2 is NOT correct.**

98. (a)

Explanation:

- Desert RATS (Desert Research and Technology Studies) is a NASA-led field campaign conducted in the deserts of Arizona to test mission rovers and simulate conditions on the Moon and Mars. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- HI-SEAS (Hawai'i Space Exploration Analog and Simulation) is operated by the **International MoonBase Alliance (IMA)**, not NASA. It is a research station focused on Mars and Moon exploration. **Hence, statement 2 is NOT correct.**

99. (b)

Explanation:

- C.R. Das defended Aurobindo Ghose in the Alipore Bomb Case (1908) and successfully secured his acquittal. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- C.R. Das was part of a **non-official committee** along with Gandhiji and Motilal Nehru to investigate the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, not an official British committee. **Hence, statement 2 is NOT correct.**
- He renounced his legal practice in 1920 to support the Non-Cooperation Movement, reflecting his commitment to the cause of Indian independence. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

100. (c)

Explanation:

- Microfinance loans are collateral-free for households earning up to Rs 3 lakh, and entities must have policies for flexible repayment and income assessment. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The cap on lenders per borrower is removed, repayments cannot exceed 50% of monthly income, 75% of NBFC-MFI loans must be microfinance, and no pre-payment penalties are allowed. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**