



Current Affairs Reverse Engineering (CARE)

MARCH - 2026

UPSC & APPSC PRELIMS

MCQs with Explanations

CARE MCQs

Polity & Governance

Q.1) With reference to India's Digital India Programme, consider the following statements:

1. BharatNet aims to provide high-speed broadband connectivity to Gram Panchayats.
2. DigiLocker is a digital payments platform developed for instant money transfer.
3. PMGDISHA is aimed at digital literacy in rural households.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** BharatNet is the flagship rural broadband connectivity programme linking Gram Panchayats.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** DigiLocker is a secure digital document storage and sharing platform, not a payment platform.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** PMGDISHA is a rural digital literacy programme aimed at digitally empowering one person per rural household.

Q.2) Consider the following countries:

1. USA
2. Sri Lanka
3. Japan
4. India

Placing the earliest first, arrange the above countries in the chronological order in which they granted **universal adult franchise**.

- A. 1, 2, 3, 4
- B. 2, 3, 4, 1
- C. 1, 3, 4, 2

D. 3, 4, 1, 2

Answer: A

Explanation:

USA – 1920 (First)

- Universal suffrage for women was established through the **19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution (1920)**.
- It prohibited denial of voting rights based on sex.

Sri Lanka – 1931 (Second)

- Sri Lanka (then Ceylon) introduced **universal adult franchise in 1931** under the **Donoughmore Constitution**.
- It was one of the earliest countries in Asia to grant voting rights to all adults.

Japan – 1945 (Third)

- Japan granted **universal suffrage to both men and women in 1945** after World War II during democratic reforms.

India – 1950 (Fourth)

- India adopted **universal adult franchise with the Constitution of India in 1950**, allowing every citizen above the voting age to vote regardless of caste, gender, or property.

Q.3) With reference to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, consider the following statements:

1. The Speaker can be removed by a resolution passed by a majority of all the members of the Lok Sabha.
2. During the debate on a motion for his/her removal, the Speaker cannot participate in the proceedings.
3. The decision of the Speaker regarding certification of a Money Bill is final.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** Article 94(c) provides that the Speaker can be removed by a **majority**

of all the members of Lok Sabha.

- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** During the debate on the motion for removal, the Speaker **may participate and vote initially**, but cannot exercise a casting vote in case of a tie.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** The Speaker's decision regarding **Money Bill certification is final**

Q.4) With reference to the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), consider the following statements:

I. NCSC is a constitutional body under Article 338.

II. The 89th Constitutional Amendment separated the SC and ST Commissions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. I only
- B. II only
- C. Both I and II
- D. Neither I nor II

Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement I – Correct:** The NCSC is a **Constitutional Body** established under **Article 338** of the Constitution of India.
- **Statement II – Correct:** The **89th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003** split the earlier combined commission into:
 - **National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)** under **Article 338**
 - **National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)** under **Article 338A**

Additional Information:

- Initially, Article 338 provided for a **Special Officer** for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
- The **65th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1990** replaced the one-member system with a **multi-member commission**.
- The NCSC submits its report **annually to the President** on the working of constitutional safeguards for Scheduled Castes.

Q.5) With reference to the Right to Die with Dignity in India, consider the following statements:

1. Passive euthanasia is legally permitted under certain conditions.
2. Clinically Assisted Nutrition and Hydration (CANH) is not considered medical treatment.
3. The right to refuse medical treatment is part of Article 21.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** Passive euthanasia is allowed under Supreme Court guidelines.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** CANH is recognised as **medical treatment**.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** Right to refuse treatment is part of **Article 21**.

Q.6) With reference to the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2019, consider the following statements:

1. It removes the right to self-identification of gender.
2. It introduces a Medical Board for identity certification.
3. It expands the definition to include gender-fluid identities.

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

Explanation:

- Statement 1 – Correct. It removes the right to self-identification of gender.
- Statement 2 – Correct. It introduces a Medical Board for identity certification.

- Statement 3 – Incorrect (definition is narrowed)

Q.7) With reference to Scheduled Caste (SC) status in India, consider the following statements:

- I. SC status is governed by the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950.
- II. A person converting to Christianity retains SC status based on birth.
- III. Scheduled Tribe (ST) status is not automatically affected by religious conversion.
- IV. Reconversion to Hinduism automatically restores SC status without any conditions.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement I – Correct:** SC status is governed by the **Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950**.
- **Statement II – Incorrect:** Conversion to Christianity leads to **loss of SC status**.
- **Statement III – Correct:** ST status depends on **tribal identity**, not religion alone.
- **Statement IV – Incorrect:** Reconversion requires **proof, renunciation, and community acceptance**.

Additional Information

- SC status restricted to: **Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists**
- ST status based on: **culture, customs, and community recognition**
- SC/ST Act protections apply only to **legally recognised SC/ST individuals**

Q.8) Consider the following statements:

1. The Women's Reservation Act provides 33% reservation in Lok Sabha and State

Assemblies.

2. Delimitation is conducted under Articles 82 and 170 of the Constitution.
3. The proposed reform suggests using 2011 Census data for delimitation.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The **Women's Reservation Act, 2023 (106th Constitutional Amendment)** provides **33% reservation for women** in the **Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies**, including within SC/ST reserved seats.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** **Delimitation** (redrawing of constituencies based on population) is governed by **Article 82 (for Lok Sabha)** and **Article 170 (for State Assemblies)** of the Constitution.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The government has proposed **using 2011 Census data for delimitation** to **fast-track the implementation** of the Women's Reservation Act without waiting for the ongoing Census.

International Relations

Q.9) The concept of "cost asymmetry" in missile defence, as observed in the U.S.–Iran conflict, refers to:

- A. The use of low-cost lasers to counter high-end ballistic missiles.
- B. The imbalance between the low cost of incoming drones/missiles and the high cost of interceptors used against them.
- C. The difference in radar range between sea-based and land-based systems.
- D. The higher cost of naval deployments compared to land-based batteries.

Answer: B

Explanation:

- Cost asymmetry refers to the situation where relatively inexpensive offensive weapons such as drones or short-range missiles are countered using very expensive interceptors. For example, a Patriot PAC-3 MSE interceptor costs around \$4 million per shot.
- Saturation attacks exploit this imbalance by firing large numbers of cheaper weapons to deplete interceptor stockpiles. This creates financial strain, stockpile exhaustion, and operational vulnerability, especially during prolonged high-tempo warfare.

Q.10) Bavar-373, recently seen in the context of the US–Israel–Iran conflict, is best described as:

- A. A short-range anti-drone laser defence system
- B. A long-range air defence system capable of intercepting aircraft and ballistic missiles
- C. A sea-based interceptor designed for midcourse missile defence
- D. A mobile artillery rocket system used for ground assaults

Answer: B

Explanation:

- Bavar-373 is an Iranian long-range air defence system. It is designed to intercept aircraft and ballistic missiles and is considered comparable to advanced surface-to-air missile systems.
- It forms part of Iran's layered air defence architecture aimed at protecting strategic assets and critical facilities.
- It is not a laser-based system (like Iron Beam), nor a sea-based interceptor (like SM-3), nor an artillery rocket system.

Q.11) With reference to uranium resources and nuclear energy in India, consider the following statements:

1. The quality of domestic uranium ore in India is significantly higher than the global average.

2. Currently, more than 70 per cent of India's uranium requirement is met through imports.
3. The domestic production of uranium in India is concentrated mainly in Jharkhand and Andhra Pradesh.
4. India's three-stage nuclear programme is ultimately driven chiefly by uranium.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

Statement 1 – Incorrect

- India's uranium ore is **low grade**, typically around **0.02% to 0.45% uranium content**.
- This is lower than the global average, which makes extraction more difficult and costly.

Statement 2 – Correct

- India imports a large share of uranium to meet the fuel requirements of its nuclear reactors.
- **More than 70% of the requirement** is met through imports from countries such as **Kazakhstan, Canada, and Australia**.

Statement 3 – Correct

- Most domestic uranium mining occurs in:
 - **Jharkhand** (Jaduguda, Narwapahar, Turamdih)
 - **Andhra Pradesh** (Tummalapalle mines).

Statement 4 – Incorrect

- India's **three-stage nuclear programme**, designed by **Homi J. Bhabha**, ultimately aims to utilise **thorium reserves**, not uranium.
- Thorium is abundant in India, especially in **monazite sands along the Kerala coast**

Q.12) With reference to the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS), consider the following statements:

1. It is an international initiative aimed at preventing trade in conflict diamonds.
2. It is a legally binding treaty enforced by

the United Nations Security Council.

3. Rough diamond shipments between participating countries must carry a Kimberley Process certificate.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** The Kimberley Process aims to prevent the trade in conflict diamonds.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** It is a **voluntary international certification scheme**, not a legally binding treaty.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** All shipments of rough diamonds between participating countries must carry a **Kimberley Process certificate**.

Q.13) Consider the following countries?

1. Russia
2. Sweden
3. Norway
4. Denmark

How many of the above countries share a land border with Finland?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

Finland is located in **Northern Europe** and forms part of the **Fennoscandian Peninsula**.

- **Russia** – Finland shares its longest eastern border with Russia.
- **Sweden** – Finland shares a western land border with Sweden.
- **Norway** – Finland shares a northern border with Norway.
- **Denmark** – Does **not** share a land border with Finland.

Q.14) Consider the following statements regarding

the Strait of Hormuz:

1. The Strait of Hormuz connects the **Persian Gulf with the Arabian Sea.**
2. It is bounded by **Iran to the north and Oman and the UAE to the south.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Strait of Hormuz connects the **Persian Gulf to the Arabian Sea**, making it a crucial maritime route.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It lies between **Iran (north) and Oman & UAE (south).**

Additional Information

- It is one of the **world's most important oil transit chokepoints.**
- Around **20 million barrels of oil per day** pass through it.
- Major exporters include **Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and UAE.**
- The strait is wide and deep enough for **large oil tankers.**

Economy

Q.15) Consider the following statements regarding India's rice production and export strategy:

- i. India exported about 21.69 million tonnes of rice in 2024–25 and is the world's largest rice exporter.
- ii. Basmati rice exports generate nearly similar export earnings as non-basmati rice despite being exported in smaller quantities.
- iii. Conventional paddy cultivation under continuous flooding requires approximately 3,000 litres of water per kg of rice produced.

Select the correct answer using the code

given below:

- A. I and II only
- B. II and III only
- C. I, II and III
- D. I and III only

Answer: C

Explanation:

Statement I – Correct

- India exported 21.69 million tonnes in 2024–25 and remains the world's largest rice exporter.

Statement II – Correct

- Basmati exports (5–6 mt) earned nearly \$5.8–5.9 billion, comparable to non-basmati exports (11–14 mt), showing higher unit value realisation.

Statement III – Correct

- Water consumption under conventional transplanting-cum-continuous flooding equals roughly 3,000 litres per kg of rice.

Q.16) Consider the following statements:

1. The PLI Scheme for Automobile and Auto Components promotes high-value Advanced Automotive Technology (AAT) vehicles and products.
2. The PM E-DRIVE Scheme provides incentives only for electric two-wheelers and excludes other electric vehicle categories.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The PLI-Auto Scheme supports Advanced Automotive Technology (AAT) vehicles and components to boost India's automobile manufacturing sector.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The PM E-DRIVE Scheme supports not only e-2W but also e-3W, e-trucks, e-ambulances, along with

charging infrastructure and testing facilities.

Q.17) With reference to Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) in India, consider the following statements:

1. India's LPG imports account for about 60% of domestic demand.
2. India currently has underground LPG storage caverns at Visakhapatnam and Mangaluru.
3. Strategic LPG reserves in India can currently meet more than one month of consumption.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** LPG imports account for roughly **60% of India's demand**.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** India currently has underground LPG storage caverns at **Visakhapatnam and Mangaluru**.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect:** India's underground LPG storage capacity equals **less than two days of consumption**, not one month.

Q.18) Consider the following statements:

1. OpenADR enables automated adjustment of electricity consumption by devices like EV chargers and thermostats.
2. OpenADR is a one-way communication system that does not support real-time coordination of energy demand.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** OpenADR allows devices to **automatically adjust electricity use** for demand response and grid stability.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** OpenADR is a **two-way communication standard**, enabling coordination and real-time response in energy systems.

Additional Information

- OpenADR stands for **Open Automated Demand Response**.
- It supports integration of **smart appliances, EV chargers, and distributed energy resources (DERs)**.
- In India, a pilot by **Tata Power Delhi Distribution** achieved about **14% peak reduction**.
- Globally, such systems help **reduce electricity demand and defer infrastructure costs**.

Q.19) The "Triple Test" to determine the status of an 'Industry' was established in which of the following landmark cases?

- A. Kesavananda Bharati Case
- B. Bangalore Water Supply vs. A. Rajappa
- C. Maneka Gandhi Case
- D. Vishaka vs. State of Rajasthan

Answer: B

Explanation:

- The 1978 Bangalore Water Supply case established the criteria of systematic activity, employer-employee cooperation, and production of goods/services.

Q.20) Q. Recently, the Chief Minister of Telangana inaugurated an oil palm factory at Narmetta. Narmetta is located in which of the following districts?

- A. Warangal
- B. Siddipet
- C. Nizamabad
- D. Karimnagar

Answer: B

Explanation:

- The oil palm factory was inaugurated at **Narmetta in Nangunur mandal of Siddipet district** in Telangana. The initiative is aimed at

promoting **oil palm cultivation and agro-based industries** in the region.

- The event also included **Rythu Mahotsavams**, where farmers were educated about **modern agricultural practices, mechanisation and allied sectors such as horticulture, dairy and fisheries**. This reflects the state's focus on improving agricultural productivity and value addition.

Q.21) Consider the following statements:

1. Groundwater depletion in India is particularly severe in northwest regions such as Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and western Uttar Pradesh.
2. Paddy cultivation requires less water than pulses and oilseeds, thereby helping conserve groundwater.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Over-extraction of groundwater is highest in **northwest India**, including Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and western Uttar Pradesh.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Paddy is a **water-intensive crop**, consuming **much more water than pulses and oilseeds**, thus worsening groundwater depletion.

Additional Information

- Paddy requires **more than 10 times the water** needed for pulses and oilseeds.
- Excessive groundwater extraction leads to **falling water tables, soil degradation, and long-term sustainability issues**.
- The **Central Ground Water Board (CGWB)** monitors groundwater status in India.

Q.22) With reference to the Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC), consider the following statements:

1. IRFC was established in 1986 as the dedicated financing arm of Indian Railways.
2. IRFC operates on a leasing model and finances assets leased back to Indian Railways.
3. IRFC raises funds from domestic and international markets to meet Extra Budgetary Resource needs.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** The statement is correct. The **Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC)** was established in **1986**. It functions as the **dedicated financing arm** of Indian Railways and was created to support the large financial requirements of the railway sector. Since railway expansion and modernization require heavy investment, IRFC plays an important role in mobilising funds for this purpose.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** The statement is correct. IRFC mainly follows a **leasing model**. It finances railway assets such as locomotives, coaches and wagons, and these assets are then **leased back to Indian Railways**. This method helps Indian Railways obtain essential rolling stock and infrastructure support without depending entirely on direct budgetary allocation at the initial stage.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** The statement is correct. IRFC **raises funds from both domestic and international markets**. These funds are used to meet the **Extra Budgetary Resource (EBR)** needs of Indian Railways. In other words, IRFC helps Indian Railways mobilise financial resources beyond normal budgetary support, which is essential for sustaining large-scale infrastructure development.

Additional Information

- IRFC has financed **13,764 locomotives, 76,735 passenger coaches, and 2,65,815 wagons.**
- Through this financing, it has covered nearly **75% of the rolling stock fleet** of Indian Railways.
- Indian Railways is a key pillar of India's infrastructure and plays a major role in **connectivity, trade and economic growth.**

Q.23) With reference to Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR) in India, consider the following statements:

- India's SPRs currently provide more than 30 days of crude oil supply coverage.
- SPRs are designed to protect against short-term disruptions in oil supply.
- India meets more than 80% of its crude oil requirement through imports.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement I – Incorrect:** India's SPRs cover only about **9.5 days of crude oil requirement**, not 30 days.
- **Statement II – Correct:** SPRs act as a **buffer against short-term supply shocks.**
- **Statement III – Correct:** India imports **over 88% of its crude oil requirement.**

Additional Information

- IEA recommends **90 days of oil reserves**
- India currently has about **74 days (including commercial stocks)**
- SPRs are stored in **underground caverns for safety and efficiency**

Q.24) With reference to the Conceptual Framework of Key Indicators in the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), consider the following statements:

- Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)** is the percentage of persons in the labour force in the population.
- Worker Population Ratio (WPR)** is the percentage of unemployed persons among the persons in the labour force.
- Unemployment Rate (UR)** is the percentage of unemployed persons among the persons in the labour force.
- Current Weekly Status (CWS)** is determined on the basis of the activity status of a person during the last 7 days preceding the date of survey.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- Only three
- All four

Answer: C

Explanation

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** LFPR refers to the **percentage of persons in the labour force** (that is, working or seeking/available for work) in the total population.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** WPR does **not** mean percentage of unemployed persons in the labour force. WPR is the **percentage of employed persons in the population.**
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** UR is defined as the **percentage of persons unemployed among the persons in the labour force.**
- **Statement 4 – Correct:** Current Weekly Status (CWS) is determined on the basis of the **last 7 days preceding the date of survey.**

Additional Information

- **Usual Status** is determined on the basis of the **last 365 days** preceding the date of survey.
- **Principal activity status (ps)** refers to the activity on which a person spent the **major part of time** during the reference period.
- **Subsidiary status (ss)** refers to an additional economic activity performed for **30 days or more** during the 365-day reference period.

- In PLFS, the commonly used indicators are **LFPR, WPR, and UR**.

Environment & Ecology – Disaster Management

Q.25) Consider the following statements regarding Seed Gene Banks:

1. Seed banks conserve plant species by storing orthodox seeds under controlled conditions.
2. Long-term storage of seeds in gene banks is generally maintained at temperatures around -10°C to -20°C .

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Seed gene banks are an important method of **ex-situ conservation** where seeds of plant species (especially orthodox seeds) are stored under controlled temperature and humidity conditions to preserve genetic diversity.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** For long-term conservation, seeds are usually stored at **very low temperatures (-10°C to -20°C)** to slow down metabolic activity and maintain seed viability for decades or even centuries.

Additional Information

- Medium-term storage of seeds is usually maintained at **$0-5^{\circ}\text{C}$ and about 35% relative humidity**.
- Seed banks are widely used to conserve **agricultural crop diversity and wild plant species**.
- The **Svalbard Global Seed Vault (Norway)** is the world's largest international seed storage facility designed to safeguard global crop

diversi

Q.26) Consider the following statements regarding the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):

1. The Convention on Biological Diversity entered into force in 1993.
2. One of the objectives of the CBD is the conservation of biological diversity.
3. The CBD aims to promote fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Convention on Biological Diversity came into force on **29 December 1993**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Conservation of biological diversity is one of the **three main objectives** of the CBD.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The CBD also aims at **fair and equitable sharing of benefits** from the use of genetic resources.

Q.27) Consider the following statements:

1. The International Solar Alliance (ISA) was co-founded by India to promote solar cooperation and mobilise solar finance among member countries.
2. India Energy Week (IEW) is a global platform hosted by India to discuss energy security, clean fuels and energy transition.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The International Solar Alliance (ISA) was co-founded by India to promote solar energy deployment, mobilise solar finance and encourage technology transfer among member countries, particularly developing nations.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** India Energy Week (IEW) is hosted by India as a global platform bringing together governments, industry leaders and investors to discuss energy security, renewable energy and energy transition pathways.

Additional Information

- ISA aims to expand affordable solar energy across tropical countries located between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn.
- India Energy Week strengthens India's role in the global energy dialogue and clean energy transition.

Q.28) Consider the following statements regarding the National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM):

- NBHM is a Central Sector Scheme.
- The scheme is implemented by the **National Bee Board (NBB)** under the Ministry of Agriculture.
- NBHM was launched as part of the **Green Revolution** to increase food grain production.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- All the three
- None

Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement I – Correct:** NBHM is a **Central Sector Scheme** launched to promote **scientific beekeeping** and increase the production of **quality honey and bee products**.
- **Statement II – Correct:** The scheme is implemented through the **National Bee Board**

(**NBB**), which works under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.

- **Statement III – Incorrect:** NBHM is part of the **"Sweet Revolution"**, not the Green Revolution. It focuses on **apiculture and honey production**, not food grains.

Hence, **option (b) is correct.**

Additional Information:

- NBHM was launched under the umbrella of **Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**.
- It promotes **integrated farming systems**, where beekeeping supports agriculture through **pollination**, increasing crop yields.
- It also enhances **farmers' income** by providing additional products like **beeswax, bee pollen, propolis and royal jelly**.

Q.29) With reference to community-led water conservation in rainfed regions of India, consider the following statements:

- Watershed planning in rainfed areas is primarily based on technical maps with minimal role of local farmers.
- Contour bunds, trenches and check dams help in reducing runoff and increasing water infiltration.
- Solar irrigation systems managed by communities can enhance cropping intensity and farm incomes.
- Cultivation of millets and pulses is less suitable for rainfed regions due to their high water requirement.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- Only three
- All four

Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement I – Incorrect :** Watershed planning in the Odisha case was based significantly on **farmers' hydrological knowledge**, such as identifying runoff paths and moisture-retaining zones, not just technical mapping.

- **Statement II – Correct:** Structures like **contour bunds, trenches, farm ponds and check dams** slow down runoff, improve infiltration, and enhance soil moisture retention.
- **Statement III – Correct:** Community-managed **solar irrigation systems** (e.g., Jamuguda village) improved irrigation access, enabled second cropping, and increased incomes.
- **Statement IV – Incorrect:** Millets and pulses are **well-suited to rainfed regions** as they require less water, tolerate dry spells, and improve soil health.

Q.30) Consider the following statements regarding LPG and LNG:

- I. LPG mainly consists of propane and butane and is commonly used for cooking and heating.
- II. LNG is natural gas cooled to very low temperatures for easier storage and transport.
- III. LPG requires cryogenic storage at extremely low temperatures, unlike LNG.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement I – Correct:** LPG is a mixture of **propane and butane** and is widely used as a **domestic cooking fuel and for heating**.
- **Statement II – Correct:** LNG is **natural gas (mainly methane)** cooled to about **-160°C** to convert it into liquid form for easier transport.
- **Statement III – Incorrect:** It is **LNG**, not **LPG**, that requires **cryogenic storage**. **LPG** can be stored under **moderate pressure in cylinders**.

Hence, **option (b)** is correct.

Additional Information:

- LNG occupies about **1/600th** of its gaseous volume, while **LPG** occupies about **1/260th**.

- **LPG** is **portable and widely used in rural areas**, whereas **LNG** is mainly used after regasification via **pipeline networks (PNG/CNG)**.
- **LNG** handling requires **specialised infrastructure**, making it more complex than **LPG**.

Q.31) With reference to Western Disturbances, consider the following statements:

1. They originate in the Mediterranean region due to interaction of warm and cold air masses.
2. They move eastward under the influence of the subtropical westerly jet stream.
3. They mainly bring rainfall to southern India during winter.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct. Western Disturbances originate in the **Mediterranean region** due to the interaction between **warm air and cold air masses**.
- Statement 2 is correct. They move eastward towards India under the influence of the **subtropical westerly jet stream**.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. They mainly affect **northwestern India**, bringing winter rainfall and snowfall, not southern India.

Q.32) With reference to India's updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), consider the following statements:

1. India has committed to achieve 60% of its installed electric capacity from non-fossil sources by 2035.
2. India's updated NDC uses absolute emission reduction as its main indicator.

3. India has increased its carbon sink target to 3.5–4 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** India's new NDC sets a 60% non-fossil capacity target by 2035.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** India continues to use **emissions intensity of GDP**, not absolute emission reduction, as its primary metric.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** The new carbon sink target is 3.5–4 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent.

Science & Technology

Q.33) BHASHINI Sanchalan is primarily aimed at:

- A. Promoting satellite-based internet connectivity in rural areas
B. Strengthening multilingual governance through AI-enabled language technologies
C. Establishing new digital universities across India
D. Replacing regional languages with a single national language

Answer: B

Explanation:

- BHASHINI Sanchalan is a collaborative initiative of central ministries and the Digital India BHASHINI Division. It aims to strengthen multilingual governance by integrating AI-enabled language technologies into public digital systems.
- The initiative incorporates voice-first interfaces and translation capabilities to improve governance processes and service delivery. It supports the development of domain-specific language models, enhances translation accuracy, and standardises terminology through collaborative training.
- By promoting linguistic inclusion, especially in

rural and underserved regions, it seeks to increase citizen participation and accessibility in digital governance.

Q.34) With reference to Artificial Intelligence and employment, consider the following statements:

1. Large Language Models can automate several knowledge-based tasks.
2. Occupations involving manual labour are currently less exposed to AI automation.
3. Artificial Intelligence has increased entry-level hiring in knowledge sectors.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** AI tools such as LLMs can perform several knowledge-based tasks.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** Jobs involving physical labour are less vulnerable to AI automation.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect:** Entry-level hiring in AI-exposed sectors has **declined**, not increased.

Q.35) Consider the following:

- I. Bacteria
- II. Viruses
- III. Fungi

How many of the above microorganisms can develop antimicrobial resistance (AMR)?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) occurs when microorganisms evolve and no longer respond to medicines that were previously effective.

- **Bacteria (I)** can develop resistance to

antibiotics.

- **Viruses (II)** can develop resistance to **antiviral drugs**.
- **Fungi (III)** can develop resistance to **antifungal medicines**.
- Since all these microorganisms can develop resistance to antimicrobial drugs, the correct answer is **All the three**.

Additional Information:

- AMR makes infections **harder to treat** and increases the risk of **disease spread, severe illness, and death**.
- Medicines affected include **antibiotics, antivirals, antifungals, and antiparasitic drugs**.
- Microorganisms that develop strong resistance are often called **“superbugs.”**

Q.36) With reference to the Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC), consider the following statements:

1. NavIC is India’s regional satellite navigation system designed to provide positioning services over India and about 1500 km beyond it.
2. Atomic clocks onboard satellites are used to measure the precise time taken by signals for location calculations.
3. NavIC satellites are placed mainly in Medium Earth Orbit similar to GPS satellites.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** NavIC provides navigation coverage over **India and around 1500 km beyond its borders**.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** Atomic clocks measure **precise signal travel time**, which is essential for calculating positions.

- **Statement 3 – Incorrect:** NavIC satellites are primarily placed in **geosynchronous and geostationary orbits**, not Medium Earth Orbit like GPS satellites.

Q.37) Consider the following statements:

1. Artemis II is intended to carry astronauts around the Moon and back without landing.
2. NASA’s current lunar strategy aims at establishing a long-term human presence on the Moon.
3. India plans to send astronauts to the Moon by 2030.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** Artemis II is a crewed flyby mission around the Moon.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** NASA’s goal is to lay the foundation for a permanent lunar base.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect:** India’s target for sending astronauts to the Moon is **2040**, not 2030.

Government Policies

Q.38) The ‘Sabka Bima, Sabki Raksha (Amendment of Insurance Laws) Act, 2025’ introduces which of the following key reforms?

- A. It restricts Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the insurance sector to 74% to protect domestic companies.
- B. It increases the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) limit in the insurance sector to 100%.
- C. It lowers the IRDAI approval threshold for share transfers from 5% to 1%.
- D. It increases the Net Owned Fund

requirement for foreign reinsurers to ₹5,000 crore.

Answer: B

Explanation:

- The **Sabka Bima, Sabki Raksha (Amendment of Insurance Laws) Act, 2025** aims to expand insurance coverage and strengthen the insurance sector in India.

Option A – Incorrect

- The reform does **not restrict FDI** to 74%.
- Instead, it expands foreign investment limits.

Option B – Correct

- The Act proposes to **increase the FDI limit to 100%** in the insurance sector.
- The objective is to bring **greater capital inflows**, improve insurance penetration, and bridge the **protection gap** in India.

Option C – Incorrect

- The Act does not reduce the **IRDAI approval threshold** for share transfers to 1%.

Option D – Incorrect

- There is no provision increasing the **Net Owned Fund requirement** for foreign reinsurers to ₹5,000 crore.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** TB primarily affects the lungs but can also infect **abdomen, glands, bones, and nervous system.**

Public Health

Q.39) Consider the following statements regarding Tuberculosis (TB):

1. Tuberculosis is caused by the bacterium **Mycobacterium tuberculosis.**
2. Tuberculosis affects only the lungs and does not spread to other parts of the body.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** TB is caused by the bacterium **Mycobacterium tuberculosis.**

CARE PYQs

Polity & Governance

Q.40) Consider the following: (2022)

1. Aarogya Setu
2. CoWIN
3. DigiLocker
4. DIKSHA

Which of the above are built on top of open-source digital platforms?

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

Q.41) Which of the following is/are the aim/aims of “Digital India” Plan of the Government of India? (2018)

1. Formation of India’s own Internet companies like China did.
2. Establish a policy framework to encourage overseas multinational corporations that collect Big Data to build their large data centres within our national geographical boundaries.
3. Connect many of our villages to the Internet and bring Wi-Fi to many of our schools, public places and major tourist centres.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

Q.42) Regarding ‘DigiLocker’, sometimes seen in the news, which of the following statements is/are correct? (2016)

1. It is a digital locker system offered by the Government under Digital India Programme.
2. It allows you to access your e-documents irrespective of your physical location.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

Q.43) Which among the following countries was the earliest to give women the right to vote? (UPSC CSE 2003)

- A. Iceland
- B. India
- C. New Zealand
- D. USA

Answer: C

Explanation:

New Zealand – Correct

- New Zealand became the **first self-governing country in the world to grant women the right to vote in 1893.**
- The reform was largely influenced by the women’s suffrage movement led by **Kate Sheppard.**

Q.44) With reference to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, consider the following statements: While any resolution for the removal of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha is under consideration— (UPSC 2024)

1. He/She shall not preside.
2. He/She shall not have the right to speak.
3. He/She shall not be entitled to vote on the resolution in the first instance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

This provision comes from **Article 96 of the Constitution of India**.

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** When a resolution for the removal of the Speaker is under consideration, **the Speaker shall not preside over the sitting of the House**, though he/she may remain present.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** The Speaker **can speak and participate in the proceedings** of the House during the debate on the removal resolution.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect:** The Speaker **can vote in the first instance** on the resolution but **cannot exercise a casting vote** in case of a tie.

Constitutional Source:

- **Article 96(1) – Constitution of India** (Speaker or Deputy Speaker not to preside while a resolution for his/her removal is under consideration).

Q.45) Which one of the following categories of Fundamental Rights incorporates protection against untouchability as a form of discrimination?

- A. Right against Exploitation
- B. Right to Freedom
- C. Right to Constitutional Remedies
- D. Right to Equality

Correct: D

Explanation:

Right to Equality. Under the Indian Constitution, the Right to Equality is a cluster of fundamental rights spanning from **Articles 14 to 18**. Specifically, **Article 17** expressly abolishes "Untouchability" and forbids its practice in any form, making it a punishable offense.

The classification is as follows:

- **Right to Equality (Articles 14–18):** Includes Article 17, which protects individuals from

discrimination based on untouchability.

- **Right against Exploitation (Articles 23–24):** Deals with human trafficking and forced labor, not caste-based social exclusion.
- **Right to Freedom (Articles 19–22):** Covers liberties like speech and movement.
- **Right to Constitutional Remedies (Article 32):** Provides the mechanism to approach the Supreme Court for enforcement of rights but is not the substantive right itself.

Q.46) Which of the following statements regarding Article 21 of the Constitution of India is/are correct? (CDS-I) 2017

1. Article 21 is violated when the under-trial prisoners are detained under judicial custody for an indefinite period.
2. Right to life is one of the basic human rights and not even the State has the authority to violate that right.
3. Under Article 21, the right of a woman to make reproductive choices is not a dimension of personal liberty.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

Statement 1: Correct

- In **Hussainara Khatoon vs State of Bihar**, the Supreme Court held that **right to speedy trial** is part of Article 21.
- Indefinite detention of under-trial prisoners violates this right.

Statement 2: Correct

- Article 21 guarantees **Right to Life and Personal Liberty**.
- The State **cannot act arbitrarily**; it can only deprive life or liberty through **procedure established by law**, which must be **just, fair, and reasonable**.

Statement 3: Incorrect

- In **Suchita Srivastava vs Chandigarh Administration** and **K.S. Puttaswamy vs Union of India**, the Court held:
- **Reproductive choice** is part of **personal liberty and privacy under Article 21**.

Q.47) In India, Legal Services Authorities provide free legal services to which of the following types of citizens? (2020)

1. Person with an annual income of less than ₹1,00,000
2. Transgender with an annual income of less than ₹2,00,000
3. Member of Other Backward Classes (OBC) with an annual income of less than ₹3,00,000
4. All Senior Citizens

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: A

Q.48) With reference to reservation of seats for women under the Constitution of India, consider the following statements:

1. Provision for the reservation of seats for women in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha has been made vide the 106th Constitutional Amendment.
2. There are provisions for the reservation of seats for women in the Legislative Assemblies and Legislative Councils of the States.
3. There are provisions for the reservation of seats for women in Panchayats.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: D

International Relations

Q.49) What is “Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD)”, sometimes seen in the news?

- A. An Israeli radar system
- B. India’s indigenous anti-missile programme
- C. An American anti-missile system
- D. A defence collaboration between Japan and South Korea

Answer: C

Explanation:

Q.50) Consider the following statements:(UPSC 2016)

Statement-I: India, despite having uranium deposits, depends on coal for most of its electricity production.

Statement-II: Uranium, enriched to the extent of at least 60%, is required for the production of electricity.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- A. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct Explanation: for Statement-I
- B. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct Explanation: for Statement-I
- C. Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- D. Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement-I is correct:** India possesses uranium deposits, mainly in states such as Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Rajasthan. However, the reserves are **limited and relatively low-grade**, so India still relies heavily on coal for electricity generation. Coal accounts for the **major share of India's power production**.

- **Statement-II is incorrect:** Nuclear power plants used for electricity generation generally require **low enriched uranium (LEU)** containing about **3–5% U-235**. Enrichment levels of **60% or higher** are associated with **highly enriched uranium**, which is generally related to **weapons-grade material**, not normal electricity generation.

Conclusion:

Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect.

👉 **Correct answer: C**

Q.51) The elemental composition of diamond is (NDA-II – 2024)

- A. Carbon and Hydrogen
- B. Carbon and Oxygen
- C. Pure Carbon
- D. Pure Silicon

Q.52) Consider the following countries:

- I. Austria
- II. Bulgaria
- III. Croatia
- IV. Serbia
- V. Sweden
- VI. North Macedonia

How many of the above are members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization?

- A. Only three
- B. Only four
- C. Only five
- D. All the six

Answer: B

Explanation:

- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is a political and military alliance established in 1949 to ensure collective defense among member countries. Over time, NATO has expanded to include 32 member countries.
- **Option 1 is incorrect.** Austria is not a NATO member.
- **Option 2 is correct.** Bulgaria became a NATO member alongside six other Eastern European countries in 2004.
- **Option 3 is correct.** Albania and Croatia

became NATO's members on 1 April 2009, after depositing their instruments of accession.

- **Option 4 is incorrect.** Serbia is not a NATO member.
- **Option 5 is correct.** North Macedonia became NATO's 30th member in 2020 after resolving a long-standing name dispute with Greece, which had previously blocked its accession.
- **Option 6 is correct.** Sweden ended its longstanding policy of neutrality in response to regional security concerns, particularly following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and joined NATO as its 32nd member in 2024.

Q.53) The Suez Canal, the Strait of Hormuz and the Strait of Gibraltar are important because they:

- A. prevent attacks on bordering nations
- B. prohibit the movement of ships carrying nuclear weapons
- C. unite Russian access to warm water ports
- D. control access to vital trade routes

Economy

Q.54) In the context of India, which of the following is/are considered to be practice(s) of eco-friendly agriculture? (2020)

1. Crop diversification
2. Legume intensification
3. Tensiometer use
4. Vertical farming

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

Q.55) A "closed economy" is an economy in which:

- A. the money supply is fully controlled

- B. deficit financing takes place
- C. only exports take place
- D. neither exports nor imports take place

Answer: D

Explanation:

- A **closed economy** is one that **does not interact with other economies through trade.**
- In such an economy, **no international trade occurs**, meaning there are **no imports or exports.**
- All goods and services are produced and consumed **within the domestic economy.**

Q.56) Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer using the code given below the Lists: CDS-II (2016)

List-I (Strait)

- A) Strait of Hormuz
- B) Strait of Bab-el-Mandeb
- C) Strait of Malacca
- D) Strait of Sunda

List-II (Water Body)

- 1. Java Sea
- 2. Andaman Sea
- 3. Red Sea
- 4. Gulf of Persia

Code:

- A. A4, B2, C3, D1
- B. A1, B3, C2, D4
- C. C1, B2, C3, D4
- D. A4, B3, C2, D1

Answer: D

Explanation:

Q.57) The LPG cooking gas contains propane and butane as the constituents. A sulphur-containing compound is added to the LPG, because

- A. it lowers the cost of production
- B. it enhances the efficiency of LPG
- C. it facilitates easy detection of leakage of the gas
- D. it assists in liquefying hydrocarbons

Answer: C

Explanation:

- LPG is mainly composed of **propane and butane**, which are **colourless and odourless gases.**
- Being highly flammable, leakage of LPG is dangerous and difficult to detect in its natural state.
- Therefore, a **sulphur-containing compound (ethyl mercaptan)** is added.

Purpose of Adding Sulphur Compound

- It has a **strong, pungent smell (rotten egg-like)**
- Helps in **early detection of gas leakage**
- Acts as a **safety measure to prevent accidents**

Q.58) Consider the following statements with reference to India: (UPSC 2023)

1. According to the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act, 2006, the 'medium enterprises' are those with investments in plant and machinery between ₹15 crore and ₹25 crore.
2. All bank loans to the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises qualify under the priority sector.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

Statement 1: Incorrect

- As per revised MSME criteria (effective **July 1, 2020**):
 - **Medium Enterprise:**
 - Investment ≤ ₹50 crore
 - Turnover ≤ ₹250 crore
- The range **₹15–₹25 crore** is **incorrect and outdated.**

Statement 2: Correct

- As per **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** guidelines:
 - All loans to MSMEs (as per MSMED definition) qualify under **Priority Sector Lending (PSL)**

- Covers:
 - Manufacturing sector
 - Service sector
- Objective:
 - Ensure adequate credit flow to MSMEs

Q.59) Q. With reference to 'palm oil', consider the following statements: (UPSC Prelims 2021)

1. The palm oil tree is native to Southeast Asia.
2. The palm oil is a raw material for some industries producing lipstick and perfumes.
3. The palm oil can be used to produce biodiesel.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

Statement 1: Incorrect

- Oil palm is **native to West Africa**, not Southeast Asia.
- Southeast Asia (Indonesia, Malaysia) are major producers due to later cultivation expansion.

Statement 2: Correct

- Palm oil is widely used in **cosmetics and personal care products** like lipsticks, soaps, and perfumes due to its stability and texture-enhancing properties.

Statement 3: Correct

- Palm oil is used as a **feedstock for biodiesel production**, making it important in biofuel industries.

Additional Info

- India is the **largest importer of palm oil**.
- Palm oil contributes **~60% of India's edible oil imports**.
- It is the **highest oil-yielding crop per hectare**.

Q.60) Which of the following is/are the

advantage/advantages of practising drip irrigation? (IAS 2016)

1. Reduction in weed
2. Reduction in soil salinity
3. Reduction in soil erosion

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

Explanation:

Statement 1: Reduction in weed — Correct

- Drip irrigation supplies water **directly to the root zone** of plants.
- Areas between plants remain dry, which **prevents weed growth**.
- Hence, weed infestation is reduced.

Statement 2: Reduction in soil salinity — Incorrect

- Drip irrigation does **not automatically reduce soil salinity**.
- Since water is applied only near roots, **salts may accumulate in surrounding dry areas**.
- Proper leaching is required; otherwise, salinity can increase locally.

Statement 3: Reduction in soil erosion — Correct

- Water is applied **slowly and in controlled amounts**.
- This prevents runoff and **reduces soil erosion**, unlike flood irrigation.

Q.61) In India, the term "Public Key Infrastructure" is used in the context of (2020)

- A. Digital security infrastructure
- B. Food security infrastructure
- C. Health care and education infrastructure
- D. Telecommunication and transportation infrastructure

Answer: A

Q.62) Consider the following activities: (UPSC/2025)

- I. Production of crude oil

- II. Refining, storage and distribution of petroleum
- III. Marketing and sale of petroleum products
- IV. Production of natural gas

How many of the above activities are regulated by the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board in our country?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- The **Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB)** regulates **downstream activities** in the petroleum and natural gas sector.

Statement-wise analysis:

I. Production of crude oil (Incorrect)

- Not regulated by PNGRB
- Falls under upstream sector (handled by Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas / other agencies)

II. Refining, storage and distribution of petroleum (Correct)

- These are downstream activities
- Clearly regulated by PNGRB

III. Marketing and sale of petroleum products (Correct)

- PNGRB regulates these activities

IV. Production of natural gas (Incorrect)

- Also, an upstream activity
- Explicitly excluded from PNGRB's mandate

Environment & Ecology – Disaster Management

Q.63) Consider the following statements in respect of Trade Related Analysis of Fauna and Flora in Commerce (TRAFFIC):

1. TRAFFIC is a bureau under the United Nations Environment Programme

(UNEP).

2. The mission of TRAFFIC is to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature.

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

Explanation:

Q.64) Biodiversity forms the basis for human existence in the following ways:

1. Soil formation
2. Prevention of soil erosion
3. Recycling of waste
4. Pollination of crops

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

- Biodiversity is fundamental to human existence because it provides essential ecosystem services that sustain life.

1. Soil formation — Correct

- Soil organisms such as bacteria, fungi, and earthworms break down organic matter and help in weathering of rocks. This process contributes to soil formation and improves soil fertility.

2. Prevention of soil erosion — Correct

- Vegetation cover stabilizes the soil through root systems and organic matter, which bind soil particles together. This reduces soil erosion caused by wind and water.

3. Recycling of waste — Correct

- Microorganisms and decomposers break down organic waste and dead organisms, converting them into nutrients that are reused in ecosystems.

4. Pollination of crops — Correct

- Many plants depend on insects, birds, bats, and other animals for pollination. Pollination is essential for crop production and food security.

Q.65) Consider the following statements about PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana:

- It targets installation of one crore solar rooftop panels in the residential sector.
- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy aims to impart training on installation, operation, maintenance and repairs of solar rooftop systems at grassroots levels.
- It aims to create more than three lakhs skilled manpower through fresh skilling, and up-skilling, under scheme component of capacity building.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- I and II only
- I and III only
- II and III only
- I, II and III

Answer: A

Explanation:

Statement I – Correct

- PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana aims to promote rooftop solar installations for **one crore households** in the residential sector. Therefore, the statement is correct.

Statement II – Correct

- The scheme also focuses on **capacity building and training** related to installation, operation, maintenance and repair of rooftop solar systems at the grassroots level. Hence, this statement is correct.

Statement III – Incorrect

- The statement about creating **more than three lakh skilled manpower** is not accepted as correct in this question. This specific figure is not taken as part of the correct answer here.

Q.66) Which of the following organisms perform

waggle dance for others of their kin to indicate the direction and the distance to a source of their food? (IAS Prelims 2023)

- Butterflies
- Dragonflies
- Honeybees
- Wasps

Answer: C

Explanation:

- The **waggle dance** is a unique and sophisticated communication method used by **honeybees (Apis mellifera)** to inform other members of the hive about the **location of food sources**.

Key Features of Waggle Dance

1. Direction Indication

- The angle of the waggle run (relative to the vertical hive surface) shows the **direction of food with respect to the Sun**.

2. Distance Indication

- The **duration of the waggle phase** represents the distance:
 - Longer waggle → farther food source
 - Shorter waggle → nearer source

3. Pattern

- The bee moves in a **figure-eight pattern**, repeating waggle runs.

Scientific Importance

- This behavior was decoded by **Karl von Frisch**, who received the **Nobel Prize** for this discovery.

Q.67) The LPG cooking gas contains propane and butane as the constituents. A sulfur-containing compound is added to the LPG, because: (NDA-II/2016)

- it lowers the cost of production
- it enhances the efficiency of LPG
- it facilitates easy detection of leakage of the gas
- it assists in liquefying hydrocarbons

Answer: C

Q.68) With reference to Himalayan glaciers, consider the following pairs:

1. Siachen – Nubra Valley Region
2. Chungphar – Kumaon–Garhwal Region
3. Zemu – Central Nepal Region
4. Gasherbrum – Pir Panjal Range

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Answer: A

Q.69) Consider the following statements regarding Annual Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) report 2023–24 by the National Statistical Organisation (NSO):

1. The agriculture sector remains dominant in employment, with its share rising from about 44% in 2017–18 to about 46% in 2023–24.
2. The share of female workers in agriculture has increased during the period 2017–18 to 2023–24.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Q.70) The term 'Intended Nationally Determined Contributions' is sometimes seen in the news in the context of: (UPSC CSE 2016)

- A. Pledges made by European countries to rehabilitate refugees
- B. Plan of action outlined by countries to combat climate change
- C. Capital contributed to Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- D. Plan related to Sustainable Development Goals

Answer: B

Explanation:

What are INDCs?

- **Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) were:**
 - Climate action plans submitted by countries **before the Paris Agreement (2015).**
 - These plans outlined:
 - How each country intends to **reduce greenhouse gas emissions**
 - Measures for **adaptation to climate change**

Science & Technology

Q.71) With the present state of development, Artificial Intelligence can effectively do which of the following?

1. Bring down electricity consumption in industrial units
2. Create meaningful short stories and songs
3. Disease diagnosis
4. Text-to-Speech Conversion
5. Wireless transmission of electrical energy

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

Q.72) Which one of the following statements regarding digestion is correct? (CAPF 2018)

- A. Fat present in the food is digested by trypsin and chymotrypsin.
- B. Starch of food is digested by lipases.
- C. Fat of food is digested by lipases.
- D. Nucleic acid is digested by amylases.

Answer: C

Explanation:

Option (a) Incorrect

- Trypsin and chymotrypsin are **protein-digesting enzymes**. They help break proteins into smaller peptides. They do not digest fats.

Option (b) Incorrect

- Starch is a carbohydrate. It is digested mainly by **amylase**, not by lipases.

Option (c) Correct

- Fats are digested by **lipases**. These enzymes break fats into **fatty acids and glycerol**. Pancreatic lipase plays the main role in fat digestion.

Option (d) Incorrect

- Nucleic acids are digested by **nucleases**, not by amylases. Amylases act on carbohydrates like starch.

Site of Secretion	Digestive juice	Enzyme	Mode of action
Mouth	Saliva	Salivary amylase (ptyalin)	Converts starch into maltose
Stomach	Gastric juice	Pepsin	Converts proteins into peptones and proteoses
Duodenum	Bile juice	No Enzyme	Emulsification of fats
	Pancreatic juice	Trypsin	Converts peptones and small peptides into amino acids.
Small intestine	Intestinal juice	Erepsin	Converts peptones and small peptides into amino acids.
		Sucrase	Converts sucrose into glucose and fructose.
		Maltase	Converts maltose into glucose
		Lactase	Converts lactose into glucose and galactose.
		Lipase	Converts fats into fatty acids and glycerols.

Q.73) GPS-Aided Geo Augmented Navigation (GAGAN) uses a system of ground stations to provide necessary augmentation. Which of the following statements is/are correct in respect of GAGAN? (UPSC 2025)

- It is designed to provide additional accuracy and integrity.
- It will allow more uniform and high quality air traffic management.
- It will provide benefits only in aviation but not in other modes of transportation.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- I, II and III
- II and III only
- I only
- I and II only

Answer: D

Explanation:

About GAGAN

- GAGAN (GPS-Aided GEO Augmented**

Navigation) is India's Satellite Based Augmentation System (SBAS).

- Developed jointly by **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** and **Airports Authority of India**.
- It improves the accuracy of signals from **Global Positioning System** using ground reference stations and geostationary satellites.

Statement I: Correct

- GAGAN enhances **accuracy, integrity, and reliability** of GPS signals.
- Helps aircraft navigation during **approach and landing**.

Statement II: Correct

- Improves **Air Traffic Management (ATM)** by providing **precise position information**.
- Enables safer and more efficient routing of aircraft.

Statement III: Incorrect

- GAGAN is **not limited to aviation**.
- Other applications include:
 - Marine navigation
 - Land transportation
 - Precision agriculture
 - Disaster management
 - Surveying and mapping

Q.74) Consider the following space missions: (UPSC CSE 2025)

- Axiom-4
- SpaDeX
- Gaganyaan

How many of the space missions given above encourage and support micro-gravity research?

- Only one
- Only two
- All the three
- None

Answer: C

Explanation:

- Statement I – Axiom-4: Correct-** Axiom-4 is a private mission to the **International Space Station (ISS)**. ISRO has collaborated to send an

Indian astronaut (Gaganyatri), who will conduct **microgravity experiments** in space.

- **Statement II – SpaDeX: Correct** - SpaDeX (Space Docking Experiment) uses the **POEM platform (spent rocket stage)** as an orbital laboratory. It carries multiple payloads designed for **in-orbit microgravity research**, including experiments by academia and startups.
- **Statement III – Gaganyaan: Correct** - Gaganyaan, India's human spaceflight mission, aims to send astronauts to **Low Earth Orbit (LEO)** and provides opportunities for **microgravity-based scientific experiments**.
- Hence, all three missions support **micro-gravity research**.

Therefore, option (c) is correct.

Additional Information:

- **Microgravity research** helps in fields like **material science, biotechnology, medicine, and fluid dynamics**.
- ISRO is increasingly focusing on **space-based research ecosystems**, involving **private sector and academia**.

Government Policies

Q.75) Which one of the following is not a sub-index of the Ease of Doing Business Index prepared by the World Bank?(UPSC 2019)

- A. Maintenance of law and order
- B. Paying taxes
- C. Registering property
- D. Dealing with construction permits

Answer: A

Explanation:

- The **Ease of Doing Business Index** measured how easy it is to start and operate a business in different countries. It was based on several **sub-indicators related to business regulations**.

Important sub-indices included:

- **Starting a business**
- **Dealing with construction permits**

- **Getting electricity**
- **Registering property**
- **Getting credit**
- **Protecting minority investors**
- **Paying taxes**
- **Trading across borders**
- **Enforcing contracts**
- **Resolving insolvency**

Option A – Maintenance of law and order

- This is **not a component** of the Ease of Doing Business Index.
- The index focuses on **regulatory and procedural aspects of business operations**, not general law-and-order conditions.

Public Health

Q.76) With reference to Tuberculosis (TB), consider the following statements: (CDS-I, 2018)

Statement I: A person may suffer from tuberculosis if she/he frequently visits crowded places.

Statement II: Bacteria of tuberculosis spread through droplets by sneezing or coughing.

Which of the following is correct?

- A. Both the statements are individually true and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I
- B. Both the statements are individually true but Statement II is not the correct explanation of Statement I
- C. Statement I is true but Statement II is false
- D. Statement I is false but Statement II is true

Answer: A

Explanation

Statement I – Correct

- Crowded places increase the risk of TB transmission because more people share the same air.
- Poor ventilation leads to accumulation of infectious particles.

Statement II – Correct

- TB spreads through **airborne droplets** released when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or speaks.
- These droplets contain *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* bacteria.

Link between Statement I and II

- In crowded and poorly ventilated areas, infected droplets remain suspended in air for longer periods.
- This increases the probability of inhalation by healthy individuals.
- Hence, Statement II correctly explains Statement I.

APPSC MCQs

Q.77) The proposed “Justice City” in Amaravati aims to integrate which of the following institutions?

1. National Judicial Academy
2. Legal Services Authority
3. International Law University
4. Bar Council of India

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

The proposed “Justice City” in Amaravati aims to integrate multiple judicial and legal institutions. These include:

- National Judicial Academy
- Legal Services Authority
- Mediation Centre
- International Law University
- Bar Council of India
- Thus, all the given institutions are part of the proposed integrated judicial framework.

Q.78) With reference to measures for women’s safety in Andhra Pradesh, consider the following statements:

1. The State reported a 4.4% decline in crimes against women.
2. A sexual offender sheet mechanism has been proposed to monitor repeat offenders.
3. Equal property rights for women were first introduced at the national level by a recent constitutional amendment.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct – A 4.4% decline was reported.
- Statement 2 is correct – Sexual offender sheet monitoring was announced.
- Statement 3 is incorrect – Equal property rights were introduced in Andhra Pradesh earlier under N.T. Rama Rao, not by a recent constitutional amendment.

Q.79) Consider the following statements about the three Bills passed by the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly in March 2026:

1. The A.P. Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026 removes jail time for minor technical mistakes and replaces it with financial fines to improve the Ease of Doing Business.
2. The A.P. Fire Service (Amendment) Bill, 2026 officially makes the fire department an ‘Emergency Service’ and replaces No Objection Certificates (NOCs) with Fire Safety Certificates (FSCs).
3. The Public Services (Second Amendment) Bill, 2025 removes all exceptions and states that every government job must now be filled only through a competitive examination.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

Statement 1 – Correct

- The A.P. Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026 aims to improve the

business environment.

- It **decriminalizes minor technical offences** and replaces imprisonment with **monetary penalties**, supporting the goal of **Ease of Doing Business**.

Statement 2 – Correct

- The **A.P. Fire Service (Amendment) Bill, 2026** declares the fire department as an **Emergency Service**.
- It also replaces the earlier **NOC system with Fire Safety Certificates (FSCs)** to simplify regulatory procedures.

Statement 3 – Incorrect

- The **Public Services (Second Amendment) Bill, 2025** does not remove all exceptions.
- It actually **allows special exemptions from competitive examinations**, such as **compassionate appointments or cases approved by the Council of Ministers**.

Q.80) With reference to the draft Population Management Policy of Andhra Pradesh, consider the following statements:

1. The primary objective of the policy is to reduce the state's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) to below 1.5.
2. The policy proposes a “Poshana–Shiksha–Suraksha” package that provides free education up to age 18 for a family's third child.
3. Under the new policy, the state government plans to strictly enforce laws that disqualify individuals with more than two children from contesting local body elections.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

Statement 1 – Incorrect

- The policy does **not aim to reduce the TFR**.

- Instead, the objective is to **increase the Total Fertility Rate to about 2.1**, which is considered the **replacement level fertility**.

Statement 2 – Correct

- The draft policy proposes a “**Poshana–Shiksha–Suraksha**” package.
- It includes **nutritional support, education benefits, and social security measures**, including **free education up to 18 years for a family's third child**.

Statement 3 – Incorrect

- Earlier laws disqualified individuals with **more than two children from contesting local body elections**.
- The new policy proposes to **scrap or relax these disqualification provisions**, not enforce them.

Q.81) With reference to fertility trends in India, consider the following statements:

1. Replacement level fertility refers to a total fertility rate of 2.1 children per woman.
2. Andhra Pradesh currently has a fertility rate below the replacement level.
3. Declining fertility rates can lead to population ageing and shrinking workforce.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** Replacement level fertility is about **2.1 children per woman**.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** Andhra Pradesh has a **TFR of about 1.5**, below the replacement level.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** Low fertility leads to **population ageing and a declining workforce**, affecting economic productivity.

Q.82) With reference to Autonomous Maritime Systems, consider the following statements:

1. Unmanned Surface Vessels operate on the sea surface without onboard human crew.
2. Autonomous Underwater Vehicles are mainly used for seabed mapping and underwater reconnaissance.
3. Autonomous maritime technologies rely on Artificial Intelligence and advanced sensor systems.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** USVs are unmanned vessels operating on the sea surface.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** AUVs are used for underwater exploration, reconnaissance and seabed mapping.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** Autonomous maritime systems rely on AI, sensors and navigation technologies.

Q.83) With reference to the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), consider the following statements:

1. CISF functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. It was originally established to provide security to public sector industrial units.
3. CISF is responsible only for industrial security and has no role in aviation security.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** CISF operates under

the Ministry of Home Affairs.

- **Statement 2 – Correct:** The force was originally created to provide security for public sector industrial establishments.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect:** CISF also provides security at **airports, metro systems, and other critical infrastructure**, not only industrial units.

Q.84) With reference to Atukuri Molla, consider the following statements:

1. She is regarded as the first poetess (Adi Kavayitri) of Telugu literature.
2. She translated Valmiki's Ramayana into Telugu, known as Molla Ramayanam.
3. She belonged to a royal family in medieval Andhra.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** Atukuri Molla is honoured as the **Adi Kavayitri (first poetess) of Telugu literature**.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** She composed the **Molla Ramayanam**, a Telugu version of the Ramayana.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect:** She was born into a **potter's family**, not a royal family.

Q.85) With reference to the 'Araku Kouni' initiative, consider the following statements:

1. It is a tribal millet-based food menu launched in Andhra Pradesh.
2. The recipes are derived from indigenous communities of Alluri Sitarama Raju district.
3. The initiative aims to promote chemical-intensive agriculture in tribal regions.

How many of the above statements are

correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** ‘Araku Kouni’ is Andhra Pradesh’s **first tribal millet-based food menu**.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** Recipes were sourced from **tribal communities in Alluri Sitarama Raju district**.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect:** The initiative promotes **naturally grown millet crops without chemical fertilisers or pesticides**, not chemical-intensive farming.

Q.86) With reference to Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD), consider the following statements:

1. It is a highly contagious viral disease affecting livestock such as cattle and buffaloes.
2. The disease spreads through contaminated fodder, water, and contact with infected animals.
3. Foot-and-Mouth Disease primarily affects humans rather than animals.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** FMD is a **highly contagious viral disease affecting livestock** such as cattle and buffaloes.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** The disease spreads through **infected fodder, water, and contact with infected animals or contaminated materials**.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect:** FMD primarily affects **animals**, not humans.

Q.87) With reference to Hypertension, consider the following statements:

1. Hypertension is a communicable disease caused by bacterial infection.
2. It is often referred to as a “silent killer” due to lack of early symptoms.
3. High salt intake and sedentary lifestyle are risk factors for hypertension.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect:** Hypertension is a **non-communicable disease (NCD)**, not caused by infection.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:** It is called a “**silent killer**” because it may not show symptoms early.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** **High salt intake and sedentary lifestyle** are major risk factors.

Q.88) With reference to the Divyang Shakti Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It provides free bus travel to persons with more than 40% disability.
2. It covers only urban bus services.
3. Helpers are allowed to accompany beneficiaries under the scheme.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- Statement 1 – Correct
- Statement 2 – Incorrect (covers both urban and rural buses)
- Statement 3 – Correct

Q.89) With reference to Andhra Pradesh Festival 2026 (APF-2026), consider the following statements:

1. The festival will be held at Tummalapalli Kalakshetram in Vijayawada.
2. It focuses only on cultural performances without industry participation.
3. The event includes activities such as film festivals and multilingual poets' meet.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- Statement 1 – Correct. The festival will be held at Tummalapalli Kalakshetram in Vijayawada.
- Statement 2 – Incorrect (includes industry and policy discussions)
- Statement 3 – Correct. The event includes activities such as film festivals and multilingual poets' meet.

Q.90) The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is classified as which one of the following?

- A. Central Sector Scheme
- B. Centrally Sponsored Scheme
- C. State Sector Scheme
- D. Public-Private Partnership Scheme

Answer: B

Explanation:

The **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)**, implemented through **Anganwadi Services**, is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**.

- In this type of scheme, the **Central Government provides financial assistance**, while the **States/UTs are responsible for implementation**. The ICDS aims to improve the **health, nutrition and development of children (0–6 years), pregnant women and lactating mothers** through a package of services delivered at Anganwadi Centres.

Q.91) With reference to Alternanthera philoxeroides, an invasive alien species reported in India, which one of the following statements is correct?

- A. It is confined to marine ecosystems and estuarine environments
- B. It is an amphibious invasive species capable of colonising both aquatic and terrestrial habitats
- C. It is an endemic species used for ecological restoration in degraded lands
- D. It is restricted to arid and semi-arid regions of north-western India

Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Alternanthera philoxeroides (alligator weed)** is an **invasive alien species** characterised by its **amphibious nature**, enabling it to colonise both **aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems**.
- This ecological adaptability enhances its invasiveness, allowing it to spread rapidly across **wetlands, water bodies, agricultural lands and disturbed habitats**, thereby displacing native flora and affecting ecosystem functioning.

Q.92) With reference to Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), consider the following statements:

- I. The objective of Jal Jeevan Mission is to provide piped drinking water to every rural household.
- II. Under JJM 2.0, Panchayats have been entrusted with operation and maintenance of water supply systems.
- III. The mission has no role in improving women's socio-economic conditions.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement I – Correct:** JJM aims to provide **tap water connections to every rural household**.

- **Statement II – Correct:** Panchayats are responsible for **operation and maintenance (O&M)**.
- **Statement III – Incorrect:** JJM significantly improves **women’s lives by reducing water-fetching burden**.

Additional Information

- JJM launched in **2019**
- Focus shifted from **infrastructure creation to sustainability in JJM 2.0**
- Community participation is a **key pillar of the programme**

Q.93) With reference to VAHAN and SARATHI, consider the following statements:

1. VAHAN is a software for vehicle registration.
2. SARATHI is a software for issuing driving licences.
3. Both were developed by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) without any institutional support.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct. **VAHAN** is a software developed for **vehicle registration**.
- Statement 2 is correct. **SARATHI** is used for **driving licence services**.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. These softwares were developed and deployed by the **National Informatics Centre (NIC)** under the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways.

Hence, **option (a) is correct**.

Q.94) Andhra Pradesh State Handloom Weavers Co-operative Society Ltd. (APCO) received the SKOCH Award–2025 primarily for:

- A. Expanding cotton cultivation in Andhra Pradesh

- B. Exporting handloom products to global markets
- C. Digitisation initiatives such as computerised billing and e-commerce platforms
- D. Establishing textile manufacturing units in rural areas

Answer: C

Explanation:

APCO was recognised for its **digitisation initiatives**, including:

- Introduction of **computerised billing systems** for transparency and efficiency
- Adoption of **e-commerce platforms** to expand market access
- These measures improved operational efficiency and increased visibility of handloom products.

Q.95) With reference to indigenous seed conservation in Andhra Pradesh, consider the following statements:

1. The Soil and Seed Information Centre at Kiloguda conserves more than 300 indigenous seed varieties.
2. Indigenous seeds are less resilient to climate variability compared to hybrid seeds.
3. Jeevamrutam is used as a natural input in farming practices.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** The Kiloguda seed bank holds over **360 indigenous varieties**.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** Indigenous seeds are **more resilient** to climate variability.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:** Jeevamrutam is used as a **natural farming input**.