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1. Microcrystalline cellulose is

- (a) a white, odourless, tasteless powder derived from wood pulp
- (b) a purified, processed form of cellulose, a synthetic polymer.
- (c) a toxic element used to kill pest
- (d) None of these

Answer: A

NEWS: Pharma unit blast kills 17 near Hyderabad.

The unit was engaged in the manufacture of Microcrystalline Cellulose (MCC), a white, odourless, tasteless powder derived from wood pulp. "It is widely used as a binding agent in tablets and in various industries including pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and food. While not inherently hazardous, officials are investigating the possibility that pressure build-up in the air-handling line may have caused the blast. Preliminary assessments suggest that the air handling unit may have exploded," explained the officer.

2. Living root bridges are UNESCO's heritage sites, located in which one of the following states?

- (a) Assam
- (b) Meghalaya
- (c) Nagaland
- (d) Mizoram

Answer: B

NEWS: The administration of Meghalaya plans to deploy more trained guides and work with local communities to implement the directive effectively.

The East Khasi Hills district has popular trekking destinations such as the double-decker living root bridge, waterfalls and meadows.

3. Which one of the following river basins in India receives a higher amount of rainfall than given others during the south west monsoon?

- (a) Indus
- (b) Kaveri
- (c) Chambal
- (d) Damodar

Answer: B

NEWS: The IMD has retained its forecast of the monsoon (June-September) being 6% above normal. "East Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, parts of Vidarbha, and Telangana are likely to receive above-normal rainfall activity. We should take care of the river catchments. Major river basins like Krishna, Godavari, and Mahanadi will be impacted. Very high rainfall is expected in the upper Mahanadi catchment covering Chhattisgarh, and parts of Odisha, and the lower Mahanadi catchment. June 29, the monsoon covered the entire country — nearly nine days ahead of its normal scheduled date of July 8. The last time the monsoon covered the entire country within June was in 2020, and this year is only the 13th instance of such a rapid coverage since 1960. In six out of 12 years of such coverage, the monsoon (rainfall in June-September) has been above normal, the agency's data suggest. The monsoon arrived in Kerala nearly a week ahead of its normal onset date of June 1. However, it stalled within a week, and only

appreciably picked up pace after June 16. So far, the rainfall in June has been 8.9% more than what is usual for this time of the year.

4. *Bulbophyllum gopalianum*, *Coelogyne tripurensis*, *Gastrodia indica* and *Gastrodia sikkimensis* are newly discovered species. These are

- (a) Reptiles
- (b) Orchids
- (c) Mammals
- (d) Aquatic species

Answer: B

NEWS: In terms of plant discoveries, the highest number of flora discovered were from Kerala (58), followed by Maharashtra (45) and Uttarakhand (40). The new plant discoveries for 2024 record 154 angiosperms, 4 pteridophytes, 15 bryophytes, 63 lichens, 156 fungi, 32 algae and 9 microbes. The hotspot regions such as Western Ghats and North-Eastern regions have contributed 35% of total discoveries. India has recorded and documented 56,177 species of plants — angiosperms, gymnosperms, pteridophytes, bryophytes, lichens, fungi, and algae etc. The significant faunal discoveries for the year 2024 include two new genus and 37 species of reptiles and five new species of amphibians. The significant discovery of reptiles included *Dravidoseps gouensis*, belonging to the new genus, and *Anguiculus dicaprio* is a member of Colubridae family, named after Hollywood star, Leonardo Di Caprio. In terms of flora, the significant discoveries include important orchid species such as *Bulbophyllum gopalianum*,

Coelogyne tripurensis, *Gastrodia indica* and *Gastrodia sikkimensis*.

5. Which of the following statements are correct regarding GST (goods and services tax) in India?

1. The cascading taxes through the input tax credit system has increased production costs, benefiting both businesses and consumers.
2. GST replaced a multiplicity of indirect taxes such as Value Added Tax (VAT), excise duties, and service tax.

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

Answer: B

NEWS: As India marks eight years since the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on July 1, 2017, it is worth reflecting on this landmark reform. GST replaced a multiplicity of indirect taxes such as Value Added Tax (VAT), excise duties, and service tax, establishing a unified national market under the “One Nation, One Tax” framework. The reform harmonised tax rates across States, enhanced ease of doing business, and facilitated greater economic integration. Economically, GST has been a consistent contributor to national revenue. Gross GST collections in 2024–25 reached a record ₹22.08 lakh crore, reflecting a year-on-year growth of 9.4%. Beyond revenue generation, GST has advanced economic efficiency. The elimination of cascading taxes through the input tax credit system has reduced production costs, benefiting both businesses and consumers. Compliance has

improved through digitised processes, which include e-way bills, simplifying tax administration and curbing evasion. The removal of inter-State checkpoints has enhanced logistics efficiency, cutting transportation time by 20% in some cases and reducing costs.

6. How many of the following products have GI tag in India?

1. Chanderi sarees (Madhya Pradesh)
 2. Madhubani painting (Bihar)
 3. Pashmina shawls (J&K)
 4. Kancheepuram silk (Tamil Nadu)
 5. Darjeeling tea (West Bengal)
 6. Pattamadaï mat (Tamil Nadu)
- (a) Only three
(b) Only four
(c) Only five
(d) All six

Answer: D

7. Which of the following statements are correct regarding Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights?

1. The TRIPS Agreement is an United Nations agreement that sets minimum standards for intellectual property rights protection among its member countries.
 2. India is not a TRIPS signatory but enacted the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, which came into force in 2003.
- a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2

- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: D

NEWS: India, as a TRIPS signatory, enacted the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, which came into force in 2003. Indian traditional products have time and again suffered exploitation by global corporations. On June 25, at its Spring/Summer 2026 menswear show in Milan, Italian luxury brand Prada unveiled footwear inspired by India's Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged Kolhapuri chappals, sparking accusations of 'cultural misappropriation'. What is a geographical indication?

It is a form of 'intellectual property' that identifies goods as originating from a specific country, region or locality, where their distinctive qualities, characteristics, or reputation are essentially linked to that 'place of origin'. In India, there are currently 658 registered GI-tagged goods, including Chanderi sarees (Madhya Pradesh), Madhubani painting (Bihar), Pashmina shawls (J&K), Kancheepuram silk (Tamil Nadu), and Darjeeling tea (West Bengal). Importantly, GIs serve as a powerful marketing tool, driving rural development, boosting exports, enhancing consumer confidence, and preserving 'cultural knowledge' of local communities, farmers and indigenous groups. Unlike trademarks, which are owned by enterprises, GIs are public property belonging to the producers of the concerned goods and cannot be assigned, transmitted or licenced. The legal protection of GIs stem from international instruments like the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property (1883), and later gained a clearer definition under the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property

Rights (TRIPS) Agreement, 1995. India, as a TRIPS signatory, enacted the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, which came into force in 2003. The Act provides for GI registration, enforcement of rights, prohibition of unauthorised use and penalties for infringement.

8. Recently the union cabinet approved an employment linked incentive scheme. Which of the following is/are correct regarding this?

1. It is to support employment generation, enhance employability and social security across all sectors, with special focus on the manufacturing sector.
 2. It incentivizes both employees and employers.
- a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

NEWS: The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme to support employment generation, enhance employability and social security across all sectors, with special focus on the manufacturing sector. Under the Scheme, while the first-time employees will get one month's wage (up to Rs 15,000/-), the employers will be given incentives for a period to two years for generating additional employment. Targeting first-time employees registered with EPFO, this Part will offer one-month EPF wage up to Rs 15,000 in two installments. Establishments, which are registered with EPFO, will be required to hire at least two additional employees (for

employers with less than 50 employees) or five additional employees (for employers with 50 or more employees), on a sustained basis for at least six months.

9. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. As per the Representation of the People Act, citizens are entitled to vote only in the Assembly constituency where they are ordinarily resident.
 2. If the residents of one place got their voter card from that location while retaining their earlier card before migration, which was not a criminal offence.
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

NEWS: With the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls under way in Bihar, CEC Gyanesh Kumar said that a person was entitled to vote only in the Assembly constituency where he or she was ordinarily resident and not where that person owned a house. Government officials have begun distributing enumeration forms to all registered voters in Bihar. The SIR exercise began on June 25 with the printing of the forms and is scheduled to end on September 30 with the publication of the updated voter rolls. "As per the Representation of the People Act, you are entitled to vote only in the Assembly constituency where you are ordinarily resident. For example, if you ordinarily reside in Delhi but own a house in Patna, your vote should be registered in Delhi, not in Patna," he said. Senior Election Commission (EC) officials pointed out that many persons are residents of one place and have

got their voter card from that location while retaining their earlier card before migration, which was a criminal offence.

10. The eighth edition of Army exercise Shakti-2025 is the military exercise of

- (a) India - China
- (b) India - Thailand
- (c) India - France
- (d) India - U.K

Answer: C

NEWS: The eighth edition of the Indo-French Army exercise, 'Shakti 2025', that started on June 18 concluded in France

11. Which of the following statements are correct regarding drinking water/water resources availability / facility in India?

1. Jal Jeevan Mission is India's flagship programme for universal piped water access.
 2. Karnataka has banned eucalyptus farming due to the species' high-water use and its long-term impact on groundwater.
 3. Nitrate levels in drinking water were often higher than the prescribed norm of 50 mg/l in a few places of India.
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 1 and 3 only
 - (c) 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D

NEWS: Karnataka's groundwater is based mostly in hard rock aquifers. About 99% of the State relies

on the Deccan Plateau's unyielding formations for water. With limited porosity, these geological formations offer far less than they promise, unlike sedimentary aquifers. Researchers who studied Aralumallige and Doddathumakuru panchayats in the Upper Arkavathy watershed found that the average depth of drinking water borewells increased from 183 m to 321 m. Almost 55% of all wells have failed, with 70% failing within a decade. Researchers found that poor management is the biggest threat to drinking water access. The root issues are depletion and the financial strain on local bodies. They warn that unless farmers are compensated to use less water, within 3-4 years there will be no groundwater left

12. Why has microcrystalline Cellulose has varied applications in pharmaceutical, food, cosmetics?

1. Microcrystalline Cellulose (MCC) is chemically inert.
 2. The human body does not absorb it.
 3. The skin reacts to it chemically and protects from bacterial infection.
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2, and 3

Answer: A

NEWS: Microcrystalline Cellulose (MCC) is chemically inert. The human body does not absorb it. The skin does not react to it. But it has several useful physical properties such as being a binder and texturiser, which is why it has varied applications in the pharmaceutical, food, cosmetics

and other industries. MCC can add weight to a drug and facilitate the active ingredients to function effectively while making the drug conform to weight specifications.

13. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. 95% of rural India has access to 5G, and has a mobile subscriber base of 1.2 billion.
 2. India is the second largest telecom market in the world.
- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

NEWS: Elaborating on India's dominance in telecom and connectivity, he said, some 95% of rural India has access to 4G, has a mobile subscriber base of 1.2 billion and around a billion broadband connections. The country, already the second largest telecom market in the world, would be investing \$18 billion to connect 40,000 gram panchayats, and this would bring over 1.5 crore rural households under high-speed internet connectivity via subsidies, all leading towards an ICT democratisation, minister observed.

14. Which one of the following countries in the Indo-Sino peninsula has a border with each other?

- (a) Thailand
(b) Laos
(c) Cambodia
(d) Myanmar

Answer: B

NEWS: Thailand has added tight restrictions at its border with Cambodia that stopped almost all crossings in and out of Thailand except for students, medical patients and others with essential needs. Cambodia has banned Thai movies and TV shows, stopped the import of Thai fruits and vegetables and boycotted some of its neighbour's international internet links and power supply. It also stopped importing fuel from Thailand. Border disputes are long-standing issues that have caused periodic tensions between the two neighbors. Thailand and Cambodia share more than 800 km of land border. Cambodia has been using the map as a reference to claim territory, while Thailand has argued the map is inaccurate. The most prominent and violent conflicts broke out around the 1,000-year-old Preah Vihear temple.

15. Which of the following is/are correct regarding the traditional craft of making Kolhapuri chappals which was in the news recently?

1. It is hand-crafted leather sandals made without glue or nails.
 2. The leather, tanned using natural vegetable dyes, gives the chappals their unique properties, including a natural cooling effect.
 3. It is made by the artisans in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh
- (a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) 2 and 3 only

Answer: B

NEWS: Nearly one lakh artisans in Maharashtra and Karnataka depend on the traditional craft of making Kolhapuri chappals — hand-crafted leather sandals made without glue or nails. The leather, tanned using natural vegetable dyes, gives the chappals their unique properties, including a natural cooling effect. The proposed engagement follows global debate surrounding Prada's recent launch of leather sandals inspired by Kolhapuri chappals. The Italian brand subsequently reached out to MACCIA to acknowledge the cultural roots of the design.

16. Consider the following statements

1. The conviction rate for wildlife crime in India is significantly high, acting as a strong deterrent against poaching.
2. Karnataka has the highest population of elephants in India as per recent data.
3. Delay in compensation to victims of human-wildlife conflict is one of the systemic issues affecting wildlife protection.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

NEWS: Karnataka takes pride in its tiger and elephant populations as markers of the success of conservation initiatives. With an estimated 563 tigers, according to the 2022 census, Karnataka also harbours nearly 6,400 elephants as per 2023 data, the highest in the country. But conservation cannot

be about numbers alone while ignoring the inherent contradictions in policies that undermine the environmental gains. The reversal in the government's stance on Goa-Tamnar power transmission line that cuts through Kali Tiger Reserve — a project which the forest department had rejected in 2024; the Sharavathi storage project which threatens to fragment the Western Ghats ecosystem, clearances to mini hydel projects in sensitive areas, linear projects cutting through areas where human-wildlife conflict is high are a few examples that cast doubt on the State's commitment to environmental protection. This is because such projects inevitably lead to habitat encroachment, fragmentation, and disturbance, forcing wildlife to stray into human landscapes, aggravating conflict situations. The deaths of five tigers in the MM Hills should be viewed against the backdrop of such policy inconsistencies, which reflect a deeper malaise in environmental governance.

17. Consider the following statements

1. The Code on Social Security, 2020 provides a separate definition for gig and platform workers.
2. The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2025 includes a distinct classification for gig and platform workers.
3. NITI Aayog projected that India's gig workforce will reach nearly 24 million by 2029-30.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

NEWS: The 2025 Union Budget took several measures to formally ‘recognise’ gig and platform workers, and extended various social protection schemes to this growing workforce. Despite this recognition, the revised Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), 2025 does not include substantive changes to account for the diverse forms of gig and platform work. Gaps in labour classification

Gig workers were first incorporated into the legal framework through the Code on Social Security, 2020. Under Chapter I, Section 2(35), a gig worker is defined as “a person who participates in a work arrangement and earns from such activities outside of a traditional employer-employee relationship.”

Platform work, as defined in the Code, is “a work arrangement outside of a traditional employer-employee relationship in which organisations or individuals use an online platform to access other organisations or individuals to solve specific problems or to provide specific services or any such other activities which may be notified by the Central Government, in exchange for payment.”

While this definition separates gig workers from both formal and informal categories, it doesn’t clearly define who a gig worker is or the nature of gig work. According to NITI Aayog’s 2022 report ‘India’s Booming Gig and Platform Economy,’ the gig workforce is expected to reach 23.5 million by 2029-30. Despite such projections and efforts to define gig work, India’s primary labour statistics source, the PLFS, continues to subsume gig work under vague categories such as ‘self-employed’, ‘own-account workers’, or ‘casual labour’. This statistical invisibility has direct consequences.

Clause 141 of the Code on Social Security, 2020, “seeks to provide that the Central

Government shall establish a Social Security Fund for social security and welfare of the unorganised workers, gig workers and platform workers.”

Similarly, the National Social Security Board, constituted under Section 6 of the Code on Social Security, 2020, is tasked with framing and overseeing welfare schemes for gig and platform workers. Such welfare boards and policymakers rely on the PLFS for ‘evidence-based policy,’ but the absence of a distinct category for gig and platform workers undermines its very intent. When classification itself is unclear in primary datasets, access to schemes becomes uneven and exclusionary.

18. Arrange the following countries from west to east.

1. Liberia
 2. Ghana
 3. Nigeria
- (a) 2-1-3
(b) 1-2-3
(c) 3-1-2
(d) 3-2-1

Answer: B

NEWS: Progress in the contemporary world will not be possible without giving a voice to the Global South, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said while addressing a joint session of Ghana’s Parliament in its capital Accra. Mr. Modi, who received Ghana’s highest state honour ‘The Officer of the Order of the Star of Ghana’, quoted the country’s founding father Kwame Nkrumah, who said that Africa and India are connected by “intrinsic” forces, in a speech outlining the widespread changes sweeping

the world and the challenges that persist. “The world order created after the Second World War is changing fast... The revolution in technology, the rise of the Global South, and the shifting demographics are contributing to its pace and scale. Challenges, such as colonial rule, that humanity has faced in earlier centuries still persist in different forms,” Mr. Modi said. The Prime Minister described the state honour that he received as the “symbol of enduring friendship” between India and Ghana, which has been a priority of India’s ties with Africa since the early days of decolonisation in the 1950s

19. Which of the following best describes *Garcinia kusumae*?

- (a) A shrub found in alpine habitats with monoecious flowering
- (b) A temperate-zone flowering herb used primarily in perfumery
- (c) A dioecious evergreen tree flowering in early spring
- (d) An aquatic plant found in Himalayan lakes

Answer: C

NEWS: *Garcinia kusumae* marks the fourth instance of Mr. Sarma naming a botanical discovery after a family member. Previous names include *Amomum pratisthana* (after his daughter), *Syzygium nivae* (wife), and *Garcinia sibeswaraii* (father). This is the first time an Indian botanist-researcher has had four plant species named after immediate family members. “The epithet *kusumae*... is in recognition of her enduring support and sacrifices for his [Mr. Sarma’s] education,” the study noted. *Garcinia*, the largest

genus in the family Clusiaceae, comprises 414 species of shrubs and trees. Pan-tropically distributed, its centres of diversity are found in Africa, Australasia, and Southeast Asia. The genus is known for its floral diversity, frequent presence in lowland tropical rainforests, and considerable pharmacological potential.³³ species In India, 33 species and seven varieties of *Garcinia* have been documented, with Assam accounting for 12 species and three varieties. Mr. Sarma found the *thoikora* specimen in Bamunbari, located in Baksa district, in April, during a survey of *Garcinia* species. The tree’s distinct morphological features prompted further investigation. Specimens were collected following standard herbarium protocols, including pressing, drying, and preservation. A dioecious evergreen tree that can grow up to 18 metres tall, *Garcinia kusumae* was observed to flower from February to April, with fruit maturing between May and June.

20. Which of the following countries became the first country in the Caribbean region to adopt India's UPI system?

- (a) Antigua and Barbuda
- (b) Trinidad and Tobago
- (c) Cuba
- (d) Puerto Rico

Answer: B

NEWS: The Prime Minister referred to the close cultural connection between the strong Girmitiya community of Trinidad and Tobago and India, especially with Bihar, which is recognised — along with eastern Uttar Pradesh — as the homeland of much of the Bhojpuri-speaking members of the

Indian diaspora in the Caribbeans, southern Africa and in the Pacific islands of Fiji and Indian Ocean islands like Mauritius. Mr. Modi announced that the Government of India was “mapping the past” and reiterated that a number of initiatives were launched during the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas to “honour and connect with the Girmitiya community across the world”. “We are actively working on creating a comprehensive database of the Girmitiya community. Documenting the villages and cities in India from which their ancestors migrated, identifying the places where they have settled, studying and preserving the legacy of the Girmitiya ancestors, and working to organise World Girmitiya Conferences regularly,” said Mr. Modi, documenting the various works being undertaken to connect India with the diaspora. He congratulated Trinidad and Tobago for being the first country in the Caribbean to adopt India’s UPI (Unified Payments Interface) system that would help in transfer of finance between the two sides.

21. Which of the following statements is/are correct about Public Interest Litigation (PIL)?

1. It is generally used to safeguard individual interests and not group interests, for which Fundamental Rights have been provided.
 2. All Indian citizens or organisations can file a public interest litigation petition
 3. One can file a PIL petition before the supreme court under Article 32 and High courts under Article 226 of the constitution
- (a) 1 and 2
(b) 1 and 3
(c) 2 and 3
(d) 1,2 and 3

Answer: C

NEWS: PIL seeks to protect Kolhapuri chappals’ GI from exploitation. A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has been filed in the Bombay High Court, seeking urgent judicial intervention to protect the Geographical Indication (GI) rights of Kolhapuri chappals from alleged cultural appropriation and commercial exploitation by Prada. The PIL challenges Prada’s Spring/Summer 2026 collection, where the brand presented “toe ring sandals” allegedly resembling the Kolhapuri chappal. The PIL has been filed against the PRADA Group, Italy; Prada India Fashion Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai; Maharashtra’s Social Justice and Special Assistance Department; Leather Industries Development Corporation of Maharashtra Ltd.; and Directorate of Industries

22. Consider the following statements and which is/are correct?

1. Nipah virus can be transmitted to humans from animals such as bats or pigs.
 2. Fruit bats of the Pteropodidae family are the natural host of Nipah virus.
 3. There is treatment and vaccines available for either people or animals and the primary treatment for humans is supportive care.
- (a) 1, 2 and 3
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

Answer: B

NEWS: Nipah virus resurfaces in Kerala, two new cases reported.

23. Which of the following tribes are not native to Nagaland?

1. Angami
 2. Ao
 3. Gurkhas
 4. Lotha
 5. Chenchu
 6. Rengma
 7. Sumi
- (a) Only two
(b) Only three
(c) Only four
(d) Only five

Answer: D

NEWS: A committee representing five major Naga tribes —Angami, Ao, Lotha, Rengma, and Sumi — announced the resumption of its agitation against Nagaland’s reservation policy in government employment from July 9.

The Committee on Review Reservation Policy has argued that the quota system for 11 “backward” Naga tribes, in place since 1977, no longer reflects the prevailing socio-economic and educational landscape of the region. The list includes seven tribes inhabiting eastern Nagaland. “The protest will be for a day. We will take further steps depending on how the government responds,” said G.K. Zhimomi, member-secretary of the committee. He clarified that the committee was “not against any tribe benefiting from the reservation policy” but maintained that “a review of this 48-year-old policy is long overdue.”

24. Which of the following is/are the purpose and objectives of giving GI Tags?

1. To preserve the distinct identity of products associated with a specific region
2. To popularise a product commercially to establish the concerned industry throughout the country.
3. To preserve cultural and historical values of the product
4. For better marketing of the product

How many of the given statements are correct?

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

Answer: C

NEWS: Kolhapuri chappals are a symbol of India’s rich artisanal heritage, with a history dating back over 800 years. Originating from the town of Kolhapur in Maharashtra, these handcrafted leather sandals have been traditionally worn by Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj. Users admire the footwear for its durability, comfort, and distinct aesthetic.

What makes the footwear truly unique is the intricate craftsmanship that is behind each pair. These chappals are made entirely by hand — from cutting the leather to shaping the sole and weaving the iconic T-strap. Every stitch, punch, and braid is done manually by skilled artisans, many of whom work out of small family-run homes rather than large-scale factories. This decentralised, home-based production model has been passed down generations, keeping the cottage industry alive in

small towns and villages across Maharashtra and Karnataka.

25. Which one of the statements is true about the Neolithic period?

1. Agriculture, animal domestication and settled communities flourished in that period.
2. The Neolithic period had matrilineal and matriarchal society in many parts of the world.

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

Answer: B

NEWS: Evidence of a matrilineal society in neolithic China. Scientists are still debating whether any early human societies were matrilineal. Numerous genetic studies have concluded that ancient societies were patriarchal. Some of the rare exceptions include the Chaco Canyon dynasty in North America (800-1300BC) and some Celtic communities in Germany (616-200 BC). The new evidence came from analysing skeletal remains retrieved from cemeteries used for around 250 years, spanning at least 10 generations. The findings challenge scientists' assumptions about traditional societies. Most of an individual's genome (DNA) is inherited equally from each parent. But around 0.0005% is inherited only from the mother. This is the mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA). Sperm cells don't normally transmit mitochondria. The non-mtDNA is located in the cell's nucleus. Nuclear DNA contains two genome sets and is organised in 23 pairs of chromosomes. One chromosome of each pair is inherited via the father's sperm and the other

via the mother's egg. The sex chromosomes, X and Y, define one pair. Both males and females inherit an X chromosome from the mother. Females receive their second X from the father, whereas males receive the Y chromosome that carries the maleness-determining gene. The Y chromosome carries about 1% of the nuclear DNA. Since the Y is transmitted by a father to all of his sons, it is patrilineally inherited. Thus, sequence information from mtDNA and the Y-chromosome is used to trace maternal and paternal lineages, respectively.

26. Gini Index is a measure of

- (a) Income inequality and consumption inequality
- (b) Wealth inequality and Educational inequality
- (c) Educational inequality and gender inequality
- (d) Employment inequality and gender inequality

Answer: A

NEWS: India is fourth 'most equal' country, says World Bank report. The Gini index is named after Italian statistician Corrado Gini, who developed the measure in 1912 to quantify income inequality. Inequality in India has come down significantly between 2011-12 and 2022-23, making it the fourth-most equal country globally, according to a World Bank report. This is in addition to a sharp decrease in extreme poverty, which has dropped from 16.2% in 2011-12 to 2.3% in 2022-23, an official release said quoting World Bank data. The government attributed the reduction in inequality to various initiatives and schemes pursued during the last decade. The only three countries which have a better Gini Index score, a measure of equality, are the Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Belarus. "...India's Gini Index stands

at 25.5, making it the fourth most equal country in the world, after the Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Belarus,” the statement said. Income distribution The Gini Index helps in understanding how equally income, wealth or consumption is distributed across households or individuals in a country. It ranges in value from zero to 100. A score of zero means perfect equality, while a score of 100 means one person has all the income, wealth or consumption and others have none, hence absolute inequality.

The higher the Gini Index, the more unequal a country is. India’s score is much lower than China’s 35.7 and far lower than the United States, which stands at 41.8. As per the World Bank’s report, which has released the data for 167 countries, India falls into the “moderately low” inequality category, which includes Gini scores between 25 and 30. India is only a fraction away from joining the “low inequality” group.

27. Which of the following statement is/are true about ELI(Employment Linked Incentive) scheme

1. It’s aim is creating employment particularly in tertiary sector
 2. It is to be implemented by the Employees Provident Fund Organisation.
- (a) Only 1
(b) Only 2
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

NEWS: The Union Cabinet approved an Employment-Linked Incentive (ELI) scheme with an outlay of ₹99,446 crore. The scheme, a promise

made in the 2024-25 budget, is aimed at creating employment, particularly in the manufacturing sector. It is a part of the Prime Minister’s package of five schemes to facilitate employment such as internships with big companies and measures to improve skills of the youth. What are the key provisions? The ELI scheme, according to the Labour Ministry, incentivises creation of more than 3.5 crore jobs over a period of two years. The Centre expects 1.92 crore newly employed people to get the benefit of the scheme, which comes into operation from August 1, 2025 and ends on July 31, 2027. The Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) will implement the scheme. Newly recruited employees, with salaries up to ₹1 lakh, will get a one-month EPF wage up to ₹15,000 in two installments. The EPFO will pay the first instalment after six months of service and the second instalment after 12 months of service — both as direct bank transfer. A portion of the incentive will be kept in “a savings instrument of deposit account for a fixed period and can be withdrawn by the employee at a later date”. The establishments, registered with EPFO, will get up to ₹3,000 per month, for two years, “for each additional employee with sustained employment for at least six months”. The Centre adds that for the manufacturing sector, incentives will be extended to third and fourth years as well.

28. The country's gross domestic savings rate fell due to which of the following factors?

1. Increased consumption
2. Rising inflation
3. Higher disposable income
4. Financialisation of savings

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

Answer: D

NEWS: Financialization of savings refers to the trend where individuals and institutions increasingly shift their savings from traditional physical assets like gold or real estate to financial assets such as stocks, bonds, and mutual funds. This shift signifies a greater reliance on financial markets for wealth accumulation and investment. India has historically been a high-saving economy with conservative and security-conscious households. The country's gross domestic savings rate fell from 34.6% of GDP in 2011-12 to 29.7% in 2022-23 — the lowest in four decades — owing to increased consumption, rising inflation, and financialisation of savings. Household net savings, which historically constituted 60% of aggregate gross domestic savings, fell secularly. These savings were mainly in physical assets such as gold and real estate, driven by cultural preferences, lack of financial literacy, and limited access to financial products.

29. Fisher dynamics is a phenomenon, which show an

- (a) increase in interest rate and a reduction in nominal income growth rate of households
- (b) decrease in interest rate and increase in nominal income growth rate of households
- (c) increase in both interest rate and nominal growth rate of households

(d) decrease in both interest rate and nominal growth rate of households

Answer: A

NEWS: Fisher Dynamics: Fisher dynamics in economics refers to the impact of changes in interest rates, inflation, and income on debt levels, particularly household debt, independent of borrowing or lending decisions. Essentially, it's about how fluctuations in these factors can mechanically affect debt-to-income ratios and overall indebtedness, even if people aren't actively taking out or paying down loans.

NEWS: Concern over falling household savings in India - what can be done Gross domestic savings rate fell to 29.7% in 2022-23. Fostering financial resilience requires micro-savings initiatives, customised micro-savings products for rural and urban needs, providing tax benefits or government-backed guarantees and revamping post-office savings schemes and initiatives like the Kisan Vikas Patra or Public Provident Fund "Fisher dynamics" show an increase in interest rates and a reduction in nominal income growth rate of households. The transforming economic landscape necessitated a recourse to riskier investment avenues like equities and mutual funds. This changing asset mix favouring financial assets potentially hampers domestic capital formation and overall economic growth, and, therefore, needs a tweaked policy response.

30. Which of the following statements are true about Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)?

- 1. It makes sure that decision makers to implement/approve the project can think about the

likely effects on the environment at the earliest possible time and aim to avoid, reduce or offset those effects.

2. It is an important management tool for ensuring optimal use of natural resources for sustainable development.

(a) 1 Only

(b) 2 Only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

NEWS: The Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) study carried out for the ₹72,000-crore Great Nicobar Infrastructure Project (GNIP) downplays the risk of future earthquakes that could trigger tsunamis on the scale that was seen in 2004, despite several scientists suggesting that few on-ground scientific assessments have been done in the region. According to the nearly 900-page EIA report commissioned by the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation and executed by a private consultant, Vimta Labs, the probability of a mega earthquake, such as the earthquake of 9.2 magnitude that led to the 2004 tragedy, was “low”. The EIA study, while acknowledging the region’s proximity and susceptibility to massive earthquakes, primarily draws on a 2019 study by scientists of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Kanpur stating that the “return period”, a term for the likelihood of a similar-sized earthquake reoccurring, is 420–750 years for mega-earthquakes (magnitude of 9 or more). The return period is a shorter 80-120 years for large-magnitude earthquakes (>7.5).

31. How many of the following statement/s is/are NOT correct about the Plant Treaty?

1. It is a legally binding global agreement adopted by the Indian council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

2. India is not a signatory to the treaty.

3. It was Linked to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and FAO’s Global Plan of Action

4. One of its objectives is the Conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources.

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) Only three

(d) All four

Answer: B

NEWS: As the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group to enhance the Multilateral System (MLS) under the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the ‘Plant Treaty’) meets in Peru from July 7 to 11, scientists, policymakers and activists from India have flagged concerns over the proposal to amend the treaty, particularly the Annex I of the treaty. They argue that the proposals are not only detrimental to the interests of Indian farmers, but also inconsistent with the Plant Treaty’s Preamble, and Articles 10 and 11 and would impact the seed sovereignty of India as well. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), however, said the country’s interests would be placed first, and protected during the negotiations. India has nominated Principal Scientist, ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, Sunil Archak, to the meeting as he has been looking after the activities related to the Plant Treaty for several years

32. Consider the following statements.

S1: India used Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors(PHWRs) in Nuclear Power plants rather than other reactors which are globally used.

S2: Heavy water is more commonly available in many regions around the world (D₂O) than ordinary light water(H₂O).

S3: PHWRs are important for its fuel flexibility, safety, stable power supply and produce useful things as by-products.

- (a) S2 and S3 are correct and both explain the S1.
- (b) S2 and S3 are correct but only one of them explains S1
- (c) Only one of the S2 and S3 is correct and that explains S1.
- (d) Neither S2 nor S3 is correct

Answer: A

NEWS: Heavy water: It acts as an effective neutron moderator, slowing down neutrons without absorbing them, which is crucial for sustaining a nuclear chain reaction.

The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) has granted Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL) licence to operate two indigenously developed 700 MWe pressurised heavy water reactors (PHWRs) at the Kakrapar Atomic Power Station (KAPS) in Gujarat.

33. Which of the following Legal provisions is/are used to claim compensation for environmental damage caused by ships?

- 1. Admiralty Act, 2017
- 2. Merchant shipping Act, 1958
- 3. Environment Protection Act, 1986

4. Biodiversity Act, 2002

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

Answer: C

NEWS:The Kerala government filed an admiralty suit in the High Court against the vessel MSC Akiteta-2, which is owned by MSC Shipping Company, as security for a ₹9,531-crore compensation claim for marine and coastal pollution, the subsequent loss of livelihood caused to fishers, and the “remediation” measures following the sinking of the company’s container vessel MSC Elsa-3 off the Alappuzha coast on May 25. The maritime compensation has been sought under the Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims) Act, 2017. The Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims) Act, 2017, is a law in India that consolidates and modernizes the rules governing admiralty jurisdiction and the handling of maritime claims. It clarifies the types of claims that fall under admiralty law, outlines the procedures for vessel arrest and detention, and specifies the courts with jurisdiction over these matters

34. Which one of the following states in India has the highest Maternal Mortality Ratio(MMR)?

- (a) Uttar Pradesh
- (b) Madhya Pradesh
- (c) Assam
- (d) Jharkhand

Answer: B

NEWS: In childbirth in India, why should 93 women lose their life while one lakh women have a safe delivery? For the time period 2019-21, the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) estimate for India was 93, in other words, the proportion of maternal deaths per 1,00,000 live births, reported under the Sample Registration System (SRS). “Maternal death is the death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and site of the pregnancy, from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management, but not from accidental or incidental causes”. But the MMR in India has declined over the years — it was 103 in 2017-19, then 97 in 2018-20 and now 93 in 2019-21. To understand the maternal mortality situation better, States have been categorised into three: “Empowered Action Group” (EAG) States that comprise Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Assam; “Southern” States which include Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu; and “Other” States that cover the remaining States/Union Territories. In the group of “Southern” States, Kerala has the lowest MMR (20) and Karnataka the highest (63). The rest of the data is Andhra Pradesh (46) Telangana (45) and Tamil Nadu (49). In the EAG States, Assam has a very high MMR (167); the rest of the data is Jharkhand (51), and Madhya Pradesh (175). Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand are in the 100-151 range. In the category of “Other” States. Maharashtra is 38 and Gujarat 53; the rest of the data is Punjab 98, Haryana 106 and West Bengal 109

35. Which of the following diseases are caused due to the exposure to Particulate Matter (PM2.5)?

1. Respiratory diseases
2. Cardiovascular diseases
3. Preterm Births
4. Gastrointestinal diseases

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

Answer: C

NEWS: Air pollution, a hazard endured everyday by millions across India in varying degrees, has long been associated with a range of respiratory diseases, heart conditions, and a growing list of health issues. Now, a new study reveals the damaging effects of air pollution extend far beyond the lungs and heart, affecting people before they are even born. Published in PLoS Global Public Health, the study was carried out by researchers from institutions in India, Thailand, Ireland, and the UK, with data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) along with satellite data. The team assessed the influence of ambient air quality on birth outcomes, specifically preterm births (PTB) and low birth weight (LBW). The dataset included children aged 0 to 5 years; 52% were female and 48% male. The results suggest that exposure to fine particulate matter (PM2.5) during pregnancy significantly increases the likelihood of these adverse outcomes. PM2.5 consists of airborne particles less than 2.5 micrometres in diameter. According to the study, mothers exposed to increased levels of PM2.5 had a 70% higher

chance of delivering prematurely compared to those who weren't exposed. The odds of giving birth to a baby with low birth weight rose by 40% for mothers who faced higher air pollution levels.

36. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. India is self-reliant on the production of urea and became largest exporter of urea among Asian countries in 2024-25.
 2. Government promotes sustainable methods such as the use of alternative fertilizers like Nano Urea, Nano DAP and organic fertilizer in the country.
- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

NEWS: Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy urged the Centre to ensure timely and adequate supply of urea to meet the State's agricultural needs in the ongoing monsoon, as there was a short supply of urea from the Centre. Several measures were undertaken by the Government such as Urea Subsidy Scheme, New Urea Policy 2015, Nutrient based Subsidy scheme etc. to increase the total fertilizer production in the country. Besides, it also promotes sustainable methods such as the use of alternative fertilizers viz., Nano Urea, Nano DAP and organic fertilizer in the country. Highlighting the requirements for the month of July, the Chief Minister said that the Centre had allocated 63,000 metric tonnes of domestically produced urea and 97,000 metric tonnes of imported urea for this month. However,

as of now, only 29,000 metric tonnes have been supplied to Telangana.

37. The rare "Indian Great Hornbill" bird's habitat area is

- (a) Dry deciduous and tropical thorn forests
(b) Moist deciduous and tropical thorn forests
(c) Evergreen and moist deciduous forests
(d) Moist deciduous and Tundra vegetation

Answer: C

NEWS: Listed as Endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and protected under Schedule 1 of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, the Great Hornbill's appearance in Ezhimala has sparked both excitement and renewed calls for conservation efforts in the area.

38. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. National judicial appointments commission is a constitutional body and its members are supreme court chief judge and other judges.
 2. Supreme court collegium is a body that was recommended by the government to decide on the matters of appointment of supreme court and high court judges.
- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: D

NEWS: The Campaign for Judicial Accountability and Reforms, an NGO which works extensively for judicial transparency, has issued a statement calling

upon the Supreme Court to restart judicial hearings on the unexplained delay and segregation of names recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium for High Court judgeships.

39. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. National Education Society for Tribal Students has been established with an objective to impart quality education to Scheduled tribe children through establishment of Eklavya Model Residential Schools.

2. Eklavya Model Residential Schools provide free education to Scheduled tribe children from class VI to XII in residential set up.

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

Answer: C

NEWS: Close to 600 students from government-run Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) for tribal students across 12 States have cleared top entrance examinations this year for undergraduate studies in medicine and engineering across the country, the Tribal Affairs Ministry's assessment of the EMRS' performance for the year showed.

40. Consider the following statements.

1. Phosphorus is an essential mineral for plant growth and development.
2. When phosphate fertilizers are used, only about 15-20% are taken up by plants; the rest is leached out or lost in surface runoff.

- (a) 1 only

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

Answer: C

NEWS: Scientists at the Delhi-based National Institute of Plant Genome Research (NIPGR) have used CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing technology to increase phosphate uptake and transport in japonica rice varieties. The resulting rice lines had higher seed and panicle numbers, and thus higher yield without compromising seed quality. The studies were carried out in a greenhouse. Phosphorus is an essential mineral for plant growth and development. When its availability is limited, crop productivity plummets. Even when phosphate fertilizers are used, only about 15-20% are taken up by plants; the rest is leached out or lost in surface runoff. In the gene-edited rice lines, a recommended amount of phosphate fertilizer increased yield by 20%. However, when only 10% of the recommended dose was used, the yield increased by 40%

41. Which of the following correctly distinguishes the NPR from the Census in India?

- A) NPR is conducted by State governments, while the Census is conducted by the Centre.
- B) NPR collects voluntary information, while the Census is mandatory.
- C) NPR data can be shared with other agencies; Census data is shared only in aggregate form.
- D) Census includes biometric data; NPR does not.

Answer: C

NEWS: Census Data: Protected under the Census Act, 1948, which prohibits revealing any individual

or household data. Only aggregate statistics (like total population, literacy rate, etc.) are published. NPR Data: Not protected by such confidentiality provisions. It can be accessed by Central and State governments and agencies, since it is a register of usual residents and part of administrative governance. Both Census and NPR data collection are mandatory under the law. The Census Act, 1948 governs the Census and makes participation mandatory. NPR is linked to the Citizenship Act, 1955 and Citizenship Rules, 2003, which also authorize compulsory data collection. There was a political controversy in 2019–20 around optional fields like "date and place of birth of parents", but the NPR process itself is not voluntary.

42. Sutlej-Yamuna link canal is the water sharing dispute between

- (a) Punjab and Himachal Pradesh
- (b) Punjab and Haryana
- (c) Punjab and Rajasthan
- (d) Punjab and Uttar Pradesh

Answer: B

NEWS: Meeting in Delhi to resolve SYL issue yields no outcome

43. Which of the following statements correctly reflect the outcomes of recent agreements signed between India and Namibia during the PM visit in 2025?

- 1. Namibia joined the India-led Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.
- 2. An MoU was signed to establish an Entrepreneurship Development Centre in Namibia.

3. India signed a defense cooperation agreement with Namibia.

4. Namibia adopted India's UPI-based digital payments platform.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: C

NEWS: India, Africa must work side by side, says PM in Namibia India seeks to cooperate, not compete, with Africa, says Mr. Modi; he also congratulated Namibia for adopting UPI digital payment system; Modi given the country's highest civilian honour. Mr. Modi met with Namibian President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah and signed several agreements, including MoUs to set up an Entrepreneurship Development Centre in Namibia and to cooperate in the field of health and medicine. Namibia also completed the formalities to join the India-led Coalition of Disaster Resilient Infrastructure and the Global Biofuel Alliance. The launch of a digital payments system in Namibia later this year was also announced as an outcome of the UPI technology licensing agreement signed between the National Payments Corporation of India and the Bank of Namibia in April 2024. Mr. Nandi-Ndaitwah also conferred Mr. Modi with the Order of the Most Ancient Welwitschia Mirabilis, Namibia's highest civilian award. Earlier, Mr. Modi paid homage to the hero of Namibia's freedom movement Sam Nujoma, describing him as "a great friend of India". He recollected Dr. Nujoma's role during the establishment of diplomatic relations

between India and Namibia in 1986. The first diplomatic mission of the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) was established in India, which provided the organisation with material support as it led the efforts for the liberation of Namibia. India's support to SWAPO is remembered fondly, the Prime Minister said.

44. What is the likely impact of the U.S. imposing a 35% tariff on textile exports from Bangladesh on Indian textile exports to the U.S.?

- (a) It will reduce India's market share in the U.S.
- (b) It will have no impact on Indian exports.
- (c) It may make Indian textiles more price-competitive in the U.S. market.
- (d) It will lead to sanctions on Indian exports as well

Answer: C

NEWS: The Indian textile industry is on a wait and watch mode regarding U.S. tariff announcements. Between January and May this year, the U.S. imported textiles and apparel worth \$5.11 billion from India, which is 13% more than the exports for the same period last year. "We are actively tracking the progress of the latest tariff-related announcements, including their impact on specific sectors, since they concern many countries which are our competitors in the textile and apparel export arena," said the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry chairman Rakesh Mehra. "The initial signs in this connection augur well for Indian textile and apparel exporters in terms of being able to expand access in the U.S. as they would now become more price competitive relative to those from other countries," he added. The U.S. had imposed a 35%

tariff on exports from Bangladesh. The industry is confident a mini trade deal would be in place soon.

45. Consider the following statements and which is/are correct?

- 1. The WTO plays a role in regulating tariffs by providing a framework for negotiations, setting rules, and resolving disputes related to tariffs.
 - 2. While WTO agreements encourage lower tariffs, they also acknowledge the need for exceptions and allow countries to use tariffs under specific circumstances.
 - 3. The WTO provides financial assistance to developing nations to support their development and reduce poverty.
- (a) 1, 2 and 3
 - (b) 1 only
 - (c) 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 1 and 2 only

Answer: D

NEWS: India has revised its proposal to impose retaliatory duties under the WTO (World Trade Organisation) norms against the U.S. over American tariffs on steel and aluminium in view of the further hike in duty by the Trump administration. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) ensures the stability of exchange rates and international payments to prevent currency devaluation and promote economic growth. The World Trade Organization (WTO) manages the rules of trade between nations by settling agreements to encourage free trade. The World Bank provides financial assistance to developing nations to support their development and reduce poverty.

46. If there was a summer with low sea ice cover, the ocean would warm a bit. Why?

1. White sea ice absorbs about 90% of the incoming energy from sunlight, while the darker ocean reflects about 90%.
2. White sea ice reflects about 90% of the incoming energy from sunlight, while the darker ocean absorbs about 90%.
3. White sea ice reflects about 90% of the incoming energy from sunlight, while the darker ocean reflects about 100%.
4. White sea ice absorbs about 100% of the incoming energy from sunlight, while the darker ocean absorbs about 90%.

Answer: B

NEWS: Antarctic summer sea ice at record lows. Recent low sea-ice summers present a scientific challenge; the system is currently changing faster than the scientific community can study it. Ocean warming is compounding: Bright white sea ice reflects about 90% of the incoming energy from sunlight, while the darker ocean absorbs about 90%. So if there's less summer sea ice, the ocean absorbs much more heat.

2. More icebergs are forming: Sea ice protects Antarctica's coast from ocean waves. On average, about a third of the continent's coastline is exposed over summer. But this is changing. In 2022 and 2023, more than half of the Antarctic coast was exposed. Our research shows more icebergs break away from Antarctic ice sheets in years with less sea ice. During an average summer, about 100 icebergs break away. Summers with low sea ice produce about twice as many icebergs.

3. Wildlife squeezed off the ice: Many species of seals and penguins rely on sea ice, especially for breeding and moulting.

Entire colonies of emperor penguins experienced "catastrophic breeding failure" in 2022, when sea ice melted before chicks were ready to go to sea. After giving birth, crabeater seals need large, stable sea ice platforms for 2–3 weeks until their pups are weaned. The ice provides shelter and protection from predators. Less summer sea-ice cover makes large platforms harder to find. Many seal and penguin species also take refuge on the sea ice when moulting. These species must avoid the icy water while their new feathers or fur grows, or risk dying of hypothermia. Adelie penguins undergo a yearly moult in which all of their feathers are replaced. These three penguins are nearly finished moulting and will soon be able to leave this ice flow that has sheltered them.

47. Which one of the following countries has, over the past 18 months, registered the biggest influx of Rohingya refugees since the mass exodus of Myanmar's largely Muslim minority nearly a decade ago?

- (a) India
- (b) Thailand
- (c) Australia
- (d) Bangladesh

Answer: D

NEWS: Bangladesh has, over the past 18 months, registered the biggest influx of Rohingya refugees since the mass exodus of Myanmar's largely Muslim minority nearly a decade ago, the United Nations said. The United Nations refugee agency

said up to 150,000 Rohingya had arrived in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar refugee camps since early 2024.

48. The "silver dividend" refers to

- (a) The potential economic benefits that can arise from the availability of the mineral resources.
- (b) The potential economic and social benefits that can arise from an aging population
- (c) The potential economic and social benefits that can arise from an increasing birth rate in the society.
- (d) The potential economic benefits that can arise from trading in stock markets.

Answer: B

NEWS:The "silver dividend" refers to the potential economic and social benefits that can arise from an aging population, particularly when older individuals remain active and engaged in society and the workforce. It's essentially the flip side of the "demographic dividend," which focuses on the benefits of a large working-age population.

NEWS: An NGO, Population Foundation of India, has urged a shift away from fear-driven debates on overpopulation or fertility decline, calling instead for policies that centre on dignity, rights, and opportunities, particularly for women, youth, and the elderly. Three key areas for policymakers: The first is realising the gender dividend; family planning must move beyond female sterilisation to a range of contraceptives, with both men and women sharing responsibility. The second is harnessing the demographic dividend, with over 250 million young people. India has a unique opportunity to drive inclusive growth by investing in education, skill development, reproductive health,

and mental well-being, especially for adolescent girls. The third is to prepare for the silver dividend, noting that by 2050, nearly one in five Indians will be over 60, the foundation called for immediate investments in elder care, pensions, healthcare, and age-friendly infrastructure and see older adults as vital contributors and not as dependents.

49. The National Electoral Rolls Purification and Authentication Programme (NERPAP) exercise was discontinued due to the issue of

- (a) Right to privacy
- (b) Right to expression
- (c) Right to religion
- (d) Right to vote

Answer: A

NEWS: It was in February 2015, that the EC first launched a pilot project to study the linking of Aadhaar with electoral rolls called the National Electoral Rolls Purification and Authentication Programme (NERPAP). It had linked more than 300 million voters in a span of three months. The Supreme Court halted this project through an interim order issued in August of that year on the issue of Right to Privacy, which is guaranteed under the Constitution, and created a three-prong test to assess whether a law violates this right. Following this order, the NERPAP exercise was discontinued. After the Supreme Court's final order in Puttaswamy case in September 2018, that upheld the constitutional validity of the Aadhaar Act, the EC sought amendments to the Representation of the People Act, 1950. Parliament amended the Representation of the People Act and the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 in December

2021 to enable the linking of Electors Photo Identity Card (EPIC) with Aadhaar. The EC, however, urged the top court to observe in its order that it would be left to the “discretion” of the poll body to accept Aadhaar, voter ID or ration cards as documentary proof for voter registration.

50. Which of the following places/projects are associated with the Godavari - Kavery link project?

1. Nagarjuna sagar
 2. Somasila
 3. Grand Anicut
- (a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 only
(e) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D

NEWS: The State Tamil Nadu has been urging the National Water Development Agency (NWDA), the nodal agency for interlinking of rivers, to ensure that 200 tmc ft will eventually be provided to the State when the diversion from the Brahmaputra-Mahanadi link takes place. The aim of the Godavari-Cauvery link is to make use of unutilised water from the Godavari. There are three components to the project: the Godavari (Inchampalli)-Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) link; Krishna (Nagarjunasagar)-Pennar (Somasila) link; and Pennar (Somasila)-Cauvery (Grand Anicut) link.

51. The Ministry of Environment has exempted a large number of thermal power plants from

FGD installation. Which of the following is not a reason cited for this exemption?

- (a) Indian coal is low in sulphur content
(b) SO₂ levels in Indian cities are significantly below permissible limits
(c) FGDs have shown high efficiency in reducing transboundary PM pollution
(d) Cost and vendor availability issues hinder mass installation of FGDs

Answer: C

NEWS: The Union Environment Ministry has exempted the majority of India’s thermal power plants from installing flue gas desulphurisation (FGD) systems, which are designed to cut sulphur dioxide (SO₂) emissions. Flue gas, a residue from burning fuels in thermal power plants, emits SO₂, which can mix in the atmosphere and create secondary particulate matter. These are linked to air pollution. There are about 180 thermal power plants in India and a single plant can have multiple units. Now on, only about 11% of India’s 600 thermal power plant (TPP) units have to mandatorily install the FGD systems. These plants, called ‘Category A’, are the ones located within a 10-km radius of the National Capital Region or cities with a population of at least a million as per the 2011 Census. Another 11% of TPPs, called Category B – located within 10 km radius of critically polluted areas (CPA) or non-attainment cities (NAC) – may or may not have to install FGD, depending upon the decision by a committee of experts. The remaining 78% of thermal power plants, or ‘Category C’, and are now exempt from installing FGD. The updated rules regarding the installation of FGD are in line with the recommendations of an expert committee

constituted by Principal Science Adviser Ajay Sood this April. Two categoriesThe plants in Category A were to have put in place FGD systems by 2017 but have been given multiple extensions to comply. The latest – as per a gazette notification this week – is December 30, 2027. Category B plants that comply with the EAC norms have a deadline of December 30, 2028, to install the FGD. CPA are regions or industrial clusters that are extremely polluted and deemed so according to a specified criteria by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). NAC – there are 131 of them – are those that have the worst air quality and haven't met the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for at least five years. Only about 8% of India's TPPs have installed FGD units. The limited number of vendors capable of installing such equipment in India, the high installation costs, the potential rise in electricity bills, and disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic have been some of the reasons historically cited by the Power Ministry, the overseer of India's TPPs, for the plants' inability to adhere to previous deadlines. In theory, the costs of non-compliance could run to crores of rupees in fines, though these have not materialised thanks to deadline extensions.

52. Consider the following statements regarding the reintroduction of cheetahs in India:

1. The reintroduced cheetahs in Kuno National Park include both African translocated adults and Indian-born cubs.
2. All reintroduced cheetahs are kept in captivity and not released into the wild.
3. Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary is a secondary location involved in cheetah conservation in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

NEWS: An eight-year-old Namibian cheetah died in Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park (KNP), a week after sustaining injuries inside her enclosure, forest officials said.

53. Which of the following initiatives were launched by BRICS to reduce dependency on Western financial institutions?

1. Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)
2. New Development Bank (NDB)
3. Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA)
4. Asia-Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC)

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Answer: B

NEWS: Global South The 17th BRICS Summit in Rio de Janeiro. The Global South has never been monolithic. Its diversity — vastly different histories, economies and political systems — has been both a potential source of strength and a cause of internal divisions. The BRICS grouping has emerged as a more solidified possibility, representing a formalised attempt to advance many of the Global South's aims. BRICS has now evolved into a substantial intergovernmental organisation

comprising 35% of the global economy and almost half of the world's population — surpassing the G7's 30% economic share as of 2024.

54. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. One horned rhinoceros is found in Asia and Africa.

2. Rhinoceros are not found in new world ecosystems.

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

Answer: B

NEWS: A specialised team has initiated the genetic analysis of samples collected from 2,573 rhino horns, most of which were destroyed by the Assam Forest Division four years ago. The team, notified by the State's Chief Wildlife Warden, verified and segregated the stored samples at Kaziranga from July 3 to 8 and repackaged them in small vials to be transported to the genetic laboratory in Dehradun's Wildlife Institute of India (WII) for DNA analysis. A total of 2,623 horns stored in various treasuries in Assam were verified and reconciled for mass destruction. Barring those with some uniqueness and those implicated in court cases, 2,479 horns were consigned to the flames on September 22, 2021.

55. Consider the following statements regarding the "Gyan Bharatam Mission"

1. It was launched in the Union Budget 2025–26 as a successor to the National Mission for Manuscripts.

2. It seeks to preserve and digitise India's manuscript knowledge and integrate it with modern technologies.

3. It is being implemented exclusively by the Ministry of Education.

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

NEWS: India will host the first international Manuscript Heritage Conference in September, which will be attended by global scholars, thought leaders, and cultural custodians in the subject. The three-day conference, titled "Reclaiming India's knowledge legacy through manuscript heritage", is being organised from September 11 to 13 in the national capital as part of the launch of the "Gyan Bharatam Mission". The conference will also commemorate Swami Vivekananda's Chicago address (September 11, 1893), symbolising India's intellectual and spiritual global vision.

56. Which of the following statements are NOT correct?

1. Seals are marine mammals found abundantly in tropical oceans as well as high latitude seas.

2. Seals are also found in Caspian sea, Mediterranean sea and Baltic sea.

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

Answer: B

NEWS: The grey seals slide out of their cages into the Baltic Sea near the Lithuanian coast, swimming off to new lives imperilled by climate change, pollution and shrinking fish stocks. The seals have been nurtured at a rehabilitation centre in the Lithuanian port of Klaipeda. Survival rates for cubs in the wild can be as low as 5%, according to local scientists. The Baltic Sea, which is shared by the European Union and Russia, rarely freezes over now, depriving seals of sanctuaries to rear their cubs.

57. Which of the following species are living in the desert/savanna ecosystems of India?

1. Caracal
 2. Great Indian Bustard
 3. Indian wolf
- (a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d)
1, 2 and 3

Answer: D

NEWS: In policy terms, a wasteland is land waiting to be fixed, often by planting trees, converting it for agriculture or paving it over for industry. What should be protected and stewarded has instead become a target for transformation. India's deserts, grasslands and savannas are home to species found nowhere else: the Great Indian Bustard, the caracal, the Indian wolf etc. These ecosystems also store carbon, not in big trees above ground but rather, deep in the soil. Equally important are the communities dependent on them. Millions of

pastoral groups such as the Dhangar, Rabari, Kuruba etc. depend on these ecosystems for grazing. When we fence off grasslands or plant "forests" on them, it's not just ecology we damage but also livelihoods, mobility, and local knowledge systems. In many cases, pastoralist groups are also stewards of biodiversity and ecosystem health. However, Indian grasslands and pastoralist systems have not received the desired protection and management.

58. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. The state had its own limitations in curbing free speech to avoid disharmony.
 2. Citizens have reasonable restrictions in enjoying the fundamental right of speech and expression.
- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

NEWS: Expressing concern about vitriolic social media engagements, Justice Viswanathan said only greater fraternity among citizens would reduce mutual hatred. "If citizens want to enjoy the fundamental right of speech and expression, it should be with reasonable restrictions. There must be self-restraint and regulation... One of the fundamental duties is to uphold the unity and integrity of India," Justice Nagarathna said. The Bench said the state had its own limitations in curbing free speech to avoid disharmony. Citizens, Justice Nagarathna said, must take the initiative to restrain themselves from engaging in hate on social media.

59. Zographetus mathewi - a new species discovered in Western Ghats. It is

- (a) a reptile
- (b) a butterfly
- (c) mammal
- (d) a plant

Answer: B

NEWS: New butterfly species, *Zographetus mathewi*, discovered in Western Ghats. The new species is named in honour of George Mathew, a renowned Indian entomologist and former Head of the Entomology Division, Kerala Forest Research Institute. Its proposed common name is Sahyadri Spotted Flitter in reference to the Western Ghats, locally known as Sahyadri. *Zographetus mathewi* is part of the *Zographetus satwa* species-group, characterised by unique features such as wing venation patterns and secondary sexual traits, including swollen forewing veins in males. It can be further distinguished by a basal hair tuft on the underside of the forewing, yellow-ochre scaling on the hindwing underside, and distinct genitalia structures in both males and females

60. How many of the following regions are highly drought prone in nature?

1. Bundelkhand
 2. Vidharba
 3. Marwar
 4. Coromandel coast
- (a) Only one
 - (b) Only two
 - (c) Only three
 - (d) All four

Answer: C

NEWS: Two features mark the geography of Bundelkhand, the region in Central India spread over 13 districts of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh: the steep hills of the Vindhyas and progressively scanty rainfall and increasingly frequent droughts. Consider Panna district in Madhya Pradesh. According to data from the India Meteorological Department, Panna has been receiving progressively less rainfall even as temperatures have been rising. According to one estimate, the average temperature in Bundelkhand is expected to rise by 2-3.5° C by 2100. The region has thus become a hotbed of droughts. Datia in Madhya Pradesh, for instance, faced nine droughts between 1998 to 2009. In the same period, Lalitpur and Mahoba districts in Uttar Pradesh suffered eight.

61. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
 2. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) is released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: D

NEWS: According to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for June 2025 released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the last time that growth in the index was lower was in

January 2019. The -0.13% reading in the Wholesale Price Index (WPI), released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, was last lower in October 2023. Within the CPI, the food and beverages category was the only main one to have seen a contraction, of 0.2%, in June 2025. This is compared to inflation of 8.4% in June 2024. This is also the eighth consecutive month of easing food inflation.

62. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. Avalokiteśvara is a prominent bodhisattva in Mahayana Buddhism
 2. Avalokitesvara is a bodhisattva, meaning he has attained enlightenment but chooses to remain in the cycle of rebirth to help others.
- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

NEWS: The 14th Dalai Lama, known to the Tibetan people as ‘Gyalwa Rinpoche’ and by the spiritual name Tenzin Gyatso, is the present spiritual head of Tibetan Buddhism. Born as Lhamo Thondup in 1935, he was enthroned as the Dalai Lama in 1940. The position of Dalai Lama has been one of great religious and political prestige over the years. The Dalai Lama is appointed as the custodian of the teachings of Avalokiteshvara, a Bodhisattva and an important deity in Tibetan Buddhism. He is the theocratic ruler of Tibet, which traditionally consisted of the three regions of Khampas, Amdos,

and U-Tsang. The institution of the Dalai Lama is believed to be carried on through reincarnation.

63. How many of the following are/are consequences of cloud burst?

1. Landslides
 2. Glacial run-off
 3. River swelling
 4. Catastrophic flooding
 5. Tsunami
- (a) Only two
(b) Only three
(c) Only four
(d) All five

Answer: C

NEWS: It began as a heavy rain, the kind that Himachal Pradesh has seen before. But by the night of June 28, it became clear that this was no ordinary monsoon rain. Cloudbursts over the upper reaches of the Beas basin triggered a chain reaction — landslides, glacial run-off, river swelling, and catastrophic flooding. In Mandi district alone, dozens were killed, including schoolchildren swept away in school buses and entire families buried under collapsing hillside homes. As the disaster unfolded across the State, the death toll crossed 100, with many still missing, according to official estimates as of mid-July.

64. Which one of the following bird species is under the IUCN’s conservation status “Critically endangered”?

- (a) Finn’s weaver
(b) Bengal floricon
(c) Black-breasted parrotbill

(d) Jerdon's babbler

Answer: B

NEWS: Famous for its rhinos, Kaziranga records high diversity of grassland birds in surveys. They included the critically endangered Bengal florican, the endangered Finn's weaver, and the swamp grass babbler. Among the remaining 40 species, six were in the vulnerable category — the black-breasted parrotbill, marsh babbler, swamp francolin, Jerdon's babbler, slender-billed babbler, and bristled grassbird.

65. Consider the following statements regarding the powers of a Governor with respect to a bill passed by the State Legislature under Article 200 of the Constitution

1. The Governor may withhold assent to a bill or return it to the Legislature, even if it is a Money Bill.

2. The Governor can reserve certain bills for the consideration of the President.

If a non-Money Bill is returned by the Governor and is passed again by the State

3. Legislature, the Governor is constitutionally bound to give assent.

4. The Constitution prescribes a specific time limit within which the Governor must act on a bill.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: B

NEWS: The Supreme Court made it clear to the Centre that it may have no option but acquiesce to Kerala's wish to withdraw two petitions filed against its Governor's delay in clearing crucial Bills.

66. Which of the following best explains the recent pheromone-based strategy to control Desert Locust swarms?

- (a) Spraying synthetic pheromones to increase reproduction in locusts
- (b) Using pheromone inhibitors to prevent locusts from entering swarming behaviour
- (c) Releasing pheromones to attract birds that prey on locusts
- (d) Using light and sound signals along with pheromones to drive locusts away

Answer: B

NEWS: Human societies have struggled to fend off locust infestations for millennia. The insects' destructive effects persist to this day, especially when they collect in large swarms and eat through thousands of hectares of crops in a matter of days. Such swarms have occurred once every few years of late. Most recently, in 2019-2020, a record number of locusts emerged in East Africa and eventually passed through Pakistan and India, making it the region's worst infestation in 25 years. In the last century or so, experts and farmers have tried to control locusts using synthetic pesticides, but unfortunately they also damage the land, food security, and the environment. Thus finding suitable, eco-friendly alternatives to pesticides has been an active area of research. In a new proof of concept, researchers from the Institute of Zoology at the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing, have

shown that it's possible to manipulate pheromones released by locusts to prevent them from swarming or engaging in group behaviour that leads to the feeding frenzy. The team was able to identify the pheromone responsible for triggering swarming and also tested a candidate molecule to block its function. The study, published in *Nature* on June 25, also recommended more research to identify other molecules that can safely keep locusts from swarming, including at large scales. Overall, the study offers potentially one of the earliest pollution-free solutions for locust control. Jiving to jump

Several animal, bird, and insect species — including locusts — exhibit a social behaviour called gregariousness: it helps them form societies in which large numbers of individuals work together, instead of competing, in order to survive. In the first phase of their lives, individual locusts are solitary creatures; then they transition to their gregarious phase and begin to collect and operate in physical groups, including feeding together. Scientists have sought to identify the hormones that trigger this behaviour for many decades now. In fact the same team behind the new study had identified a pheromone of interest, called 4-vinylanisole (4VA), in 2020. After a locust eats food, it often emits large quantities of 4VA from its hind legs. This hormone is an aggregation pheromone: it promptly begins to attract other members of the species when it's released into the air. Other locusts nearby subsequently collect together and rub their hind legs against each other. This in turn triggers the release of serotonin, a neurotransmitter, which leads to swarming. In the new study, the researchers figured that preventing locusts from releasing 4VA could potentially

prevent swarming, so they set to work on understanding its production. Locusts release 4VA only after they eat, which means certain molecules in the plants that locusts feed on could be triggering its production. The researchers figured right: the culprit was a compound called phenylalanine. When locusts digested phenylalanine, two enzymes — mainly 4VPMT1 and 4VPMT2 less so — were found to be responsible for converting the non-aggregating pheromone 4VP in solitary locusts into the aggregating pheromone 4VA. To confirm the link, the researchers turned to genetic engineering. When they deactivated the gene that encoded for 4VPMT1, the insects stopped transitioning from their solitary to gregarious phases and didn't exhibit any swarming tendencies

67. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. A trade deficit is the result of comparing the value of a country's imports with the value of its exports.
 2. When the value of exports is higher than the value of imports, it creates a negative balance, indicating a trade deficit.
- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

NEWS: Services exports cut India's trade deficit by 9.4% in Q1. Around 11% growth in services exports helps overall trade deficit contract to \$20.3 billion; current export growth on track to beat last year's record figures of \$825 billion India's overall

trade deficit contracted 9.4% to \$20.3 billion in the first quarter (Q1) of the current financial year, driven by a nearly 11% growth in services exports during this period. Data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry showed that India's overall exports grew to \$210.3 billion in the April-June quarter, up from \$198.5 billion in the corresponding period of the previous financial year, rising about 6%

68. Banakacherla project is associated with which one of the following pairs of rivers?

- (a) Krishna - Penner
- (b) Krishna - Palar
- (c) Godavari - Mahanadi
- (d) Godavari - Krishna

Answer: D

NEWS: Andhra Pradesh government claims that with the Polavaram-Banakacherla link, the State was only using 'unused surplus waters' flowing into Andhra Pradesh after the needs of the upper riparian States are met. Affirming that both Polavaram project and Banakacherla were in compliance with the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, Andhra has requested to maintain status quo on the allocations of the Krishna river water made by the Tribunal. Mr. Naidu has also asked Telangana to discuss with the Centre about the legal sanctity to utilise flood waters flowing into the sea. Telangana's argument On the other hand, Telangana has claimed that the project violates the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014 as the upper riparian state was allotted 968 tmc ft of Godavari waters while Andhra was given 500 tmc ft by GWDT. Telangana Chief Minister Revanth

Reddy claims that as the Tribunal did not mention allocation of 'surplus waters', Banakacherla was a threat to the state's water security.

69. Consider the following statements regarding recent field trials of genetically modified (GM) maize in India.

1. The trials have received approval from the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) and the Punjab government.

2. The GM maize varieties include both herbicide-tolerant and insect-resistant strains.

3. The trials aim to determine the commercial viability of GM maize for nationwide cultivation.

Which of the above statements 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

NEWS: Trials will study weed-control efficacy in herbicide-tolerant maize hybrids. Field trials of two kinds of genetically modified (GM) maize are expected to begin this kharif (summer) season at the Punjab Agricultural University, weeks after the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee, the country's top regulator, gave the nod for the trials after receiving consent from the Punjab government. In its meeting in June, the committee recommended a proposal by Bayer Crop Science Ltd. for the conduct of confined field trials of herbicide-tolerant transgenic maize and insect-resistant transgenic maize at the Ludhiana-based university. The trials will study weed-control efficacy in herbicide-

tolerant maize hybrids with the application of glyphosate-K salt, and the efficacy of insect-protected maize hybrids against targeted lepidopteran pests. “The trials are for research purposes only, and we are not going to recommend that it (GM maize) should be grown commercially or not. It’s for the Central government to take a call,” Punjab Agricultural University Vice-Chancellor Satbir Singh Gosal told The Hindu.

70. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. Article 29 incorporates that any section of citizens of India including minority groups shall have the right to protect their language, script or culture.
 2. As India is a unitary federation, Article 343 enshrines that the official language of the Union shall be Hindi in Devanagari script.
 3. India does not have a national language and the States are free to choose their own official language.
- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(e) 2 and 3 only

Answer: D

NEWS: Official vs national language

This is the reason why we do not and cannot have a national language. In order to protect linguistic diversity, the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution includes 22 languages. As India is a unitary federation, that is, a Union of States, Article 343 enshrines that the official language of the Union shall be Hindi in Devanagari script. The States are free to choose their own official language. This

arrangement is due to the fact that in India, States are culturally integrated and no State is permitted to go out of it in the name of distinct language or culture. Article 29 incorporates that any section of citizens of India including minority groups shall have the right to protect their language, script or culture, and that language cannot be the ground for discrimination. According to the 2011 Census, India has 121 languages and 270 mother tongues. About 96.71% population of the country have one of the 22 scheduled languages as their mother tongue. Finally, the Census says that the 121 languages are presented in two parts, languages included in the Eighth Schedule, and languages not included (99) in the Eighth Schedule.

71. How many of the following statements about PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY) are correct?

1. The scheme merges schemes from multiple ministries and departments to avoid duplication and improve convergence.
2. PMDDKY focuses only on the irrigation component of agriculture.
3. At least one district will be selected from every State/UT under the scheme.
4. Districts are selected for this scheme based on criteria including low productivity and low cropping intensity.

Options:

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

Answer: C

NEWS: The Union Cabinet approved the Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana, or PMDDKY, to enhance agricultural productivity and increase adoption of sustainable agricultural practices across the country. The scheme was announced in the Union Budget for 2025-26. After the Cabinet meeting, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told presspersons that the Centre had merged 36 schemes of 11 Ministries into the PMDDKY, which will have an outlay of ₹24,000 crore per year for six years beginning 2025-26. “This scheme will help 1.7 crore farmers,” he said. A release said the scheme aims at augmenting post-harvest storage at the panchayat and block levels, improving irrigation facilities, and facilitating availability of long-term and short-term credit. Across 11 departments “The scheme will be implemented through the convergence of 36 existing schemes across 11 departments, other State schemes, and local partnerships with the private sector... 100 districts will be identified based on three key indicators of low productivity, low cropping intensity, and less credit disbursement,” the release said.

72. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. The Income-Tax Bill, 2025 was introduced in Lok Sabha. It seeks to replace the Income-Tax Act, 1961.
 2. The income tax bill 2025 has proposed some changes in the goods and service tax.
- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

NEWS: “Accordingly, the Income-Tax Bill, 2025 has been prepared which proposes to repeal and replace the Income Tax Act, 1961,” the Union Minister said in the statement of objects and reasons of the Bill. Ms. Sitharaman added that the Income Tax Act passed in 1961 had been subjected to numerous amendments since its passage.

73. Consider the following statements regarding India’s non-fossil fuel electricity capacity

1. India has achieved 50% of its installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel sources.
2. As of 2025, the share of electricity generation from non-fossil sources is more than 50%.
3. The Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement had targeted the 50% capacity milestone by 2030.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

ANswer: C

NEWS: India may have achieved an important milestone of sourcing 50% of its total electric power capacity of about 484 gigawatts from non-fossil fuel sources, though publicly available data show that the share of clean energy in the electricity actually supplied is below 30%. “India has achieved a landmark in its energy transition journey by reaching 50% of its installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel sources — five years ahead of the target set under its Nationally Determined

Contributions [NDCs] to the Paris Agreement,” Pralhad Joshi, Minister for New and Renewable Energy, said earlier this week. “This significant milestone underscores the country’s commitment to climate action and sustainable development, and signals that India’s clean energy transition is not only real but also accelerating under Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s leadership.” In 2014, the share of renewable energy sources – solar, wind, biomass, hydropower (small and large) and nuclear power – constituted about 30% of India’s installed electricity capacity. As on June 30, 2025 – as per the Centre – it rose to 50%. However, the share of electricity generated from these sources rose from 17% in 2014-15 to 28% in the April 2024 to May 2025 period. Experts say that despite the rise in clean energy, the slower increase in utilising clean energy was due to the “capacity utilisation factor” (CUF), a measure of how much available energy was usable. “Solar has CUF of approximately 20% and wind around 25-30%, compared to coal’s 60% or nuclear’s 80%. This means their contribution to actual generation remains limited despite high installed capacity,” said Arunendra kumar Tiwari, Fellow, The Energy Resources Institute.

74. Which of the following is/are correct regarding the LHC, CERN laboratory?

1. The Large Hadron Collider is the world’s largest, most powerful particle accelerator.
2. It accelerates particles, mainly protons, to near the speed of light in opposite directions around a 27-km underground ring.
3. The particles are made to collide at four locations, where massive detectors collect data on what happens during the collision.

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

Answer: D

NEWS: The Large Hadron Collider is the world’s largest, most powerful particle accelerator. It accelerates particles, mainly protons, to near the speed of light in opposite directions around a 27-km underground ring. Then the particles are made to collide at four locations, where massive detectors collect data on what happens during the collision. The universe is made mostly of matter, not antimatter, but scientists believe that after the Big Bang, both must have existed in equal amounts. One of the big mysteries in physics is understanding why matter dominates the universe today and what happened to all the antimatter. A key clue comes from something called CP violation — a difference in the behaviour of matter and antimatter. In CP, ‘C’ stands for charge conjugation, which means the action of swapping a particle with its antiparticle. ‘P’ stands for parity, which is the action of flipping the spatial coordinates, like looking in a mirror. CP symmetry stipulates that if you swap particles for antiparticles and look in a mirror, the laws of physics should be the same.

75. Under the Russian Sanctions Act, 2025, the U.S. proposes secondary sanctions on

- (a) Only countries directly exporting oil to Russia
- (b) Countries purchasing fossil fuels of Russian origin
- (c) Only OPEC+ nations trading with Russia
- (d) Only NATO non-compliant states

Answer: B

NEWS: India has cautioned against “double standards”, even as U.S. lawmakers consider a Bill that would impose 500% duties on India and other countries buying Russian oil. The Ministry of External Affairs’s (MEA) comments comes after indications that U.S. President Donald Trump is backing the Russian Sanctions Act, 2025, introduced by Republican Senator Lindsey Graham, and threat of secondary tariffs of 100% on countries that continue trade on sanctioned Russian products. NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte, who met with Mr. Trump and members of the U.S. Congress, also issued a threat, in particular to China, India, and Brazil, who are among the top buyers of Russian crude oil, oil products, and coal. “Beijing and Delhi” should push Russian President Vladimir Putin towards ending the war in Ukraine, or face tariffs, the chief of the military alliance said. Responding to questions on the issue, the MEA said it was following the developments closely. ‘Diverse sources’ However, despite requests from Tehran, India has not so far reversed a decision taken under pressure from the first Trump administration in 2017, to stop all oil imports from Iran. However, while Russia sells about half its oil exports to China, and about 38% to India (as of February 2025), it exports only about 6% to the EU countries. The latest comments from the government come as lawmakers in the U.S. prepare to go forward with the Russian Sanctions Act, 2025 that has been introduced in the House and Senate, with 87 and 84 co-sponsors respectively, cutting across party lines. Section 17 of the Act proposes to impose 500% ad valorem duties on countries that buy, sell or transfer

“oil, uranium, natural gas, petroleum products, or petrochemical products that originated in the Russian Federation”.

76. Which one of the following statements is correct?

- (a) The Akash air defence system is a medium-range, surface-to-air missile platform.
- (b) The Akash air defence system is a short-range, surface-to-air missile platform.
- (c) The Akash air defence system is a long-range, surface-to-surface air missile platform.
- (d) The Akash air defence system is a long-range, surface-to-air missile platform

Answer: A

NEWS: To further strengthen the air defence system, the Army has carried out successful trials of the indigenously developed air defence system “Akash Prime” in Ladakh. A senior official confirmed that the Army Air Defence Corps conducted the trials in collaboration with senior scientists from the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), which developed the missile system. The two-day trial was conducted at an altitude of over 15,000 feet in eastern Ladakh. The Akash Prime scored two direct hits on fast-moving aerial targets in the rarefied high-altitude atmosphere. The latest version of the Akash system would form the third and fourth regiments of the Akash air defence systems in the Indian Army. The Akash air defence system is a medium-range, surface-to-air missile platform. Prithvi-II and Agni-I The Ministry of Defence confirmed that short-range ballistic missiles — Prithvi-II and Agni-I — were successfully test-fired

from the Integrated Test Range in Chandipur, Odisha.

77. A citizen challenges a law like the UAPA or Section 124A of the IPC claiming it violates their fundamental rights. Which of the following constitutional principles or doctrines is most likely to guide the court in adjudicating such a case?

- (a) Doctrine of Basic Structure
- (b) Doctrine of Colourable Legislation
- (c) Doctrine of Severability
- (d) Doctrine of Territorial Nexus

Answer: C

NEWS: The Bombay High Court dismissed the petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and also of Section 124A (sedition) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). Doctrine of Severability When it applies: If a part of a law is found unconstitutional, but the rest of the law can function independently, then only the unconstitutional part is struck down. Doctrine of Basic Structure When it applies: This doctrine applies only to constitutional amendments, not to ordinary laws. It ensures that Parliament cannot amend the Constitution in a way that destroys its "basic structure" (e.g., democracy, secularism, rule of law, etc.). Doctrine of Colourable Legislation When it applies: Used when a legislature enacts a law that appears within its power, but in reality, it is trying to do something it is not constitutionally permitted to do, by indirect means. Doctrine of Territorial Nexus When it applies: Applies in federal contexts, especially to determine whether a State law can have extra-

territorial operation (i.e., apply beyond its borders) if there is a "nexus" with the state.

78. Consider the following statements

1. Article 38(2) directs the State to reduce inequality not only among individuals but also among groups engaged in different vocations.
 2. Article 46 places a special duty on the State to protect the educational and economic interests of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
 3. Article 38(2) and Article 46 are enforceable by the courts as they form part of Fundamental Rights.
- How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: B

NEWS: The Supreme Court upheld the right of the legal heirs of a Scheduled Tribe woman to an equal share in their maternal grandfather's ancestral property. "There appears to be no rational nexus or reasonable classification for only males to be granted succession over the property of their forebears and not women, more so in the case where no prohibition to such effect can be shown to be prevalent as per law... Article 15(1) states that the State shall not discriminate against any person on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth. This, along with Articles 38 and 46, points to the collective ethos of the Constitution in ensuring that there is no discrimination against women," a Bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and Joymalya Bagchi held. The court said refusing a woman her right of share in a property only deepened gender

discrimination. The judgment was based on an appeal filed by the legal heirs who had sought the partition of a property belonging to their maternal grandfather.

79. In which one of the following countries the Druze minority armed groups and Bedouin clans fought and led to riot?

- (a) Israel
- (b) Turkey
- (c) Syria
- (d) Iran

Answer: C

NEWS: Syrian forces largely withdrew from the southern province of Sweida following days of clashes with militias linked to the Druze minority. While the truce between Druze armed groups and government forces appeared to be largely holding, state media reported that Druze militants had launched revenge attacks on communities of Sunni Bedouins, leading to a wave of displacement. Bedouin clans had fought alongside government forces against the Druze groups.

80. Consider the following statements

1. The process of removal of a High Court judge is initiated by the Executive branch of the Government.
 2. A judge of a High Court can only be removed by a motion passed by both Houses of Parliament with a special majority.
 3. The in-house procedure for judicial accountability is not a constitutional mandate but an internal mechanism established by the judiciary.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

NEWS: Statement 1 is incorrect. The process is initiated by MPs, not the Executive. Statement 2 is correct. Article 124(4) and 217 provide for removal by Parliament. Statement 3 is correct. The in-house procedure is a judicially evolved mechanism, not a constitutional provision. Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said that the motion of removal against Allahabad High Court judge Yashwant Varma was related not to the government but with Parliament and the members of Parliament (MPs). He said this on a day when Justice Varma moved the Supreme Court against a report of an in-house panel put together by former Chief Justice of India (CJI), Justice Sanjeev Khanna, to probe reports of unaccounted-for cash being found at Justice Varma's official residence.

81. How many of the following states in India have implemented uniform civil code?

1. Goa
 2. Uttarakhand
 3. Haryana
- (a) Only one
 - (b) only two
 - (c) All three
 - (d) None of these

Answer: B

NEWS: Parliament question discussion.

82. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. India currently allows unrestricted import of all GM agricultural commodities for human consumption.
 2. Bt.cotton, Bt.brinjal, and Bt.mustard are the only crops cultivated commercially in India.
- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: D

NEWS: Washington may keep dairy out of the purview of the India-U.S. bilateral trade agreement (BTA) on Delhi's insistence that it is a highly sensitive sector and a means of livelihood for lakhs of rural families. However, the U.S. is still pressing India to offer concessions on a range of agricultural products, including soyabean and corn. "While India is open to offering concessions on some fruits, vegetables and nuts, it is finding it difficult to find ways to allow the import of soyabean and corn as a majority of these crops in the U.S. are genetically modified (GM) and Indian laws do not allow their imports.

83. With reference to Articles 200, 201, and 142 of the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements.

1. Article 200 empowers the Governor to grant assent, withhold assent, or reserve a Bill passed by the State Legislature for the consideration of the President.

2. Article 201 comes into play when the President either assents to or withholds assent from a Bill reserved by the Governor.

3. Article 142 allows the Supreme Court to pass any decree or order necessary for doing complete justice in any case pending before it.

4. A law passed by the State Legislature becomes law immediately upon passage by the Legislature, even if the Governor withholds assent.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: C

NEWS: The Supreme Court hears a Presidential Reference under Article 143 of the Constitution asking if the court can "impose" timelines and prescribe the manner of conduct of Governors and the President while dealing with State Bills sent to them for assent or reserved for consideration. A Constitution Bench comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) B.R. Gavai and Justices Surya Kant, Vikram Nath, P.S. Narasimha, and A.S. Chandurkar will hear the matter. Broadly, the Presidential Reference has asked whether judicial orders can dictate by what time and in what manner the President and Governors should function under Articles 200 (which covers the process of grant of assent by Governors to State Bills) and 201 (when Bills are reserved by Governors for Presidential assent) of the Constitution.

84. Arrange the following ports from west to east.

1. Kolkata

2. Mongla
3. Chittagong
4. Sittwe
- (a) 2-1-3-4
- (b) 1-2-3-4
- (c) 1-3-2-4
- (d) 1-4-3-2

Answer: B

NEWS: For the second time in the past one year, Bangladesh has detained Indian fishermen, official sources said. The development is being viewed by policymakers as a growing “absence of understanding” between the two sides against the backdrop of a seemingly uneasy relationship between Dhaka and New Delhi. On October 8, 2009, Bangladesh initiated an arbitration to settle the maritime boundary dispute with India, and, in 2014, a settlement was reached through the Permanent Court of Arbitration. But though the maritime boundary was decided, lack of visible markers meant fishermen often strayed across the agreed line in the Bay of Bengal. As a matter of convention, both sides had an understanding that fishermen would have to be protected as they had no means to detect the invisible maritime boundary.

85. Which of the following best explains why fishermen from India and Bangladesh continued to stray across maritime boundaries even after the 2014 arbitration award?

- (a) The arbitration ruling was not accepted by both countries.
- (b) The arbitration did not define the boundary clearly.

(c) The maritime boundary lacks physical demarcation, and small fishermen do not use GPS-based navigation.

(d) The Exclusive Economic Zone regime allows open fishing rights for neighboring countries

Answer: C

NEWS: On October 8, 2009, Bangladesh initiated an arbitration to settle the maritime boundary dispute with India, and, in 2014, a settlement was reached through the Permanent Court of Arbitration. But though the maritime boundary was decided, lack of visible markers meant fishermen often strayed across the agreed line in the Bay of Bengal. As a matter of convention, both sides had an understanding that fishermen would have to be protected as they had no means to detect the invisible maritime boundary.

86. Which of the following is/are initiatives in the recent BRICS summit?

1. Platform for knowledge exchange and South-South cooperation
2. Interbank Cooperation Mechanism
3. Partnership for the Elimination of Socially Determined Diseases.
4. Global Governance of Artificial Intelligence
- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1 and 4 only

Answer: B

NEWS: At the seventh plenary session of the BRICS Media and Think Tank Forum (earlier known as the ‘BRICS Media Forum’), more than

250 representatives from media organisations, think tanks, government agencies and enterprises from 36 countries gathered in Rio de Janeiro to deliberate on ways to foster greater South-South cooperation, including on joint R&D and co-established standards, for a more equitable sharing of Artificial Intelligence (AI) benefits across nations. A major concern that emerged was the risks of AI capabilities being concentrated among a few actors located in a handful of countries, with several participants noting that it could create dangerous dependencies for Global South nations. India underline the significance of the adoption of the BRICS Leaders' Framework Declaration on Climate Finance and of the BRICS Leaders' Statement on the Global Governance of Artificial Intelligence, as well as endorse the launch of the BRICS Partnership for the Elimination of Socially Determined Diseases. These initiatives reflect our joint efforts to foster inclusive and sustainable solutions to pressing global issues.

87. Consider the following statements about Water Chestnuts in India.

1. Water chestnut is a freshwater aquatic plant grown in ponds, lakes, and wetlands.
2. It is primarily cultivated for its floating leaves that serve as fodder.
3. The fruit of water chestnut is edible and is an important source of livelihood for communities in parts of eastern and northern India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

NEWS: The lake in Kashmir has welcomed back lotuses after a gap of 30 years enforced by ecological degradation due to nutrient pollution and silting of the water expanse. The lake, once considered among Asia's largest freshwater lakes, tells a sad story of ecological degradation. According to the Jammu and Kashmir Wildlife Department, the area of the lake was 217.8 sq.km. in 1911 and included 58 sq.km. of associated marshes. However, it was reduced to an alarming 86.71 sq.km. by 2007. The main cause of this shrinkage was conversion into agricultural land, thus reducing the lake area by 28% and its fauna by 17%, an official survey suggests. In 1992, lotuses in the Wular stopped blooming after floods in the Jhelum river damaged the ecosystem. At present, the lake is surrounded by 31 villages and home to over 12,000 households. The Wular lake is also home to folklore, with mythology and legends woven around gods and kings of the past. The local communities are overjoyed by the pink blooms today. Lotuses act as a barometer of the ecological health of the lake. The lotus stems are collected through an arduous exercise as they are considered a delicacy. Traditionally cooked with freshwater fish, the stems are a must-have item at weddings in Kashmir.

88. Which one of the following governments and Rwanda backed M23 armed groups signed a ceasefire agreement recently?

- (a) Uganda
- (b) Congo
- (c) Democratic republic of Congo

(d) Kenya

Answer: C

NEWS: The Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda-backed armed group M23 signed a ceasefire deal to end fighting that has devastated the country's mineral-rich but conflict-torn east. The two sides signed a declaration of principles whose terms include a "permanent ceasefire", after three months of talks in Qatar.

89. Consider the following statements with reference to the recent developments in India's nuclear energy sector.

1. The Indian government has proposed amending the Atomic Energy Act and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act to enable private sector participation in nuclear energy.
2. At present, only government-owned companies or joint ventures are allowed to construct and operate nuclear power plants in India.
3. Currently NPCIL, BHAVINI, ASHVINI, and Reliance power can build nuclear power plants in the country.

Which of the above statements 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

NEWS: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in her Budget speech in February, announced the government's intention to amend key legislation, including the Atomic Energy Act and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, to facilitate

private sector involvement. Currently, the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL), Bhartiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited (BHAVINI) and NPCIL-NTPC joint venture company Anushakti Vidyut Nigam Limited (ASHVINI) can build nuclear power plants in the country. Scientists at the DAE are also developing the Bharat Small Modular Reactors ranging from 50 MW to 300 MW each for installation in thermal plants which have completed their operational life.

90. Why have foreign private suppliers remained cautious in participating in India's nuclear energy sector?

- (a) India has not signed any civil nuclear agreements with supplier countries.
- (b) India does not permit any private sector involvement in nuclear fuel extraction.
- (c) Liability clauses under Indian law create uncertainty and risk for suppliers.
- (d) The Atomic Energy Act prohibits any international collaboration in reactor development.

Answer: C

News: India will be able to address the apprehensions of the private sector globally about investments in the civil nuclear sector, which was opened up to achieve the ambitious target of producing 100 GW of atomic power by 2047, Union Minister Jitendra Singh has asserted. Mr. Singh, who oversees the Department of Atomic Energy, said changes in relevant rules and legislation will have to be made to facilitate the entry of the private sector in the field of nuclear energy, which currently is under tight control of the

government. "The announcement has already been made in the Union Budget, but we will have to frame rules, also possible legislation to actually move on, which will take a lot of consideration, a lot of introspection," Mr. Singh said.

91. Consider the following statements regarding International Moon Day

1. International Moon Day is celebrated every year to commemorate humankind's first landing on the south pole of the moon by the Chandrayaan mission.
 2. The UN General Assembly formally recognised this following a proposal recommended by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS).
 3. The commemoration also aims to highlight the collective progress of all nations in exploring the moon.
- (a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 2 and 3 only

Answer: D

NEWS: International Moon Day is celebrated every year on July 20 to commemorate humankind's first landing on the moon by the Apollo 11 mission in 1969. The UN General Assembly formally recognised this date in 2021, following a proposal recommended by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). The commemoration also aims to highlight the collective progress of all nations in exploring the moon.

92. Consider the following statements.

1. The resignation of the Vice-President becomes effective only after the President accepts it.
2. A new Vice-President must be elected within six months from the date of vacancy.
3. During the vacancy, the President presides over the Rajya Sabha.

Which of the above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) None of the above

Answer: B

NEWS: Resignation of Vice-President of India

93. Article 67 of the Constitution outlines the conditions under which the Vice-President can resign from office. Which of the following statements are correct regarding this?

- (a) The Rajya Sabha, where the Vice-President serves as ex-officio Chairman, is temporarily presided over by the Deputy Chairman.
- (b) The Election Commission of India is responsible for initiating the election process to fill the vacancy.
- (c) Resignation under Article 67(a) is a straightforward process with no legal or parliamentary barriers.
- (d) All of the above

Answer: D

NEWS: Jagdeep Dhankhar, who is also the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, resigned hours after he presided over the first sitting of the Rajya Sabha as chairperson during the Monsoon Session of Parliament.

94. Consider the following statements regarding the satellite NISAR and which is/are correct?

1. It is a joint satellite of the European Space Research and Technology Centre (ESTEC) and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
 2. The GSLV-F16 rocket carries the Synthetic Aperture Radar satellite.
 3. It is injected into a 743-km sun-synchronous orbit.
 4. NISAR can detect even small changes in the earth's surface, such as ground deformation and changes in soil moisture.
- (a) 1, 2, 3 and 4
(b) 2, 3, and 4 only
(c) 2 and 4 only
(d) 1 and 2 only

Answer: B

NEWS: NISAR, the first joint satellite of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), will be launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota at 5.40 p.m. on July 30. The GSLV-F16 rocket will inject the Synthetic Aperture Radar satellite into a 743-km sun-synchronous orbit with an inclination of 98.4 degrees. According to the ISRO, the NISAR satellite, weighing 2,392 kg, is a unique earth observation satellite, and the first satellite to observe the earth with a dual frequency Synthetic Aperture Radar — the NASA's L-band and the ISRO's S-band — using the NASA's 12m unfurlable mesh reflector antenna, integrated to the ISRO's modified I3K satellite bus. NISAR will observe earth with a swathe of 242 km and high

spatial resolution, using SweepSAR technology for the first time. "The satellite will scan the entire globe and provide all weather, day and night data at 12-day intervals, and enable a wide range of applications. NISAR can detect even small changes in the earth's surface, such as ground deformation, ice sheet movement, and vegetation dynamics. Further applications include sea ice classification, ship detection, shoreline monitoring, storm characterisation, changes in soil moisture, mapping and monitoring of surface water resources, and disaster response," the ISRO stated.

95. With reference to earthquakes, consider the following statements.

1. Human-induced activities such as mining, groundwater extraction, and dam construction can trigger seismic activity, especially in tectonically active regions.
2. Groundwater depletion can alter subsurface pressure and strain accumulation, possibly accelerating fault movement.
3. Climate change-induced phenomena such as glacier melting and altered rainfall patterns have no link to seismic activity.
4. Earthquakes induced by human activity have been recorded only in high-magnitude seismic zones like the Himalayas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

NEWS: Water, energy demand spotlights risk of human-induced quakes An earthquake of 6.3 magnitude wrought significant damage in Koynanagar in Maharashtra in 1967. Several studies that followed blamed the disaster on water overloading in the Koyna hydroelectric dam nearby. Mining, extracting groundwater, impounding water behind a dam, injecting fluids into the ground, and engineering coastal structures have been shown to induce seismic activity. This is because loading and unloading the crust in a repeated manner can cause strain to accumulate underground.

96. Consider the following countries.

1. U.S.A
2. India
3. China
4. Israel

How many of the above countries are not a member of UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea)?

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

Answer: B

NEWS: After two weeks of negotiations, the International Seabed Authority (ISA) is still far from finalising rules for the extraction of coveted metals on the high seas despite heightened pressure triggered by US efforts to fast-track the controversial practice. Following a meeting in March and the current session in Jamaica, the 36 members of the ISA’s executive council completed on July 17 a line-by-line reading of the proposed

“mining code” and its 107 regulations for exploitation of the ocean floor in international waters. The minerals and metals in question, such as cobalt, nickel, and manganese, are used for electric vehicles and other emerging technologies. But after more than a decade of talks, crucial sections of the proposed rules, including mechanisms for protecting the marine environment, are far from winning consensus. “The exploitation activities cannot begin as long as we do not have a solid, equitable framework,” Chilean representative Salvador Vega Telias, whose country is one of 37 asking for a moratorium on deep sea mining, told the plenary session. He also said mining could not begin until experts could pinpoint “all the scientific knowledge that we need to have to identify the potential impacts and effects on the marine environment.” The ISA session, which will continue this week with the assembly of all 169 member states, comes as U.S. President Donald Trump threw a monkey wrench into the process in April. Trump instructed his administration to fast-track the granting of permits for deep sea mining in domestic and international waters, citing an obscure 1980 US law and sidestepping the process undertaken by the ISA. The United States is not party to the independent ISA or to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, under which the ISA was established in 1994.

97. Under which one of the following Articles the President of the country can ask for the opinion and the advice of the Supreme Court on matters of public importance or certain laws which act as expedient to the constitution?

- (a) Article 142

- (b) Article 143
- (c) Article 200
- (d) Article 201

Answer: B

NEWS: A Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai said the questions raised by President Droupadi Murmu in her Presidential Reference regarding the powers of the President and Governors in granting assent to State Bills concern the entire country. The Presidential Reference, made under Article 143 of the Constitution, broadly seeks clarity on whether judicial powers extend to imposing timelines on the President and Governors under Articles 200 and 201. These Articles deal with the process by which Governors grant or withhold assent to Bills passed by State Legislatures, and refer them to the President. “In the absence of any constitutionally prescribed time limit or manner of exercise of powers by a Governor, can time limits be imposed and manner of exercise of powers be prescribed through judicial orders? Can judicial orders impose timelines and manner of exercise of powers by the President under Article 201?” the Reference asks.

98. Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

- 1. Polavaram - Godavari
- 2. Amaravati - Krishna
- 3. Ichampalli - Penner

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

Answer: B

NEWS: In a renewed push to realise the vision of a well-planned and inclusive capital, the Andhra Pradesh government has significantly accelerated construction activity across Amaravati, with an aim of transforming it into a vibrant hub of governance and administration. Despite repeated recommendations from a team of international experts, it appears no significant steps have been taken to implement quality control measures in the execution of the Polavaram irrigation project.

99. How many of the following species are invasive alien species in India?

- 1. Ambrosia beetle
- 2. Common Mormon
- 3. Slender Skimmer

- (a) only one
- (b) only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None of these

Answer: A

NEWS: A beetle-fungi combo threatens plantations in rubber capital Kerala. The beetle-fungus association harms trees in many ways. Aside from weakening the structure, the duo causes severe leaf fall, trunk drying, and in some cases even tree death. The infection also affects total latex production from rubber trees, causing economic and agricultural losses. Ambrosia beetles get their name from the ambrosia fungi that call the beetle their home. The name ‘ambrosia’ is not taxonomic but ecological. These beetles are native to Central and South America. They were first reported in India in the cashew trees of Ponda, Goa, in 2012.

India is the world's sixth-largest producer of rubber and the second-highest in terms of productivity. Kerala produces 90% and accounts for 72% of India's rubber cultivation area.

100. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. Per capita electricity consumption in India is more than that of China.
 2. Currently India's electricity generation capacity is at less than 100 GW.
- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANswer: D

NEWS: To become a developed country by 2047, India's annual per capita income needs to grow from the current \$2,800 to \$22,000, and correspondingly, the GDP needs to grow from the current \$4 trillion to over \$35 trillion. There is a well-established correlation between economic growth and energy consumption. In 2022, India's per capita electricity consumption stood at 1,208 kWh, compared to 4,600 kWh for China, and over 12,500 kWh for the U.S. India's electricity generation capacity, currently at 480 GW (divided almost equally between fossil fuels and renewables), will have to grow five-fold, accounting for growth in population and urbanisation. However, solar, wind, and small hydro projects provide only intermittent power. That is why out of 2030 terrawatt-hours (TWh) — the total electricity generated in 2024 — renewable energy, with half the generation capacity, accounted for only 240

TWh. Coal fired thermal plants accounted for 75% of energy generation.

101. Why has civil society criticized the Maharashtra Special Public Security (MSPS) Bill, 2024 despite its stated intent to curb Maoist influence?

- (a) It is seeking to prevent Maoists from brainwashing youth, professionals, and civil servants through front organisations.
(b) Because the definition of "unlawful activity" is overly broad and vague, enabling misuse
(c) Because it excludes provisions for appeal or review mechanisms
(d) Because it empowers the Centre to ban organizations without State consultation

Answer: B

NEWS: The Maharashtra Special Public Security (MSPS) Bill, 2024 follows the disturbing pattern of executive overreach in the name of security. Existing laws are often misused against political opponents and critics of the ruling party, including commentators. Charges are often vague and sweeping, and the process itself becomes the punishment in many of these cases. Given this pattern, the move by Maharashtra's Mahayuti government led by the BJP to create an entire law to criminalise a certain kind of thought portends danger to freedom and democracy. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has said that the new law would only target those who try to undermine the constitutional order, but the possibility — indeed the probability — of its misuse is apparent. The State says that it is seeking to prevent Maoists from brainwashing youth, professionals, and civil

servants through front organisations. As in the proposed law, which is now awaiting the assent of the Governor before coming into force, the State government can declare any suspect “organisation” as an “unlawful organisation”. Offences under the proposed law include membership of such organisations, fundraising on their behalf, managing or assisting them, and committing unlawful activities. The Bill’s focus is on people and organisations that act as a front for Maoists, and what is unlawful is so broadly defined that anyone can be its target. Among other things, according to the Bill, ‘unlawful’ is “any action taken by an individual or organization whether by committing an act or by words either spoken or written or by sign or by visible representation or otherwise, which constitute a danger or menace to public order, peace and tranquility”. Offences are cognisable and the accused can be arrested without a warrant. Punishment includes jail terms of two years to seven years, along with fines ranging from ₹2 lakh to ₹5 lakh. The State argues that Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha have enacted Public Security Acts and banned 48 Naxal frontal organisations. The Opposition parties offered feeble resistance to the Bill and raised some broad concerns regarding its misuse but it was passed in the Assembly through a voice vote. As an afterthought, the Congress and the Shiv Sena (UBT) protested on the floor when it was taken up in the Legislative Council. The Bill had gone through a long deliberative process, but as it turns out, all parties appeared to be in agreement, barring the lone CPI (M) MLA who protested against it on the floor of the Assembly. The idea that thought and speech, howsoever unpalatable they might be to the

ruling establishment, should be policed poses a grave danger for India as an open society.

102. How many of the following countries are borders of Syria?

1. Turkey
 2. Iran
 3. Iraq
 4. Israel
 5. Lebanon
 6. Jordan
 7. Saudi Arabia
 8. Egypt
- (a) Only four
(b) Only five
(c) Only six
(d) Only seven

Answer: B

NEWS: Clash between Bedouin and Druze in Syria.

103. Why do some sanitation experts argue that the "waste to wealth" and "RRR" themes need stronger policy backing despite their popularity in the Swachh Survekshan narrative?

- (a) Because they rely solely on manual scavenging and informal labor
- (b) Because current incentives do not adequately attract private sector investment
- (c) Because public-private partnerships have been banned in waste management
- (d) Because there is a blanket prohibition on waste-to-energy plants

Answer: B

NEWS: Swachh Survekshan 2024-25 appeared focused on faster democratisation of city cleanliness. The expansion of population categories from two to five, starting from cities with a population of less than 20,000 to those with a million-plus population, provided a fairer platform for cities to perform. Those hitherto lagging are now catching up. Odisha is an example. Bhubaneswar moved up from the 34th to the 9th rank; small towns such as Aska and Chikiti worked their way to the top three clean cities in their categories; and mid-size cities including Rourkela, Cuttack, and Berhampur moved considerably upwards. These trends create hope that cleanliness is not a preserve of only certain States. Cities from the south are yet to make any big mark in the clean city show with Bengaluru being the least inspirational. Hyderabad, Tirupati, Vijayawada, Guntur, and Mysuru were the best in the region. The National Capital Region presents an interesting medley: while the New Delhi Municipal Council areas and Noida ranked best for meticulous sanitation implementation, Delhi, Gurugram, and Ghaziabad improved their ranks irrespective of the negative reports they received in the public domain. The clean city basket has grown larger since one promising clean city was picked up from each State based on its progress and potential. Once cities are positively stamped, they tend to stay in the aspirational course. Understood this way, the 78 Swachh awards given were not too many. Setting up the cleanest cities as mentors to the most underperforming ones could help in the proliferation of multiple good practices among urban local bodies (ULBs). While Indore is a veteran in segregating the last gram of waste into

six buckets at source — dry, wet, domestic hazardous, plastic, sanitary and e-waste; Surat has been making good revenue by selling sewage-treated water. Pune's waste management is anchored on cooperatives formed by ragpickers. Visakhapatnam made an eco-park from remediated legacy waste site. Lucknow produced an iconic waste wonder park. The Kuberpur area in Agra, once a toxic dumpsite, transformed to 47 acres of green, by engaging bioremediation and biomining technologies. Tourist destinations and places of high footfall received special emphasis in the survey. Prayagraj was awarded in the category of Ganga towns, and special recognition was extended to the recent Maha Kumbh for its sanitation management. India accounts for less than 1.5% of international tourist arrivals. Cities need to do much more than an occasional cleanliness drive to enhance tourist experience. The theme this year 'reduce, reuse, and recycle (RRR)', advocated by the 2025 survey, carries the prospect of jobs, enterprise, and invigoration of self-help groups. The theme of the last survey was 'waste to wealth'. We are yet to raise the billions of rupees out of waste that is possible. For this, policy needs to better incentivise investors. Waste-to-energy plants are gaining traction but the private sector may be concerned about commercial viability. Citizens are yet to take meaningful action even though the RRR approach is entrenched in India's ancient traditions. While a universal resentment against open defecation has been achieved by SBM, a behaviour change movement fostering intolerance against waste and fighting against consumerism has been tough to initiate. As more cities get identified as hubs of growth, we

must prioritise the management of 1.5 lakh tonnes of solid waste generated every day. A lot will depend on delivery at decentralised levels, especially by ULBs in enforcing segregation, collection, transport, and processing, including of the more challenging plastic and e-waste. The business of waste management in cities may look chaotic, but it remains possible. The rise of Surat from being a place of garbage three decades ago to the top place in the sanitation chart last year shows that this is a possibility in all cities in India.

104. The Double Contributions Convention (DCC) between India and the UK is associated with which of the following?

- (a) Avoidance of Double Taxation on Corporate Income
- (b) Elimination of Trade Tariffs
- (c) Social Security Coordination for Detached Workers
- (d) Labour Standards under WTO's GATS Agreement

Answer: C

NEWS: INDIA - UK AGREEMENT

Alongside the UK-India Comprehensive and Economic Trade Agreement (CETA), the UK and India have agreed to negotiate a reciprocal Double Contributions Convention (DCC). The DCC will support business and trade by ensuring that employees moving between the UK and India, and their employers, will only be liable to pay social security contributions in one country at a time. The DCC will also ensure that employees temporarily working in the other country will continue paying social security contributions in their home country,

preventing the fragmentation of their social security record. The UK and India have agreed to negotiate a DCC so that it comes into force alongside the CETA. Once the DCC is in force, the UK and India have agreed that there will be no 'double contributions', and the 52-week exemption period will be extended reciprocally to 36 months for detached workers. This means UK detached workers sent to India to work temporarily for up to 36 months will continue building entitlement to a UK State Pension as they continue to pay NICs during that period. The same principle applies to Indian detached workers sent by India-based employers to work temporarily in the UK for up to 36 months. While working in the UK the amounts of contributions paid by Indian detached workers back into India's social security scheme (the India Employees' Provident Funds Scheme) will be similar to the amount they would have paid in UK NICs

105. The Khasi Hills Autonomous District (Khasi Social Custom of Lineage) Act, 1997, which aims to preserve

- (a) the inter tribal marriage system and patrilineal structure of the Khasi community.
- (b) the patrilineal structure of the Khasi community.
- (c) the matrilineal structure of the Khasi community.
- (d) None of these

Answer: C

A law that restricts the issue

NEWS: Issue of Scheduled Tribe (ST) certificates to individuals who adopt their father's or husband's surname has come under judicial scrutiny in matrilineal Meghalaya. The High Court of

Meghalaya sought a response from the State's Advocate General to a petition challenging certain provisions of the Khasi Hills Autonomous District (Khasi Social Custom of Lineage) Act, 1997, which aims to preserve the matrilineal structure of the Khasi community. The group contended that surname preference should not form the basis for denying an ST certificate, provided the applicant met the bloodline and lineage criteria under the Act, as amended in 2023.

106. Which of the following statements about the Mahadayi project is correct?

- (a) It primarily aims at hydroelectric power generation for Goa.
- (b) It involves diversion of water to the Malaprabha basin for drinking water in northern Karnataka.
- (c) It is a joint project of Karnataka and Maharashtra for irrigation and Goa opposed this project.
- (d) It is implemented under the Ken-Betwa River Linking Project.

Answer: B

NEWS: Taking serious exception to Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant for his statement that the Union Environment Ministry would not give permission for Karnataka's Mahadayi project, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has asserted that the State would start work on the project. The Deputy Chief Minister also reiterated that the State would try to take an all-party leaders' delegation to Delhi to convince the Centre about the need to provide all clearances for the proposed project. He said he would also meet all the MPs from Karnataka to seek their support.

"We will withdraw our application in this regard from the Supreme Court and start the work on the project," said Mr. Shivakumar. "The tribunal concerned has given its verdict on Mahadayi and we have already called for tender. BJP leaders, including Basavaraj Bommai and Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, had even celebrated saying that the Mahadayi project would take off soon post the promise of approval by the Centre," he said.

107. Consider the following factors.

- 1. Wave exposure
- 2. Ocean depth
- 3. Frequency of marine heatwaves
- 4. Bleaching-free recovery period

How many of the above are correctly identified as important in influencing reef resilience in the Lakshadweep study?

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

Answer: C

NEWS: Concerning revelations have emerged from one of the longest-running coral reef monitoring programmes in the Indian Ocean. The 24-year-long study shows that corals in the Lakshadweep archipelago have declined to half of what they were in 1998 as a result of repeated marine heatwaves, exacerbated by climate change. However, local conditions, such as wave exposure and depth, play essential roles in shaping how reefs respond to and recover from these events.

Since 1998, researchers from the Nature Conservation Foundation have been tracking reef

condition at three atolls across the Lakshadweep archipelago — Agatti, Kadmat and Kavaratti — to understand how reefs respond to climate change. This programme has monitored reefs as they declined and recovered from three major El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) events — in 1998, 2010 and 2016. Reduced recovery rate “Over 24 years, coral cover declined from 37.24% to 19.6%, reflecting a roughly 50% reduction from the 1998 baseline. This decline was explained by reduced recovery rates after each bleaching event, despite coral mortality decreasing with successive events. Recovery rates dramatically increased after six years, suggesting a critical period of bleaching-free years needed for reefs to recover.

108. Consider the following statements regarding Article 356 of the Constitution of India

1. It allows the President to impose President's Rule in a State if the constitutional machinery has failed.
2. President's Rule can initially be imposed for a period of one year, and can be extended up to three years with Parliament's approval.
3. Any extension beyond one year requires a national emergency to be in operation in the country.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: B

NEWS: Union Home Minister Amit Shah moved a statutory resolution in the Rajya Sabha in the ongoing Monsoon Session of Parliament to extend

President's Rule in Manipur for another six months. The statutory resolution notice said, “That this House approves the continuance in force of the Proclamation dated the 13 February, 2025 in respect of Manipur, issued under Article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a further period of six months with effect from 13 August, 2025.” Manipur was placed under President's Rule on February 13 following the resignation of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh on February 9. As per Article 356(3) of the Constitution, President's Rule, which is enforced through the Governor's office, usually lasts six months and can be extended every six months with the approval of Parliament for up to three years. The ethnic violence between the Kuki-Zo and Meitei people that erupted in the State on May 3, 2023 has claimed the lives of 250 people and displaced more than 60,000 people from their homes. Meitei people who live in the valley have not been able to access the highways since the violence began.

109. Which of the following countries are considered as competitors to India in the export of textiles and garments?

1. Bangladesh
 2. Pakistan
 3. Cambodia
 4. Myanmar
- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only
 - (b) 2 and 4 only
 - (c) 1, 2, 3 and 4
 - (d) 2 and 3 only

Answer: D

NEWS: Two major sectors that have a dominant presence of Micro, Small and Medium-scale Enterprises (MSMEs) and are expected to gain immensely from the India-U.K. Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) are textiles and engineering. Elimination of tariffs on textiles and garments from the earlier average 12% will remove the duty disadvantage that the Indian exporters faced in the U.K. with competitors such as Bangladesh and Cambodia, said government officials. The segments poised for exponential growth include ready-made garments, home textiles, carpets, and handicrafts. While the U.K.'s total imports of \$26.95 billion of textile and clothing are lower than India's global exports of \$ 36.71 billion, India still supplies only \$1.79 billion to the U.K. With the CETA promising duty-free access and removal of trade barriers, this sector is well-positioned to increase its footprint in the U.K. market, they said. In engineering, 1,659 tariff lines have been made duty-free giving a major export boost. The expectation is duty-free engineering goods exports will double in five years to \$7.5 billion by 2029-2030. U.K. is India's sixth largest export market for engineering goods with a growth of 12% in 2024-2025.

110. Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

1. Bandits - Rwanda
2. M23 - Nigeria
3. Houthis - Yemen

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

Answer: C

NEWS: Nigerian troops killed at least 95 members of an armed criminal gang, known as 'bandits', in shootout and air strikes earlier this week, according to a situation report shared with the UN. The military put out a statement, saying that forces "engaged terrorists in a firefight, neutralising several"

111. Consider the following statements regarding recent developments in India-Maldives relations

1. India has been acknowledged by Maldives for its assistance in tackling the island nation's economic and liquidity crisis.
2. The two nations have agreed to initiate negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA).
3. The recently signed agreements include cooperation in defence and space technology.

Which of the above statements 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

NEWS: India-Maldives Relations: Key Developments Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu thanked India for its "pivotal role" in helping Maldives tackle its economic and liquidity crisis. He and PM Narendra Modi have "charted a clear path" for future cooperation. Modi's visit signals a significant improvement in bilateral ties; Maldives remains central to India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy. A stamp marking 60

years of India–Maldives friendship was released to commemorate the partnership. Agreements Signed Four MoUs exchanged and three agreements signed in: Fisheries and aquaculture Tourism development Environment and climate cooperation Digital solutions Both nations agreed to launch negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

112. Consider the following statements regarding the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), 2019.

1. Under the CAA, 2019, persons belonging to Hindu, Sikh, Jain, and Buddhist communities from any country are eligible for Indian citizenship.
2. The Act provides eligibility for naturalisation to persecuted minorities from Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh irrespective of their religion.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: D

NEWS: After years of waiting, 185 displaced persons from Pakistan were officially recognised as Indian citizens under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), 2019. The moment marked the end of a long period of uncertainty for these refugees, many of whom have been living in Gujarat's Rajkot, Morbi, and Kutch districts for several years without formal citizenship status.

113. Consider the following statements regarding Doklam.

1. Doklam is located at the tri-junction of India, China, and Bhutan.
2. The 2017 Doklam standoff occurred when China attempted to build a road in territory claimed by India.
3. Sikkim became an Indian State in 1975 following a referendum.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

NEWS: Eight years after witnessing a stand-off between Indian and Chinese troops, Sikkim's Doklam is set to open for tourists. Located 68 km east of the State capital, Gangtok, and at an altitude of 13,780 feet, Doklam is a plateau in the Chumbi Valley at the tri-junction of Bhutan, China, and India. It became a flashpoint in June 2017 when China attempted to build a road in territory claimed by Bhutan. India intervened to safeguard its strategic interests and to support Bhutan, an ally. China halted construction activities at Doklam, also known as Donglang, after more than two months of a controlled stand-off. The other two sites are Nathu La and Cho La, where a series of clashes between Indian and Chinese troops took place from September to October 1967. Sikkim, then an Indian protectorate, became the country's 22nd State in May 1975 following a referendum. "Nothing much needs to be done at Nathu La, which is already a tourist spot about 58 km from Gangtok. At the other two Bharat Rannbhoomi Darshan sites (Cho La and Doklam), we are constructing cafeterias, restrooms,

wayside amenities, and parking spaces jointly with the Army - Additional chief secretary.

114. Consider the following statements regarding the age of consent and related laws in India

1. Under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, any person below the age of 18 is considered a child, and sexual activity involving them is criminalised regardless of consent.

2. There have been legal arguments recently challenging the criminalisation of consensual sexual acts between adolescents aged 14 to 18.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

NEWS: The Supreme Court-appointed amicus curiae and senior advocate Indira Jaising has argued that consensual sexual acts by teenagers aged between 16 and 18 in voluntary relationships cannot be classified as “abuse” or prosecuted as a crime. The written submissions filed by Ms. Jaising in the top court is part of a petition filed by advocate Nipun Saxena dating back to 2012. Ms. Jaising’s brief has challenged the designation of 18 as the age of consent under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO), to the extent that it works to criminalise “consensual sexual activity between children between the age of 16-18”. “The only solution lies in declaring that sex between consenting adolescents between the age of

16, an almost universal age of sexual maturity, and 18 is not a form of ‘abuse’,” Ms. Jaising’s submissions said.

115. Consider the following statements.

1. World Mangrove Day is observed annually on July 26.

2. As per ISFR 2023, mangroves cover less than 0.10% of India’s total geographical area.

3. Between ISFR 2019 and ISFR 2023, there has been a decrease of India’s mangrove cover due to the impact of global warming and sea level rise.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

NEWS: (Article) World Mangrove Day (July 26) is also an occasion to look at whether there has been change. The India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023 says that the total mangrove cover in India is 4,991.68 km², which accounts for 0.15% of the country’s total geographical area. If one compares the ISFR 2019 to the ISFR 2023, there has been a significant increase, of 16.68 km², in the country’s mangrove coverage.

116. Under the Rules of Origin in the India-U.K. CETA (Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement), a product must be

- (a) Imported from any country and resold in India or the U.K.
- (b) Wholly obtained or significantly transformed in India or the U.K.
- © Manufactured in any Commonwealth country

(d) Produced using only raw materials from Asia

Answer: B

NEWS: The India-U.K. Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) has the potential to boost foreign direct investment (FDI) into India, officials, industry participants and investment analysts wagered. A major driver of this is the local sourcing norm in the agreement that mandates only goods made in India would be eligible for the tariff reductions. The CETA includes a separate chapter on 'Rules of Origin', which stipulates what kind of goods are eligible for the reduced tariffs the agreement provides. "To qualify for reduced tariffs, the rules of origin specify a product must either be wholly obtained or significantly transformed through processing in either the U.K. or India," as per documents accompanying CETA. This was to ensure that only genuinely British or Indian goods could access the preferential tariffs under the agreement.

117. Consider the following statements about NISAR.

1. NISAR is the first major earth-observing satellite mission to use a dual-band radar (L-band and S-band).
2. It can penetrate through clouds, smoke, and vegetation, allowing day-and-night observation in all weather conditions.
3. The mission data will be restricted to government agencies and will not be freely available for public use.

Which of the above statements 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

NEWS: The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is planning to launch the NISAR satellite from Sriharikota on July 30 onboard a GSLV Mk-II rocket. 'NISAR' stands for NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar and is a joint mission of the two space agencies. It is a sophisticated earth-observation satellite designed to study changes on the earth's surface in fine detail, covering earthquakes, volcanoes, ecosystems, ice sheets, farmland, floods, and landslides. What's the need for NISAR? NISAR is the first major earth-observing mission with a dual-band radar, which will allow it to observe changes more precisely than any other satellite. It will be able to see through clouds, smoke, and even thick vegetation, both at day and night, in all weather conditions. The three-tonne machine costs more than \$1.5 billion, making it one of the most expensive earth-observing satellites to date. The earth's surface is constantly changing. Natural disasters, human-driven changes, and climate shifts all affect environments and human societies. Satellites provide critical information by taking snapshots of these changes from space, helping scientists, governments, and relief agencies prepare for, respond to or study them. To this end, NASA and ISRO have created a powerful global mission that also allows ISRO guaranteed access to a stream of high-resolution data tailored to India's needs. NISAR's science and application goals span six areas: solid earth processes, ecosystems, ice dynamics, coastal and ocean processes, disaster response, and additional

applications (including tracking groundwater, oil reservoirs, and infrastructure like levees, dams etc.). The planned mission lifetime is three years although its design lifetime is at least five years. Notably, the mission's data policy entails that the data NISAR produces will be freely available to all users (typically) within a few hours. How does NISAR work? Once it is launched, NISAR will enter into a sun-synchronous polar orbit at 747 km altitude and an inclination of 98.4°. From here, instead of snapping pictures, NISAR's synthetic aperture radar (SAR) will bounce radar waves off the planet's surface and measure how long the signal takes to come back and how its phase changes. The ability of a radar antenna to resolve smaller details increases with its length, called its aperture. In orbit, deploying an antenna hundreds of metres long is impractical. SAR gets around this by mimicking a giant antenna. As the spacecraft moves forward, it transmits a train of radar pulses and records the echoes. Later, a computer coherently combines all those echoes as if they had been captured simultaneously by one very long antenna, hence the "synthetic aperture". NISAR will combine an L-band SAR (1.257 GHz), which uses longer-wavelength radiowaves to track changes under thick forests and soil and deformations on the ground, and an S-band SAR (3.2 GHz), which uses shorter-wavelength radiowaves to capture surface details, such as crops and water surfaces.

118. Which of the following are the primary reasons behind the surge in child malnutrition in northern Nigeria?

1. Sharp decline in foreign aid from major donors like the U.S., U.K., and EU

2. Persistent insecurity disrupting food supply and healthcare access
3. Rising food prices and living costs due to economic challenges
4. Expansion of agricultural industries in the lands of nomadic people in the region

How many of the above are correct?

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

Answer: C

NEWS: Over 600 malnourished children died in northern Nigeria within six months as foreign aid sharply declined, a medical charity has said. Doctors Without Borders (MSF) reported a 208% rise in severe child malnutrition. Aid cuts from the U.S., U.K., and EU, combined with insecurity and rising costs, intensified the crisis.

119. Consider the following statements.

1. The Subarnarekha, Baitarani, and Jalka rivers are tributaries of the Mahanadi.
2. The Mahanadi River flows primarily through Chhattisgarh and Odisha before draining into the Bay of Bengal.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

NEWS: Swollen rivers wreak havoc in Odisha; over 11,000 affected. The flood was caused by the

overflowing waters of the Subarnarekha, Baitarani and Jalka rivers following heavy rainfall.

120. Consider the following statements about the Madras Devadasis (Prevention of Dedication) Act, 1947.

1. It was enacted before India's independence in 1947.
2. It legally granted Devadasis the right to marry.
3. The proposal for the Act was first introduced by Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy in the 1920s during the British period.
4. It banned the dedication of girls to Hindu temples.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: C

NEWS: As preparations are under way for the third survey of Devadasis in Karnataka, members of the community have urged the State government to conduct the door-to-door survey without fixing any age limit to identify the Devadasis. The Bengaluru-based National Law School of India University (NLSIU), which is spearheading efforts to bring new legislation for Devadasis, has also petitioned Chief Minister Siddaramaiah against any age limit. While the fresh survey — a long-pending demand of the community — had been announced in the 2024-2025 Budget, the Karnataka State Human Rights Commission recently directed the government to complete the survey and come out with recommendations before this October. The

centuries-old practice of dedication of women to temples as Devadasis has been banned in the State since 1982 when the Karnataka Devadasis (Prohibition of Dedication) Act was enacted. Subsequently, the government conducted surveys in 1993-94 and 2007-08, when 22,873 and 46,660 Devadasis, respectively, were identified.

121. Which one of the following projects created tensions between India and Pakistan in the Indus water treaty?

- (a) Banakacherla project
- (b) Tehri project
- (c) Bakra - Nangal project
- (d) Kishen ganga project

Answer: D

NEWS: The External Affairs Ministry nearly “lost the plot” over the Indus Waters Treaty talks with Pakistan in 2016, as senior Ministry officials entered into a tussle with the World Bank, before the issue was retrieved. The claim has been made by former Finance Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg, India-appointed Executive Director at the World Bank (2014-2017), in his latest book, which recounts for the first time the tensions between the Narendra Modi government and World Bank President Jim Kim over the Kishenganga hydropower project. The point of contention was whether the World Bank, which has a limited role in guiding any disputes or differences between India and Pakistan, would decide to appoint the “court of arbitration” Pakistan had asked for, or a “neutral expert”, as India wanted.

122. Which of the following statements are correct?

1. The nodal agency for cadaver organ donation in India is the National Organ and
 2. Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO) and it is functioning under the ministry of health.
 3. Individuals irrespective of their age can donate certain organs like a kidney, a portion of the liver, or a part of the pancreas.
- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

NEWS: A critical vulnerability in the Organ Retrieval Banking Organisation (ORBO) website of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, that exposed sensitive data of voluntary organ donors across India along with their identity, health profile and contact details was detected and resolved, thanks to an independent security researcher who flagged the flaw. ORBO is the nodal facility for cadaver organ and tissue donation-related activities of the AIIMS. The nodal agency for cadaver organ donation in India is the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO). It functions as the apex body for coordinating all organ and tissue donation and transplantation activities across the country. NOTTO is set up under the Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. As per the new Government guidelines, the upper age limit of 65 years for eligibility for registration to receive deceased donor organ has been removed. Now, a

person of any age can register for receiving deceased donor organ. The government has also decided to do away with the domicile requirement of the state for registration of patients requiring organ transplantation from deceased donor.

123. The Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) is a Kurdish militant and political organization primarily active in how many of the following countries?

1. Turkey
 2. Iraq
 3. Saudi Arabia
 4. Israel
 5. Syria
- (a) Only two
(b) Only three
(c) Only four
(d) All five

Answer: B

NEWS: India has 'greater responsibility' to support the PKK-Turkiye peace process: pro-Kurdish leader. The recent ceasefire announced by the Kurdish militant group PKK in its decades-old armed struggle against the Turkish state is a victory for the people of Turkiye that will translate into peace for the West Asian region and the world, said a pro-Kurdish leader who played a crucial role in facilitating the deal between PKK leader Abdullah Öcalan and the Erdogan government of Turkiye. In an interview with The Hindu, Tuncer Bakirhan, Co-Chair of the People's Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party), said India has a "greater responsibility" to support the peace agreement, as the 'Kurdish geography' that covers parts of

Turkiye, Iraq, Iran, and Syria has close civilisational ties with present-day India. The Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) is a Kurdish militant and political organization primarily active in Turkey, Iraq, and Syria. For decades, the PKK engaged in an armed conflict with Turkey, but recently, the PKK has begun the process of disarmament, a move welcomed by various international actors.

124. Consider the following statements about the Golden Jackal (*Canis aureus naria*) in Kerala.

1. The species is critically endangered under the IUCN conservation status.
2. The species shows high adaptability to human-altered environments such as coconut groves and peri-urban settlements.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

NEWS: An extensive citizen science study has estimated that Kerala is home to a population of 20,000 to 30,000 golden jackals (*Canis aureus naria*). In one of the most comprehensive assessments of the elusive canid in the State to date, the research undertaken by NGO Aranyakam Nature Foundation has shed light on the widespread presence of the species in Kerala's varied landscapes, from coastal belts to peri-urban settlements. The study led by former Director of the Kerala Forest Research Institute P.S. Easa, S. Dhruvaraj, and Sandeep Das involved over 2,200

participants and recorded more than 5,000 sightings across 874 villages. The study found that only 2% of jackal sightings were from protected forest areas. Instead, jackals thrive in open lowland regions, particularly those below 200 metres in elevation. Their preferred habitats include coconut groves (24%), rural settlements (10%), and even urban areas (5.6%), showing a remarkable adaptability to human-altered environments. However, concerns linger about poultry predation, cases of rabies and the species' increasing reliance on organic waste, especially in coastal areas. Their dependency on anthropogenic waste raises ecological and public health concerns. The report also flags an emerging threat of hybridisation with stray dogs, which could compromise the jackal's genetic integrity. The study calls for an urgent realignment of conservation policies to protect landscapes beyond protected areas.

125. Consider the following statements about the phenomenon of superheating in solids

1. A solid is said to be superheated when it remains in the solid state even at or beyond its melting point.
2. The concept of entropy catastrophe suggests that a solid heated to around three-times its melting point will eventually have higher entropy than its liquid form.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

NEWS: When gold is heated really quickly, it remains solid at temperatures far above its melting point, a new study in *Nature* has found. When an object is solid at or beyond its melting point, it's said to be superheated. Most materials can be superheated only in a short range after that point before melting. Scientists used to think this range was fixed because of the entropy catastrophe. Previously, scientists thought that if you heated a crystal to about three-times its melting temperature, it wouldn't be able to stay a solid any more: it'd have to melt because its atoms would have become too disordered. In 1988, Hans-Jörg Fecht from Germany and William Johnson from the US reported that when a solid was superheated to around three-times its melting point, it would eventually possess more entropy than its liquid form beyond a particular temperature, which is impossible. This temperature was called TEC, where EC stood for "entropy catastrophe." This outcome is "catastrophic" because of the second law of thermodynamics. For two phases at the same temperature and pressure, the phase with higher entropy is (loosely speaking) the more disordered one. According to the law, the entropy of an isolated system can't spontaneously decrease — yet that is what the entropy of a solid being higher than that of a liquid implies. The "catastrophe" is a warning that extrapolating to those problematic temperatures in the Fecht-Johnson experiment didn't enjoy thermodynamic legitimacy. The new study with gold explores what happens when the metal is heated very quickly.

126. Consider the following statements about "Bigha" as a traditional land measurement unit

1. The size of a bigha is uniform across all states in India.
2. Bigha is commonly used for agricultural land measurement in rural areas of India, Nepal, and Bangladesh.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A) 1 only
- B) 2 only
- C) Both 1 and 2
- D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

NEWS: The Assam government has launched an eviction drive to clear 11,000 bighas of encroached forest land in Uriamghat area of Golaghat district. The Rengma Reserve Forest, where the first phase of the drive was carried out, shares a boundary with Nagaland. A large contingent of police and Assam Forest Protection Force personnel, along with more than 150 excavators, were deployed in the area, anticipating violence. Officials said the exercise passed off peacefully, as a majority of the illegal settlers had vacated the area after receiving notices from the government.

127. How many of the following statements about "Pralay" are correct?

1. It uses solid propellant.
 2. It can carry multiple types of warheads.
 3. It has only short-range air defence capability.
 4. It was not yet tested and is still in the development stage.
- A) Only one
 - B) Only two
 - C) Only three
 - D) All four

Answer: C

NEWS: The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted consecutive test flights of the Pralay missile from Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam island off the coast of Odisha. The test flights were carried out as a part of user evaluation trials to validate the maximum and minimum range of the missile system, the Defence Ministry said. The missiles precisely followed the intended trajectory and reached the target point with pinpoint accuracy, meeting all the test objectives. All subsystems performed as per expectations. Pralay is an indigenously developed solid-propellant quasi-ballistic missile with state-of-the-art guidance and navigation to ensure high precision. The missile is capable of carrying multiple types of warheads against various targets.

128. How many of the following statements about Global Tiger Day are correct?

1. It was initiated in 2010 during a summit in Russia.
 2. Its objective is to raise awareness and protect tiger habitats globally.
 3. It is a UNESCO initiative and India is a founding member in this initiative.
 4. It is celebrated on 3 March, coinciding with World Wildlife Day.
- A) Only one
B) Only two
C) Only three
D) All four

Answer: B

News: International Tiger day - July 29

129. Consider the following statements regarding the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA).

1. Twenty-four countries have agreed to join IBCA.
2. Currently, IBCA has 12 formal member countries, including India.
3. IBCA is an India-led global initiative aimed at protecting seven species of big cats.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: D

NEWS: Number of countries to join International Big Cat Alliance -24 The International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) is an India-led global initiative to protect seven species of big cats. 12 countries — India, Armenia, Bhutan, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Eswatini, Guinea, Liberia, Nicaragua, Rwanda, Somalia and Suriname — are members of the alliance.

130. Consider the following statements about the term "Goldilocks economy".

1. It refers to an economic condition where growth is balanced—not too fast to cause high inflation and not too slow to lead to recession.
2. It is characterized by stable economic growth and moderate inflation, ideal for investments.
3. A Goldilocks economy is a permanent state of balance that eliminates boom-and-bust cycles.

Which of the above statements 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

NEWS: Bond investors are adding portfolio risk after a long period of caution, seeing the U.S. economy in a “Goldilocks” moment, not too hot nor too cold, as they bet the Federal Reserve will leave rates unchanged for a fifth straight policy meeting. Investors are buying more corporate bonds and adding a little bit more duration to portfolios, suggesting they’re more comfortable going further out the curve. The U.S. central bank’s policy-setting Federal Open Market Committee is broadly expected to keep its benchmark overnight interest rate in the 4.25%-4.50% range when its two-day meeting ends . Standing pat has been its default stance since December, given a surprisingly resilient economy that has seen a fairly stable labor market and generally subdued inflation. A Goldilocks economy describes an ideal state for an economy where it's not expanding or contracting by too much. A Goldilocks economy has steady economic growth, preventing a recession, but not so much growth that inflation rises by a great deal. A Goldilocks state is ideal for investing because stocks perform well as companies grow and generate positive earnings growth. The term "Goldilocks" references the famous children's tale of the same name, describing situations that are "just right" amid two extremes. Goldilocks economies are temporary as seen by the boom-and-bust cycles.

131. Which of the following statements are correct regarding the scheme (MISHTI)?

1. Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes is an initiative by world wildlife fund
 2. It aims to integrate local communities into the conservation effort, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility for mangrove ecosystems.
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

NEWS:Article: Restoring mangroves can turn the tide on India’s coastal security. Gujarat has become a national leader in mangrove restoration under the Indian government’s Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes scheme, which was launched on World Environment Day 2023. Under this scheme, Gujarat has planted more than 19,000 hectares of mangroves in two years, surpassing the Central government’s planned five-year target of 54,000 hectares. The goal of this effort is to rebuild coastal resilience across the Kutch and coastal Saurashtra regions, supporting biodiversity and local livelihoods alike, promoting ecotourism, and contributing to the nation’s blue carbon goals. Gujarat is already home to 23.6% of India’s mangrove cover and currently an example of how robust planning and strategic coastal mapping can help quickly upscale restoration efforts.

132. Consider the following statements regarding currency depreciation.

1. Currency depreciation makes imports costlier and exports cheaper.
2. Persistent foreign capital outflows can lead to the depreciation of a domestic currency.
3. A rise in tariffs on a country's exports by another nation generally puts upward pressure on the exporting country's currency.

Which of the statements 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

NEWS: The rupee plunged 89 paise — its steepest single-day fall in over three years — and closed at an all-time low of 87.80 against the U.S. dollar after America announced a sweeping 25% tariff on Indian imports in the absence of a trade deal ahead of the August 1 deadline. Forex traders said month-end dollar demand from importers and sustained foreign fund outflows also weighed on the local unit. The rupee closed at 86.91 against the U.S. dollar.

133. Which of the following regions are located in the boundary of Eurasian and Pacific plate boundary?

1. Kamchatka peninsula
 2. Hokkaido island
 3. Hawaii
 4. California
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 1 and 2 only
 - (c) 1, 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 3 and 4 only

Answer: B

NEWS: One of the strongest earthquakes ever recorded struck off Russia's sparsely populated Far East, sending tsunami waves into Japan, Hawaii and the U.S. West Coast. Several people were injured, but none gravely, and no major damage has been reported so far. A tsunami height of 3 to 4 m was recorded in Kamchatka, 60 cm on Japan's northern island of Hokkaido, while tsunami waves about 60 cm to 150 cm high reached San Francisco. Authorities warned the risk from the 8.8 magnitude quake could last for hours, and millions of people potentially in the path of the waves were initially told to move away from the shore or seek high ground. But the danger already appeared to be lessening in some places, with authorities downgrading their warnings in Hawaii, Japan and parts of Russia.