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Overall Analysis:

- 1. The Paper was **difficult** than last year and **cut-off will be low** in comparison to last year
- 2. The Paper was difficult not because the concepts were alien but because the **FACT**-**HEAVY** nature of the paper
- 3. Modern India did a COME-BACK this year.
- 4. Absurd Environment questions were absent Which is good.
- 5. The Paper was very **LENGHTY**.
- 6. UPSC made sure aspirants had the practice of CSAT paper in the first session itself
 - 1. Few Questions were as good as **READING COMPREHENSION**
 - 2. Few Questions required you to do MATH (Economy Questions)
- 7. The SUBJECTs that will help you clear the PRELIMS were this:-
 - 1. POLITY
 - 2. ECONOMY
 - 3. HISTORY & CULTURE
 - 4. GEOGRAPHY
- 8. Details on this over YOUTUBE VIDEO DISCUSSION

VQuestion 1

Q. Consider the following statements :

I. Panchayats at the intermediate level exist in all States.

II. To be eligible to be a Member of a Panchayat at the intermediate level, a person should attain the age of thirty years.

III. The Chief Minister of a State constitutes a commission to review the financial position of Panchayats at the intermediate levels and to make recommendations regarding the distribution of net proceeds of taxes and duties, leviable by the State, between the State and Panchayats at the intermediate level.

Which of the statements given above are *not* correct?

(a) I and II only (b) II and III only (c) I and III only (d) I, II and III $% \left({\left({L_{1}} \right)} \right)$

Answer: (d) I, II and III

Explanation \rightarrow

- I × Article 243B(2) says States with a population ≤ 20 lakh need not have an intermediate-level Panchayat. Hence such Panchayats do not exist in *all* States.
- II × The Constitution (Art. 243F) prescribes 21 years as the minimum age to contest Panchayat elections, not 30 years.
- III × A State Finance Commission is appointed by the Governor, not the Chief Minister, to review Panchayat finances every five years (Art. 243-I).

V Question 2

Q. Consider the following statements in respect of BIMSTEC :

I. It is a regional organization consisting of seven member States till January 2025.

II. It came into existence with the signing of the Dhaka Declaration, 1999.

III. Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Nepal are founding member States of BIMSTEC.

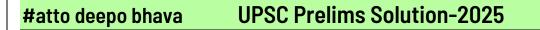
IV. In BIMSTEC, the subsector of 'tourism' is being led by India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) I and II (b) II and III (c) I and IV (d) I only

🗹 Answer: (d) I only

- I ☑ BIMSTEC presently has seven members: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.
- II × The grouping began with the Bangkok Declaration of 1997; the Dhaka Summit (1999) was not its founding instrument.
- III × Nepal joined only in 2004; it is not a founding member.
- IV × Nepal is the lead country for Tourism (along with Transport & Communication, Environment & Disaster Management, and Counter-Terrorism).



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🔽 Question 3

Q. Who amongst the following are members of the Jury to select the recipient of 'Gandhi Peace Prize'?

- I. The President of India
- II. The Prime Minister of India
- III. The Chief Justice of India
- IV. The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha
- Select the correct answer using the code given below.
- (a) II and IV only (b) I, II and III (c) II, III and IV (d) I and III only
- **V Answer:** (c) II, III and IV

@¹ **Explanation**:

The five-member jury is chaired by the **Prime Minister**, with the **Chief Justice of India** and the **Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha** as ex-officio members, plus two eminent persons. The President is **not** part of the jury.

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VQuestion 4

Q. 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?

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) I, II and III (b) II and III only (c) I only (d) I and II only

🗹 Answer: (d) I and II only

Q explanation:

- I V AAI notes that GAGAN "is designed to provide additional accuracy, availability and integrity."
- II The same source states it will enable uniform, high-quality Air Traffic
 Management (ATM) across Indian airspace.
- III × ISRO highlights that GAGAN will also aid maritime, road, rail and other sectors, not just aviation.

VQuestion 5

Q. Consider the following statements regarding AI Action Summit held in Grand Palais, Paris in February 2025 :

I. Co-chaired with India, the event builds on the advances made at the Bletchley Park Summit held in 2023 and the Seoul Summit held in 2024.

II. Along with other countries, US and UK also signed the declaration on inclusive and sustainable AI.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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(a) I only (b) II only (c) Both I and II (d) Neither I nor II

Answer: (a) I only

- I ☑ The 2025 AI Action Summit was co-chaired by French President Macron and Indian PM Modi and followed the UK's Bletchley Park (2023) and Seoul (2024) AI summits.
- II × The US and UK *refused* to sign the Paris declaration on inclusive and sustainable AI.

🗹 Question 6

Q. Consider the following pairs :

Pair	UN-declared International Year	Designated Year
Ι	International Year of the Woman Farmer	2026
II	International Year of Sustainable & Resilient Tourism	2027
III	International Year of Peace & Trust	2025
IV	International Year of Asteroid Awareness & Planetary Defence	2029

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (d) All the four

₽≟♀ Explanation:

- Woman Farmer 2026 UNGA adopted a resolution in 2024 proclaiming 2026 as the International Year of the Woman Farmer.
- Sustainable & Resilient Tourism 2027 UNGA resolution of 2024 declares 2027 for this theme.
- Peace & Trust 2025 Resolution A/RES/78/266 (21 Mar 2024) proclaims 2025 the International Year of Peace and Trust.

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Asteroid Awarenes	ss & Planetary Defence 2029 – UN proclamation (I	Dec 2024)
designates 2029 fo	r this cause.	
V Question 7		
Q. Consider the following	statements with regard to BRICS :	
I. 16th BRICS Summit was	held under the Chairmanship of Russia in Kazan.	
II. Indonesia has become a	full member of BRICS.	
III. The theme of the 16th H	3R <mark>ICS Summit was</mark> Strengthening Multiculturalism fo	or Just Global
Development and Security.		
Which of the statements gi	v <mark>en above is/are corre</mark> ct?	
(a) I and II (b) II and III (c <mark>) I and III (d) I only</mark>	
Answer: (a) I and II onl	y	
♥↓♥ Explanation:		
• • • •		
• I 🗹 – The 16th BRI	ICS Summit (22-24 Oct 2024) was indeed hosted by	Russia at
Kazan.		
• II 🔽 – Indonesia's	full membership was formalised in January 2025,	expanding
BRICS to 10 memb		
• III 🗙 – The official	theme was "Strengthening <i>Multilateralism</i> for Ju	ıst Global
	Security," not multiculturalism.	
2000pmont and		

V Question 8

Q. Consider the following statements about Lokpal :

I. The power of Lokpal applies to public servants of India, but not to the Indian public servants posted outside India.

II. The Chairperson or a Member shall not be a Member of Parliament or State Legislature, and only the Chief Justice of India, whether incumbent or retired, has to be its Chairperson.

III. The Chairperson or a Member shall not be a person of less than 45 years of age on the date of assuming office as Chairperson or member, as the case may be.

IV. Lokpal cannot inquire into allegations of corruption against a sitting Prime Minister of India.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) III only (b) II and III (c) I and IV (d) None of the above statements is correct

🗹 Answer: (a) III only

Q explanation:

- I × Section 1(3) of the Lokpal & Lokayuktas Act, 2013 explicitly states it applies to public servants in and outside India.
- II × While MPs/MLAs are barred, the Chairperson can be (i) a present/former CJI or (ii) a present/former SC judge or (iii) an eminent person with anti-corruption expertise. Hence it is not limited to CJIs.
- III The Act mandates a minimum age of 45 years for both Chairperson and Members.
- IV × Lokpal can inquire into a sitting Prime Minister, subject to safeguards (e.g., matters of national security are excluded).

🔽 Question 9

Q. Consider the following statements in respect of the first Kho Kho World Cup :

I. The event was held in Delhi, India.

II. Indian men beat Nepal with a score of 78–40 in the final to become the World Champion in men category.

III. Indian women beat Nepal with a score of 54–36 in the final to become the World Champion in women category.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) I only (b) II and III only (c) I and III only (d) I, II and III

🗹 Answer: (a) I only

@≟@ Explanation:

- I ☑ The inaugural World Cup (13-19 Jan 2025) took place at Indira Gandhi Indoor Arena, New Delhi.
- II × In the **men's final**, India beat Nepal **54–36** (not 78–40).

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• III × – In the women's final, India defeated Nepal 78–40 (not 54–36).

🗹 Question 10

Q. Consider the following statements :

I. In the finals of the 45th Chess Olympiad held in 2024, Gukesh Dommaraju became the world's youngest winner after defeating the Russian player Ian Nepomniachtchi.

II. Abhimanyu Mishra, an American chess player, holds the record of becoming the world's youngest ever Grandmaster.

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: (b) II only

- I × The Chess Olympiad is a team event; there is no individual "final." India won team gold in Budapest-2024, but Gukesh did not face Ian Nepomniachtchi there. Gukesh's youthful record pertains to winning the 2024 Candidates Tournament and later the World Championship, not an Olympiad final.
- II Abhimanyu Mishra became a Grandmaster at 12 years 4 months 25 days, the youngest ever.

VQuestion 11

Q. Consider the following statements :

Statement I : Some rare-earth elements are used in the manufacture of flat-television screens and computer monitors.

Statement II : Some rare-earth elements have phosphorescent properties.

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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 explains Statement I
- (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct but Statement II does not explain Statement I
- (c) Statement I is correct but Statement II is not correct
- (d) Statement I is not correct but Statement II is correct

Answer: (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I

Explanation: Europium, terbium and other rare-earths are valued for the

phosphorescent/fluorescent properties of their oxides and salts; these phosphors give the red-green-blue pixels in flat-panel TVs and monitors, which is *why* such elements are used in their manufacture.

🗹 Question 12

Q. Consider the following statements :

I. Indian Railways have prepared a National Rail Plan (NRP) to create a 'future-ready' railway system by 2028.

II. 'Kavach' is an Automatic Train Protection system developed in collaboration with Germany.III. The 'Kavach' system consists of RFID tags fitted on track in station section.

Which of the statements given above are **not** correct? (a) I and II only (b) II and III only (c) I and III only (d) I, II and III

🗹 Answer: (d) I, II and III

♥▲♥ Explanation:

- IX The National Rail Plan targets a *future-ready network by 2030*, not 2028.
- II × 'Kavach' is indigenously designed by RDSO/Indian Railways; no German collaboration.
- III × Kavach deploys **RFID tags along the entire track length** (every ~1 km and at critical points), not just "in station section."

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VQuestion 13

Q. Consider the following space missions :

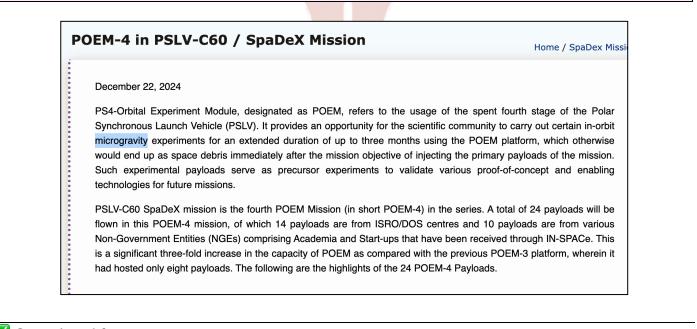
- I. Axiom-4
- II. SpaDeX
- III. Gaganyaan

How many of the above missions actively encourage and support micro-gravity research? (a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All the three (d) None

Answer: (c) All the three

🌳 📥 🌳 Explanation:

- **Axiom-4** A private ISS mission specifically designed for micro-gravity experiments.
- **Gaganyaan** ISRO's human-spaceflight programme includes on-board micro-gravity research payloads.
- **SpaDeX:** While primarily a technology demonstrator for autonomous docking, SpaDeX also facilitated microgravity experiments through the POEM-4 platform, which allows for extended-duration microgravity research.



VQuestion 14

Q. With reference to India's defence, consider the following pairs :

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Pair	Aircraft type	Description
Ι	Dornier-228	Maritime patrol aircraft
II	IL-76	Supersonic combat aircraft
III	C-17 Globemaster III	Military transport aircraft

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched? (a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All the three (d) None

🗹 Answer: (b) Only two

@≟♥ Explanation:

- Dornier-228 → Maritime patrol used by Indian Navy/Coast Guard for coastal surveillance.
- **IL-76** → **Heavy transport**, not a supersonic combat aircraft (max speed ≈ 900 km/h, sub-sonic).
- C-17 Globemaster III \rightarrow Strategic military transport heavy-lift air-transporter.

Thus, Pairs I and III are correct \rightarrow **two** correct matches.

VQuestion 15

Q. An artificial way of causing rainfall to reduce air pollution makes use of

- (a) silver iodide and potassium iodide
- (b) silver nitrate and potassium iodide
- (c) silver iodide and potassium nitrate
- (d) silver nitrate and potassium chloride

Answer: (a) silver iodide and potassium iodide

Explanation: Cloud-seeding operations typically disperse **silver iodide (primary ice-nucleating agent) and sometimes potassium iodide** into clouds to induce precipitation, thereby washing out airborne pollutants.

VQuestion 16

Q. Consider the following statements with regard to the pardoning power of the President of India :

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I. The exercise of this power by the President can be subjected to limited judicial review.

II. The President can exercise this power without the advice of the Central Government.

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: (a) I only

$\mathbf{Q}_{\mathbf{A}}$ **Explanation**:

- Statement I ☑ SC rulings (e.g., Epuru Sudhakar v. AP, Kehar Singh v. Union of India) affirm that the President's clemency orders are open to limited judicial review on grounds such as mala-fide, arbitrariness, or irrelevance.
- Statement II × Under Article 74, the President exercises all functions only on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers; clemency is no exception.

VQuestion 17

Q. Consider the following statements :

I. On the dissolution of the House of the People, the Speaker shall not vacate his/her office until immediately before the first meeting of the House of the People after the dissolution.

II. According to the provisions of the Constitution of India, a Member of the House of the People on being elected as Speaker shall resign from his/her political party immediately.

III. The Speaker of the House of the People may be removed from his/her office by a resolution of the House of the People passed by a majority of all the then Members of the House, provided that no resolution shall be moved unless at least fourteen days' notice has been given of the intention to move the resolution.

Which of the statements given above are correct? (a) I and II only (b) II and III only (c) I and III only (d) I, II and III

🗹 Answer: (c) I and III only

🌳 🕹 🌳 Explanation:

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- I ☑ Second proviso to Article 94 states that the Speaker continues in office till immediately before the first sitting of the next Lok Sabha.
- II × Paragraph 5 of the Tenth Schedule only *permits* the newly-elected Speaker to resign from the party (so that the anti-defection clause will not apply), it **does not** mandate an immediate resignation.
- III Article 94(c) & its proviso lay down removal by an effective majority with 14day notice.

Question 18

Q. Consider the following statements :

I. If any question arises as to whether a Member of the House of the People has become subject to disqualification under the 10th Schedule, the President's decision in accordance with the opinion of the Council of Union Ministers shall be final.

II. There is no mention of the word *"political party"* in the Constitution of India.

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: (d) Neither I nor II

@¹ @ Explanation:

- I × For defection cases, the Speaker/Chairman of the House decides (Tenth Schedule ¶ 6). The President decides only under Article 102 matters like office of profit.
- II × The term "political party" repeatedly occurs in the Tenth Schedule (e.g., ¶ 2, ¶ 5).

🗹 Question 19

Consider the following statements:

Statement I: In India, State Governments have no power for making rules for grant of concessions in respect of extraction of minor minerals even though such minerals are located in their territories.

Statement II: In India, the Central Government has the power to notify minor minerals under the relevant law.

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

- (a) Both I and II are correct and II explains I
- (b) Both I and II are correct but II does not explain I
- (c) Statement I is correct but Statement II is not correct
- (d) Statement I is not correct but Statement II is correct

Answer: (d) Statement I is not correct but Statement II is correct.

🌳 📥 🌳 Explanation:

- Section 15, MMDR Act 1957 authorises State Governments to frame rules for granting leases and other concessions for *minor minerals* → Statement I is wrong.
- Section 3(e), MMDR Act 1957 empowers the Central Government to notify which minerals are treated as "minor minerals." → Statement II is correct.

VQuestion 20

Q. Which organization has enacted the *Nature Restoration Law (NRL)* to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss?

- (a) The European Union
- (b) The World Bank
- (c) The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
- (d) The Food and Agriculture Organization

🗹 Answer: (a) The European Union

Explanation: The **European Union** adopted the landmark *Nature Restoration Regulation/Law* on 17 June 2024; it entered into force on 18 Aug 2024, setting binding targets to restore at least 20 % of the EU's land and sea ecosystems.

🗹 Question 21

Q. *"Sedition has become my religion"* was the famous statement given by Gandhiji at the time of—

- (a) the Champaran Satyagraha
- (b) publicly violating Salt Law at Dandi

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- (c) attending the Second Round Table Conference in London
- (d) the launch of the Quit India Movement

🗹 Answer: (b) publicly violating Salt Law at Dandi

Q explanation:

• On 6 April 1930, after picking up a handful of salt at Dandi to inaugurate the Civil Disobedience Movement, Gandhi declared: *"The British rule ... is a curse ... I am out to destroy this system ... Sedition has become my religion.*

VQuestion 22

Q. The famous female figurine known as "Dancing Girl," found at Mohenjo-daro, is made of—

- (a) carnelian
- (b) clay
- (c) bronze
- (d) gold

🔽 Answer: (c) bronze

Qie Explanation:

The 10.5-cm *Dancing Girl* is a masterpiece of lost-wax **bronze** casting from the Indus Valley civilisation.

VQuestion 23

Q. Who provided legal defence to the people arrested in the aftermath of the Chauri

Chaura incident?

- (a) C. R. Das
- (b) Madan Mohan Malaviya and Krishna Kant
- (c) Dr Saifuddin Kitchlew and Khwaja Hasan Nizami
- (d) M. A. Jinnah

🗹 Answer: (b) Madan Mohan Malaviya and Krishna Kant

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@[▲]**€** Explanation:

During the appeal hearings, Madan Mohan Malaviya, assisted by his son Krishna Kant

Malaviya, argued the case, securing commutations for many of the accused.

VQuestion 24

Q. Subsequent to which one of the following events did Gandhiji decide to include the upliftment of *'Harijans'* in his political and social programme?

(a) The Poona Pact

- (b) The Gandhi-Irwin Agreement (Delhi Pact)
- (c) Arrest of Congress leadership at the time of the Quit India Movement
- (d) Promulgation of the Government of India Act, 1935

🗹 Answer: (a) The Poona Pact

♥▲♥ Explanation:

After the **Poona Pact (Sept 1932)** and his fast unto death, Gandhi launched the *All-India Anti-Untouchability League* (later Harijan Sevak Sangh) and made Harijan uplift his central mission.

VQuestion 25

Q. Consider the following fruits:

I. Papaya II. Pineapple III. Guava

How many of the above were introduced in India by the Portuguese in the sixteenth and

seventeenth centuries?

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

🗹 Answer: (c) All the three

🌳 🕹 🌳 Explanation:

All three—**papaya**, **pineapple and guava**—are New-World crops that reached India via Portuguese traders in the 16-17 th centuries.

VQuestion 26

Q. Consider the following countries:

I. United Kingdom

II. Denmark

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III. New Zealand

IV. Australia

V. Brazil

How many of the above countries have more than four time zones?

(a) All the five (b) Only four (c) Only three (d) Only two

Answer: (b) Only four

Country	Total time zones*	> 4?	Notes
United Kingdom	9		Overseas territories from Pitcairn (UTC-8) to BIOT (UTC+6)
Denmark	5		Mainland + Faroe Islands + 3 Greenland zones
New Zealand	5		NZ mainland, Chatham Is., Tokelau, Cook Is., Niue
Australia	9		Mainland 3, Lord Howe, Norfolk, Christmas, Cocos, etc.
Brazil	4	×	Mainland spans four zones since 2019

Reference: <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_time_zones_by_country</u>

VQuestion 27

Q. Consider the following statements :

I. Anadyr in Siberia and Nome in Alaska are a few kilometres from each other, but when people are waking up and getting set for breakfast in these cities, it would be different days.

II. When it is Monday in Anadyr, it is Tuesday in Nome.

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

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🗹 Answer: (a) I only

@¹ @ Explanation:

Date & time (II): Anadyr is UTC + 12 h while Nome (in summer) is UTC - 8 h—a 20-hour gap. Thus when it is *Monday morning* in Anadyr, it is still Sunday in Nome, not *Tuesday*.

VQuestion 28

Q. Who among the following was the founder of the 'Self-Respect Movement'?

- (a) 'Periyar' E. V. Ramaswamy Naicker
- (b) Dr B. R. Ambedkar
- (c) Bhaskarrao Jadhav
- (d) Dinkarrao Javalkar

🗹 Answer: (a) 'Periyar' E. V. Ramaswamy Naicker

$\mathbf{\Phi} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{\Phi}$ Explanation:

The **Self-Respect Movement** was started in 1925 under the leadership of **E. V. Ramasamy** ('Periyar') to promote social equality and challenge caste hierarchies in Tamil Nadu.

VQuestion 29

Q. Consider the following pairs -

Country	Resource-rich in
I. Botswana	Diamond
II. Chile	Lithium
III. Indonesia	Nickel

In how many of the above rows is the given information correctly matched? (a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All the three (d) None

Answer: (c) All the three

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♀▲♀ Explanation:

- **Botswana** \rightarrow **Diamond:** World's leading producer by value.
- Chile \rightarrow Lithium: Holds the largest reserves and is among the top two producers.
- Indonesia \rightarrow Nickel: Currently the largest global nickel producer.

Hence all three matches are correct.

Question 30

Q. Consider the following pairs -

Region	Country
I. Mallorca	Italy
II. Normandy	Spain
III. Sardinia	France

In how many of the above rows is the given information correctly matched? (a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All the three (d) None

🗹 Answer: (d) None

🖗 🕹 🌳 Explanation:

- Mallorca is part of the Balearic Islands of Spain, not Italy.
- Normandy is a historic region in north-west France, not Spain.
- Sardinia is an island region of *Italy*, not France.

VQuestion 31

Q. Suppose the revenue expenditure is \gtrless 80,000 crore and the revenue receipts of the Government are \gtrless 60,000 crore. The budget also shows borrowings of \gtrless 10,000 crore and interest payments of \gtrless 6,000 crore. Which of the following statements are correct?

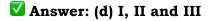
I. Revenue deficit is ₹ 20,000 crore.

- II. Fiscal deficit is ₹ 10,000 crore.
- III. Primary deficit is ₹ 4,000 crore.

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(a) I and II only (b) II and III only (c) I and III only (d) I, II and III



🌳 🙏 🌳 Explanation:

- Revenue deficit = Revenue expenditure Revenue receipts
 → 80,000 60,000 = ₹ 20,000 crore
- Fiscal deficit = Total Expenditure Total Receipts(Includes borrowings)
 → shown as ₹ 10,000 crore
- Primary deficit = Fiscal deficit Interest payments
 → 10,000 6,000 = ₹ 4,000 crore

🗹 Question 32

Q. India is one of the founding members of the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), a multimodal corridor, which will connect:

- (a) India to Central Asia to Europe via Iran
- (b) India to Central Asia via China
- (c) India to South-East Asia through Bangladesh and Myanmar
- (d) India to Europe through Azerbaijan

V Answer: (a) India \rightarrow Central Asia \rightarrow Europe via Iran

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🌳 🙏 🌳 Explanation:

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🔽 Question 33

Consider the following statements :

Statement I: Of the two major ethanol producers in the world, i.e., Brazil and the United States of America, the former produces more ethanol than the latter.

Statement II: Unlike in the United States of America where corn is the principal feed-stock for ethanol production, sugarcane is the principal feed-stock for ethanol production in Brazil.

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

- (a) Both I and II are correct and II explains I
- (b) Both I and II are correct but II does not explain I
- (c) Statement I is correct but Statement II is not correct
- (d) Statement I is not correct but Statement II is correct

Answer: (d) Statement I is not correct but Statement II is correct

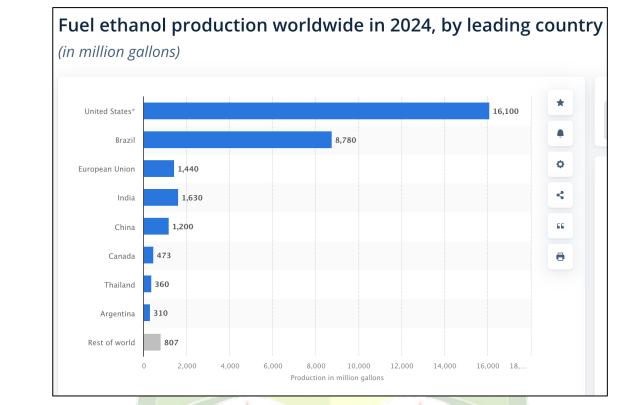
$\mathbf{Q} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{Q}$ Explanation:

- ■ USA is actually **the largest ethanol producer**; Brazil is second → I ×.
- Static Brazil indeed relies mainly on **sugarcane**, whereas the USA uses **corn** \rightarrow **II** \checkmark .

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🗹 Question 34

The World Bank warned that India could become one of the first places where wet-bulb temperatures routinely exceed 35 °C. Which of the following statements best reflect(s) the implication of the above-said report?

I. Peninsular India will most likely suffer from flooding, tropical cyclones and droughts.II. The survival of animals including humans will be affected as shedding of their body heat through perspiration becomes difficult.

 Select the correct answer:

 (a) I only
 (b) II only
 (c) Both I and II
 (d) Neither I nor II

🗹 Answer: (b) II only

Q¹ **Explanation**:

A wet-bulb temperature \geq 35 °C is physiologically lethal because evaporation of sweat ceases, endangering humans and animals. It does not directly predict floods/cyclones.

VQuestion 35

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A country's fiscal deficit stands at ₹ 50,000 crore. It is receiving ₹ 10,000 crore through non-debt-creating capital receipts. The country's interest liabilities are ₹ 1,500 crore. What is the gross primary deficit?

(a) ₹ 48,500 crore (b) ₹ 51,500 crore (c) ₹ 58,500 crore (d) None of the above

V Answer: (a) ₹ 48,500 crore

$\mathbf{Q} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{Q}$ Explanation:

Primary deficit = Fiscal deficit - Interest payments

= 50,000 – 1,500 = **₹ 48,500 crore**. (Non-debt capital receipts are already netted while deriving fiscal deficit.)

VQuestion 36

Q. Which of the following statements with regard to recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission of India are correct?

I. It has recommended grants of ₹ 4,800 crore from 2022-23 to 2025-26 for incentivising States to enhance educational outcomes.

II. 45 % of the net proceeds of Union taxes are to be shared with States.

III. ₹ 45,000 crore are to be kept as performance-based incentive for all States for carrying out agricultural reforms.

IV. It re-introduced tax-effort criterion to reward fiscal performance.

- (a) I, II and III
- (b) I, II and IV
- (c) I, III and IV
- (d) II, III and IV
- 🗹 Answer: (c) I, III and IV

Q explanation:

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- **I** ✓ The Commission earmarked ₹ **4,800 crore** (₹ 1,200 crore a year) for school-
- education performance grants to States (2022-23 \rightarrow 2025-26).
- II × It retained States' vertical share at **41** %, not 45 %.
- III **V** A **₹ 45,000 crore** agriculture-reform incentive pool was recommended.
- **IV** ✓ The report **re-introduced a "tax-effort" criterion** to reward States that mobilise higher own-tax revenues.

VQuestion 37

Q. Consider the following statements in respect of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD):

I. It provides loans and guarantees to middle-income countries.

II. It works single-handedly to help developing countries reduce poverty.

III. It was established to help Europe rebuild after World War II.

- (a) I and II only
- (b) II and III only
- (c) I and III only
- (d) I, II and III

🗹 Answer: (c) I and III only

$\mathbf{Q}_{\mathbf{A}}$ **Explanation**:

- I 🔽 IBRD lends to credit-worthy middle-income & select low-income countries.
- II × It is part of the World Bank Group, not a lone agency.
- III – Created (1944) chiefly to reconstruct war-ravaged Europe post-WW-II before widening its mandate.

Question 38

Q. Consider the following statements in respect of RTGS and NEFT:

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I. In RTGS, the settlement time is instantaneous, while in NEFT it takes some time.

II. In RTGS, the customer is charged for inward transactions, while that is not the case for NEFT.

III. Operating hours for RTGS are restricted on certain days, while this is not true for NEFT.

- (a) I only
- (b) I and II
- (c) I and III
- (d) III only

🗹 Answer: (a) I only

Q Explanation:

- I S RTGS is real-time & gross; NEFT settles in half-hourly batches.
- II × Inward transactions are free for *both* RTGS & NEFT.
- III × Since Dec 2020, RTGS as well as NEFT operate 24 × 7 × 365.

VQuestion 39

Q. Consider the following countries:

I. United Arab Emirates II. France III. Germany IV. Singapore V. Bangladesh

How many of the above, other than India, currently permit international merchant payments accepted via UPI?

| (a) Only two | (b) Only three | (c) Only four | (d) All the five |

🗹 Answer: (b) Only three

Q Explanation:

- **UAE** UPI QR payments live at Dubai Duty-Free & other merchants.
- France First European nation to enable UPI (Eiffel Tower & expanding).
- **Singapore** NETS/Liquid Group terminals accept UPI QR.

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• **Germany & Bangladesh** – No merchant-level UPI acceptance yet announced. Hence **three** countries.

Question 40

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

I. It targets installation of one crore solar-rooftop panels in the residential sector.

II. The Ministry of New & Renewable Energy aims to impart training on installation, operation, maintenance and repair of rooftop systems at the grassroots.

III. It aims to create more than three lakh skilled manpower through fresh skilling and upskilling under the capacity-building component.

- (a) I and Il only
- (b) I and III only
- (c) II and III only
- (d) I, Il and Ill
- 🗹 Answer: (d) I, II and III

🌳 🦾 🌳 Explanation:

- I ✓ Scheme vision: 1 crore residential rooftop systems providing up to 300 units free electricity.
- II 🔽 MNRE's operational guidelines include grass-roots training for install/O&M.
- III ✓ Capacity-building guidelines set a target of > 3 lakh skilled personnel (fresh + up-skilling).

VQuestion 41

Q. With reference to the Indian polity, consider the following statements:

I. An Ordinance can amend any Central Act.

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II. An Ordinance can abridge a Fundamental Right.

III. An Ordinance can come into effect from a back date.

Which of the statements given above are correct? (a) I and II only (b) II and III only (c) I and III only (d) I, II and III

Answer: (c) I and III only

$\mathbf{Q}_{\mathbf{A}}$ **Explanation**:

- Ordinance-making power (Art. 123/213) gives the President/Governor the same legislative competence as Parliament/State legislature with respect to ordinary laws. Hence an Ordinance can amend or repeal a Central Act just like an ordinary Bill → Statement I √
- However, an Ordinance cannot violate or abridge Fundamental Rights; any such provision would be ultra-vires the Constitution (SC: *RC Cooper, Minerva Mills*) →
 Statement II ×
- Parliament may enact (and therefore the President may promulgate) laws with
 retrospective effect unless the Constitution expressly prohibits it; Ordinances have
 the same character → Statement III √

🗹 Question 42

Q. Consider the following pairs:

State	Description
I. Arunachal	The capital is named after a fort, and the State has two National Parks
Pradesh	TINCCTROO
II. Nagaland	The State came into existence on the basis of a Constitutional Amendment Act
III. Tripura	Initially a Part 'C' State, it became a centrally-administered territory with the reorganisation of States in 1956 and later attained the status of a full-fledged State

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched? (a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All the three (d) None

🗹 Answer: (b) Only two

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Q explanation:

- Arunachal Pradesh ✓ The capital *Itanagar* is named after the 15-century Ita Fort; the State indeed hosts Namdapha & Mouling National Parks.
- Nagaland X Carved out through the State of Nagaland Act, 1962 (ordinary statute under Art. 3), *not* by a Constitutional Amendment.
- Tripura ✓ Started as a Part-C State; became a Union Territory in 1956 (States Reorganisation Act) and a full State on 21 Jan 1972 (North-Eastern Areas Reorganisation Act).

 State of Nagaland Act, 1962
 Formed the new State of Nagaland (16th state) by taking out the Naga Hills – Tuensang Area from the State of Assam. The Naga Hills – Tuensang Area was a tribal area of Assam specified in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

🗹 Question 43

Q. With reference to India, consider the following:

- I. The Inter-State Council
- II. The National Security Council
- III. Zonal Councils

How many of the above were established as per the provisions of the Constitution of India? (a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All the three (d) None

🗹 Answer: (a) Only one

$\mathbf{Q} \mathbf{A} \mathbf{Q}$ Explanation:

- Inter-State Council is specifically provided for in Article 263 of the Constitution (though set up in 1990).
- Zonal Councils derive from Part-III of the States Re-organisation Act, 1956, not the Constitution.

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• National Security Council was created by executive order in 1998.

Therefore, only *one* of the three bodies is constitutional in origin.

VQuestion 44

Q. Consider the following statements:

I. The Constitution of India explicitly mentions that in certain spheres the Governor of a State acts in his/her own discretion.

II. The President of India can, of his/her own, reserve a Bill passed by a State Legislature for his/her consideration without it being forwarded by the Governor of the State concerned.

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: (a) I only

$\mathbf{Q}_{\mathbf{A}}$ **Explanation**:

- Statement I ✓ Articles 163(1) (proviso), 371, 371A–H, Fifth & Sixth Schedules expressly give the Governor *discretion* in specified matters.
- Statement II × Under Article 200, a Bill can reach the President only through the Governor's reservation; the President cannot unilaterally pull up a State Bill.

🗹 Question 45

Q. Consider the following pairs:

Provision in the Constitution of India	Stated under
I. Separation of judiciary from the executive in the public	The Directive Principles of
services of the State	State Policy
II. Valuing and preserving the rich heritage of our composite	The Fundamental Duties
culture	
III. Prohibition of employment of children below the age of 14	The Fundamental Rights
years in factories	

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched? (a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All the three (d) None

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Q Explanation:

- Pair I ✓ Article 50 (Directive Principles) mandates separation of judiciary from the executive.
- Pair II $\sqrt{-}$ Article 51A(f) in Fundamental Duties.
- Pair III ✓ Article 24 in Fundamental Rights prohibits child labour in factories, mines, etc.

Question 46

Consider the following statements :

I. With reference to the Constitution of India, if an area in a State is declared as a Scheduled Area under the Fifth Schedule, the State Government loses its executive power in such areas and a local body assumes total administration.

II. The Union Government can take over the total administration of such areas under certain circumstances on the recommendations of the Governor.

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: (d) Neither I nor II

@≟@ Explanation:

- State executive power retained: Para 2 of the Fifth Schedule stipulates that the executive power of the State extends to Scheduled Areas; the Governor may make regulations, but the State does **not** lose its competence, nor is a "local body" vested with total control.
- No Union take-over clause: The Fifth Schedule contains no provision allowing the Union Government to "take over" direct administration of Scheduled Areas. Centre may issue welfare directions (Art. 339) but not assume day-to-day control.

Question 47

With reference to India, consider the following pairs :

No.		Organisation		Union Ministry (as stated)
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I.	The National Automotive Board	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
II.	The Coir Board	Ministry of Heavy Industries
III.	The National Centre for Trade	Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium
	Information	Enterprises

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (d) None

Organisation	Actual administrative ministry
National Automotive Board	Ministry of Heavy Industries (Dept. of Heavy
	Industry)
Coir Board	Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises
National Centre for Trade	Ministry of Commerce & Industry (ITPO/ DGFT)
Information	

All three pairs are therefore mismatched.

🗹 Question 48

Consider the following subjects under the Constitution of India :

- I. List I Union List, in the Seventh Schedule
- II. Extent of the executive power of a State
- III. Conditions of the Governor's office

For a constitutional amendment with respect to which of the above is ratification by the Legislatures of not less than one-half of the States required before the Bill is presented to the President of India for assent?

(a) I and II only (b) II and III only (c) I and III only (d) I, II and III $% \left({\left({L_{1}} \right)} \right)$

Answer: (a) I and II only

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Qie Explanation:

Under the **second proviso to Article 368(2)**, State-ratification is needed when an amendment seeks to alter:

- any of the Lists in the Seventh Schedule (covers Subject I);
- Article 162 (extent of a State's executive power—Subject II);
- certain specified provisions such as Articles 54, 55, 73, 241, Chapter V of Part VI, or any of the Lists. Article 158 (Governor's conditions of office—Subject III) is not on this list.

Hence only Subjects I and II demand ratification.

🗹 Question 49

With reference to the Indian polity, consider the following statements :

I. The Governor of a State is not answerable to any court for the exercise and performance of the powers and duties of his/her office.

II. No criminal proceedings shall be instituted or continued against the Governor during his/her term of office.

III. Members of a State Legislature are not liable to any proceedings in any court in respect of anything said within the House.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) I and II only (b) II and III only (c) I and III only (d) I, II and III

Answer: (d) I, II and III

♀▲♀ Explanation:

- Articles 361(1) & 361(2) confer complete judicial immunity on a sitting Governor: not answerable to courts (Stmt I) and immune from criminal proceedings (Stmt II).
- Article 194(2) grants legislators absolute privilege for anything said or voted in the House, shielding them from court action (**Stmt III**).

VQuestion 50

Consider the following activities :

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- 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 (PNGRB) in our country?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

Qie Explanation:

The **PNGRB Act 2006** covers **down-stream** petroleum and natural-gas operations—namely (II) **refining/storage/distribution** and (III) **marketing/sale of petroleum products**—plus city-gas networks and common carriers.

• Up-stream **production of crude oil (I)** and **production of natural gas (IV)** remain under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas / Directorate General of Hydrocarbons.

Thus, exactly **two** of the listed activities fall under PNGRB regulation.

Question 51

Q. Consider the following types of vehicles:

- I. Full battery electric vehicles
- II. Hydrogen fuel-cell vehicles
- III. Fuel cell-electric hybrid vehicles

How many of the above are considered as alternative power-train vehicles?

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

Answer: (c) All the three

Q Explanation:

All three propulsion systems replace the conventional internal-combustion engine with electric traction powered either by batteries (I) or by a hydrogen fuel-cell stack (II). In case III the fuel-

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UPSC Prelims Solution-2025 #atto deepo bhava UPSCTREE cell stack is combined with an auxiliary battery/super-capacitor; the drivetrain is still classified as an "alternative" (non-IC-engine) power-train. **Question 52** Q. With reference to Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), consider the following statements: I. All types of UAVs can do vertical landing. II. All types of UAVs can do automated hovering. III. All types of UAVs can use battery only as a source of power supply. How many of the statements given above are correct? (a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All the three (d) None Answer: (d) None ♥▲♥ Explanation: • Fixed-wing UAVs (e.g., large surveillance drones) require runways and **cannot perform** vertical take-off/landing or hover. • Many UAV classes (medium-altitude, long-endurance; loitering munitions) run on piston/jet liquid-fuel engines, not batteries. Hence every statement is incorrect. **Question 53** Q. In the context of electric-vehicle batteries, consider the following elements: I. Cobalt II. Graphite III. Lithium IV. Nickel How many of the above usually make up battery cathodes? (a) Only one (b) Only two (c) Only three (d) All the four Answer: (c) Only three **@**¹ **Explanation**: Lithium-ion cathodes are typically layered oxides or phosphates containing lithium, cobalt

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and/or nickel (often with manganese/aluminium). Graphite is used for the anode.

Therefore 3 of the 4 listed elements (Li, Co, Ni) form part of common cathode chemistries.

VQuestion 54

Q. Consider the following:

- I. Cigarette butts
- II. Eyeglass lenses
- III. Car tyres

How many of them contain plastic?

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

Answer: (c) All the three

🌳 📥 🌳 Explanation:

- Cigarette filters are mostly cellulose-acetate plastic micro-fibres.
- Modern eyewear lenses are moulded from **polycarbonate or CR-39 plastics**.
- Car tyres use a blend of natural rubber and **synthetic rubber polymers (styrene-butadiene, etc.)**, a form of plastic.

VQuestion 55

Q. Consider the following substances:

- I. Ethanol
- II. Nitroglycerine
- III. Urea

Coal-gasification technology can be used in the production of how many of them? (a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All the three (d) None

Answer: (b) Only two

@▲**@** Explanation:

Coal gasification yields synthesis gas $(CO + H_2)$ which can be:

• fermented or catalytically converted to **ethanol** (I).

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• shifted to ammonia (NH₃) and reacted with CO₂ to produce **urea** (III).

Nitroglycerine (II) is made by nitrating glycerol and is not derived from syngas. Hence two substances (ethanol and urea) are producible.

🗹 Question 56

Q. What is the common characteristic of the chemical substances generally known as CL-20, HMX and LLM-105, which are sometimes talked about in media?

- (a) These are alternatives to hydro-fluorocarbon refrigerants
- (b) These are explosives in military weapons
- (c) These are high-energy fuels for cruise missiles
- (d) These are fuels for rocket propulsion

Answer: (b) These are explosives in military weapons

Qie Explanation:

CL-20 (hexanitrohexaazaisowurtzitane), HMX (cyclotetramethylene-tetranitramine) and LLM-105 (1-oxy-2,2-dinitro-2-azapropane-3-nitro-1,2,4-triazole) are **advanced high-energy nitramine explosives** researched for insensitive munitions, warheads and solid propellant additives in modern military ordnance.

🔽 Question 57

Q. Consider the following statements :

I. It is expected that Majorana 1 chip will enable quantum computing.

II. Majorana 1 chip has been introduced by Amazon Web Services (AWS).

III. Deep learning is a subset of machine learning.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) I and II only (b) II and III only (c) I and III only (d) I, II and III

Answer: (c) I and III only

Q¹ **Explanation**:

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- **Statement I** ✓ Microsoft's newly announced *Majorana 1* quantum processor is touted as a breakthrough toward practical quantum computing.
- 🧐 Statement II 🗙 The chip is developed by Microsoft Azure Quantum, not AWS.

🔽 Question 58

Q. With reference to monoclonal antibodies, often mentioned in news, consider the following statements :

I. They are man-made proteins.

II. They stimulate immunological function due to their ability to bind to specific antigens.

III. They are used in treating viral infections like that of Nipah virus.

Which of the statements given above are correct? (a) I and II only (b) II and III only (c) I and III only (d) I, II and III

Answer: (d) I, II and III

🌳 🕹 🌳 Explanation:

- *S* Man-made proteins ✓ mAbs are laboratory-produced immunoglobulins.
- **♥** Antigen-specific binding ✓ Their clinical effect arises from targeted binding that modulates immune responses.
- Nipah therapy ✓ Experimental human mAbs (e.g., m102.4, 1F5) are under clinical development for Nipah virus treatment.

🔽 Question 59

Q. Consider the following statements :

I. No virus can survive in ocean waters.

II. No virus can infect bacteria.

III. No virus can change the cellular transcriptional activity in host cells.

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How many of the statements given above are correct? (a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All the three (d) None

Answer: (d) None

Q¹ **Explanation:**

- Statement I × Oceans teem with ~10 million virus particles per millilitre; they are the most abundant biological entities at sea.
- Statement II X Bacteriophages are viruses that specifically infect bacteria.
- Statement III X Many viruses actively re-program host transcription to favour viral replication.

VQuestion 60

Q. Consider the following statements :

Statement I: Activated carbon is a good and attractive tool to remove pollutants from effluent streams and to remediate contaminants from various industries.

Statement II: Activated carbon exhibits a large surface area and a strong potential for adsorbing heavy metals.

Statement III: Activated carbon can be easily synthesized from environmental wastes with high carbon content.

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

- (a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I
- (b) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct but only one of them explains Statement I
- (c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I
- (d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

Answer: (a)

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Q explanation:

- **Statement I** highlights the usefulness of activated carbon in pollution control.
- ✓ Statement II ✓ Activated carbon's high porosity/surface area (often >1000 m² g⁻¹) underpins its strong adsorption of heavy-metal ions.
- Statement III ✓ It can be produced economically from carbon-rich wastes (coconut shells, biomass, tyres, agricultural husk, etc.).
 Both II (technical efficacy) and III (cost-effective availability) jointly explain why Statement I is true and attractive.

VQuestion 61

Consider the following statements :

Statement I : Studies indicate that carbon-dioxide emissions from cement industry account for more than 5 % of global carbon emissions.

Statement II : Silica-bearing clay is mixed with limestone while manufacturing cement. **Statement III** : Limestone is converted into lime during clinker production for cement manufacturing.

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

(a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I

(b) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct but only one of them explains Statement I

(c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I

(d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

Answer: (b) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct but only one of them explains Statement I

Q¹ **Explanation**:

- Statement I is true—cement manufacture contributes ~7 % of global CO₂.
- *Statement II* is true—the raw-mix uses limestone **plus** silica-rich clay.
- ♦ Statement III is true—calcination turns CaCO₃ → CaO + CO₂, the main source of emissions.

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 Only Statement III (calcination) actually explains the high CO₂ noted in I; clayaddition (II) does not drive emissions.

VQuestion 62

Consider the following statements :

Statement I : At the 28th UN Climate-Change Conference (COP 28), India refrained from signing the *Declaration on Climate and Health*.

Statement II : The COP 28 declaration on Climate and Health is a binding declaration; if signed, it becomes mandatory to decarbonize the health sector.

Statement III : If India's health sector is decarbonized, the resilience of its health-care system may be compromised.

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

- (a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I
- (b) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct but only one of them explains Statement I
- (c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I
- (d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

Answer: (d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

$\mathbf{Q}_{\mathbf{A}}$ Explanation:

- Statement I India indeed did **not** sign the COP 28 Climate & Health declaration.
- X Statement II The declaration is **voluntary**, not legally binding.
- X Statement III Decarbonizing hospitals (renewables, efficiency) generally improves, not weakens, resilience.

Hence both II and III are wrong and do **not** explain I

Reference \rightarrow India on Sunday refrained from signing the COP28 Declaration on Climate and Health, with sources pointing out that curbing greenhouse gas use for cooling in the health sector, which is one of the points in the document, may not be practical or achievable within the country's healthcare infrastructure in the short term.

https://www.livemint.com/news/india/india-refuses-to-sign-cop28-declaration-on-climateand-health-heres-why-11701618953067.html

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https://www.indiatoday.in/environment/story/india-refrains-from-signing-cop28-health-andclimate-declaration-greenhouse-reduction-hinder-growth-2471542-2023-12-03

VQuestion 63

Consider the following statements :

Statement I : Scientific studies suggest that a shift is taking place in the Earth's rotation and axis.

Statement II : Solar flares and associated coronal mass ejections bombarded the Earth's outermost atmosphere with tremendous amount of energy.

Statement III : As the Earth's polar ice melts, the water tends to move towards the equator.

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

(a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I

(b) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct but only one of them explains Statement I

- (c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I
- (d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

Answer: (b) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct but only one of them explains Statement I

$\mathbf{Q}_{\mathbf{A}}$ Explanation:

- Statement I Satellite data show the planetary spin axis drifting (polar motion).
- *Statement II* Intense solar flares do hit the magnetosphere, but they **do not alter Earth's mass distribution**; thus they don't explain axis drift.
- Statement III Melting polar ice redistributes mass toward lower latitudes, modifying Earth's moment of inertia and **does** explain the observed shift.

So II & III are factually true, but **only III** accounts for the change cited in Statement I.

VQuestion 64

Consider the following statements :

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Statement I : Article 6 of the Paris Agreement on climate change is frequently discussed in global discussions on sustainable development and climate change.

Statement II : Article 6 of the Paris Agreement on climate change sets out the principles of carbon markets.

Statement III : Article 6 of the Paris Agreement on climate change intends to promote intercountry non-market strategies to reach their climate targets.

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

- (a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I
- (b) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct but only one of them explains Statement I
- (c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I
- (d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

Answer: (a) Both Statemen<mark>t II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain</mark> Statement I

Qie Explanation:

- Statement *I* is factual—Article 6 negotiations dominate every COP because they determine how nations can cooperate to achieve their NDCs.
- [≵] Statement II is correct—Article 6.2 & 6.4 establish the rules for **carbon-market mechanisms** and the transfer of "internationally transferred mitigation outcomes."
- Statement III is also correct—Article 6.8 provides for non-market approaches (technology co-operation, capacity-building, etc.) designed to help countries meet targets without trading credits.

Both II and III together explain why Article 6 is a hot topic (Statement I).

🗹 Question 65

Which one of the following launched the "Nature Solutions Finance Hub for Asia and the Pacific"?

- (a) The Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- (b) The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
- (c) The New Development Bank (NDB)
- (d) The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)

Answer: (a) The Asian Development Bank (ADB)

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Qie Explanation:

At COP 28 (Dec 2023) the **ADB** announced the **Nature Solutions Finance Hub** to mobilise at least US \$2 billion for nature-based solutions across the region.

🔽 Question 66

With reference to "Direct Air Capture", an emerging technology, which of the following statements is/are correct?

I. It can be used as a way of carbon sequestration.

II. It can be a valuable approach for plastic production and in food processing.

III. In aviation, it can be a source of carbon for combining with hydrogen to create synthetic lowcarbon fuel.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) I and II only (b) III only (c) I, II and III (d) None of the above statements is correct

Answer: (c) I, II and III

$\mathbf{Q}_{\mathbf{A}}$ **Explanation**:

- Sequestration \checkmark Captured CO₂ can be compressed and stored underground in geological formations.
- Plastics & food ✓ CO₂ feedstock can be chemically converted to polymers or used in carbonation/packaging in the food industry.
- Synthetic fuel ✓ CO₂ + green H₂ → e-kerosene / e-methanol for low-carbon aviation fuels.

All three statements are valid.

VQuestion 67

Regarding Peacock tarantula (Gooty tarantula), consider the following statements :

I. It is an omnivorous crustacean.

II. Its natural habitat in India is only limited to some forest areas.

III. In its natural habitat, it is an arboreal species.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct? (a) I only (b) I and III (c) II only (d) II and III

Answer: (d) II and III

🖗 🦾 🌳 Explanation:

- **X Statement I** The Peacock tarantula (*Poecilotheria metallica*) is a **spider** (arachnid), not a crustacean and certainly not omnivorous beyond typical arthropod prey.
- Statement II ✓ It is endemic to a tiny (~100 km²) patch of deciduous reserve forest in Andhra Pradesh; surveys have not found it elsewhere.
- ▲ Statement III ✓ It lives high in tree holes and bark crevices, classifying it as arboreal.

Question 68

Consider the following statements :

I. Carbon-dioxide (CO₂) emissions in India are less than 0.5 t CO₂ per capita.

II. In terms of CO_2 emissions from fuel-combustion, India ranks second in the Asia–Pacific region.

III. Electricity and heat producers are the largest sources of CO_2 emissions in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) I and III only (b) II only (c) II and III only (d) I, II and III

Answer: (c) II and III only

🌳 📥 🌳 Explanation:

- **B** Per-capita figure: India's latest per-capita CO_2 is ≈ 1.9 t (well above 0.5 t) \rightarrow I \times .
- ✓ Sectoral share: Power generation (electricity + heat) contributes the biggest slice (>
 40 %) of India's CO₂ → III √.

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🗹 Question 69

Consider the following pairs :

No.	Plant	Description
1.	Cassava	Woody shrub
2.	Ginger	Herb with pseudostem
3.	Malabar spinach	Herbaceous climber
4.	Mint	Annual shrub
5.	Papaya	Woo <mark>dy shrub</mark>

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

(a) Only two (b) Only three (c) Only four (d) All the five

Answer: (b) Only three

Explanation:

Pair	Reality	Correct?
Cassava → woody, perennial shrub		
Ginger \rightarrow herbaceous plant with a pseudostem		
Malabar spinach → soft-stemmed climbing herb		
Mint → typically a perennial herb , not a shrub	×	
Papaya \rightarrow fast-growing tree-like herb (soft trunk), not a woody shrub	×	

Hence **3** out of 5 pairs are right.

🗹 Question 70

With reference to the planet Earth, consider the following statements :

I. Rain forests produce more oxygen than that produced by oceans.

II. Marine phytoplankton and photosynthetic bacteria produce about 50 % of the world's oxygen.

III. Well-oxygenated surface water contains several-fold higher oxygen than that in atmospheric air.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) I and II (b) II only (c) I and III (d) None of the above statements is correct

Answer: (b) II only

Q¹ **Explanation**:

- Statement I X Tropical rain forests are vital, but oceans (via plankton) generate the larger share of global O_2 .
- **Statement II √** Estimates place oceanic phytoplankton & cyanobacteria at ~50 % of total oxygen production.
- Statement III \times Even saturated surface water holds ~8–10 mg O₂ L⁻¹—far lower than the ~210 mg $O_2 L^{-1}$ equivalent in air; water never contains "several folds higher" O_2 than air. 🍳

Question 71

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) Only four

Q¹ **Explanation:**

Country	NATO status	Note
Austria	× Neutral, not a NATO member	
Bulgaria	Joined 2004	
Croatia	Joined 2009	
Serbia	X Military-neutral	
Sweden	Ratified & became 32nd member on 7 Mar 2024 🦮	

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UPSC Prelims Solution-2025 #atto deepo bhava UPSCTREE North Macedonia **V** Joined 2020 So 4 / 6 listed states belong to NATO (Bulgaria, Croatia, Sweden, North Macedonia). **Question 72** Consider the following countries : I. Bolivia II. Brazil III. Colombia IV. Ecuador V. Paraguay VI. Venezuela Andes Mountains pass through how many of the above countries ? (a) Only two (b) Only three (c) Only four (d) Only five Answer: (c) Only four $\mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{A}} \mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{A}}$ Explanation: The Andean chain runs through Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia, Peru, Chile & Argentina. ✓ Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia × Brazil & Paraguay lie east of the range. Thus **4** out of 6 countries listed are crossed by the Andes. **V**Question 73 Consider the following water bodies : I. Lake Tanganyika II. Lake Tonlé Sap III. Patos Lagoon Through how many of them does the Equator pass? (a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All the three (d) None Answer: (d) None

- **(IDENTIFY and SET UP: SET U**
- ≠ Tonlé Sap (Cambodia) ~13 ° N, well above the Equator.

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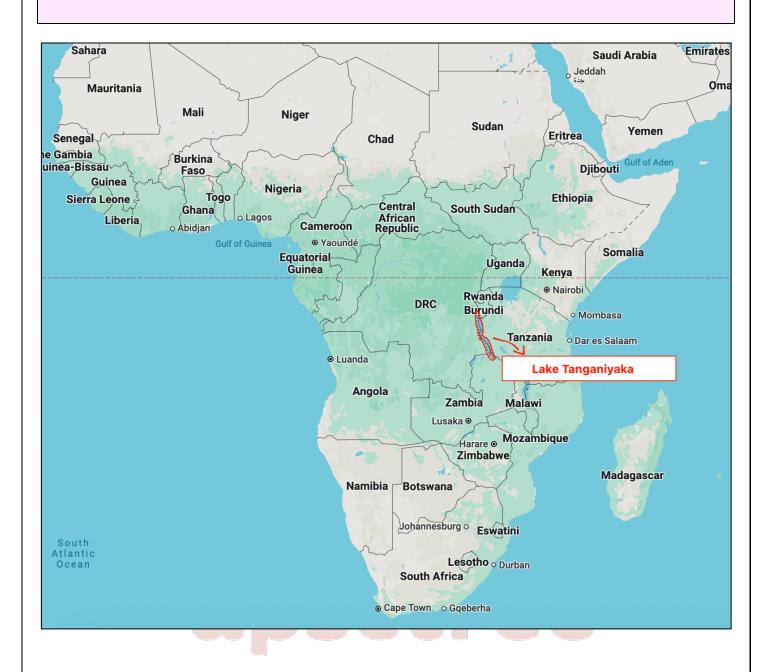
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Lagoa dos Patos (Brazil) – ~30 ° S, far south.

Hence just **one** water-body (Tanganyika) is intersected by 0 ° latitude.



VQuestion 74

Consider the following statements about turmeric during the year 2022-23 :

I. India is the largest producer and exporter of turmeric in the world.

II. More than 30 varieties of turmeric are grown in India.

III. Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are major turmeric-producing States in India.

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Which of the statements given above are correct ? (a) I and II only (b) II only (c) II and III only (d) I, II and III

Answer: (d) I, II and III

🗣 🕹 🗣 Explanation:

- India grows ~80 % of global turmeric & tops export tables $\rightarrow I \checkmark$.
- ✓ ICAR & State agri-universities list > 30 cultivars (Erode, Alleppey, Lakadong, etc.) →
 II √.
- Y The four States plus Andhra Pradesh & Odisha dominate national output → III √.
 All statements hold true.

VQuestion 75

Which of the following are the evidences of the phenomenon of continental drift ?

I. The belt of ancient rocks from Brazil coast matches with those from Western Africa.

II. The gold deposits of Ghana are derived from the Brazil plateau when the two continents lay side by side.

III. The Gondwana system of sediments from India is known to have its counterparts in six different landmasses of the Southern Hemisphere.

Select the correct answer using the code given below. (a) I and III only (b) I and II only (c) I, II and III (d) II and III only

Answer: (c) I, II and III

Q explanation:

Wegener's continental-drift theory cites:

- **V** Rock belts lining up across South Atlantic (I).
- ✓ **Palaeo-placer gold** continuity Ghana ↔ Brazil (II).
- ✓ Gondwana strata correlation India–Australia–Africa–Antarctica–S America etc. (III).
 All three lines of geologic evidence support drift. SSS

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VQuestion 76

Consider the following statements :

Statement I : The amount of dust particles in the atmosphere is more in subtropical and temperate areas than in equatorial and polar regions.

Statement II : Subtropical and temperate areas have less dry winds.

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 explains Statement I
- (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct but Statement II does not explain Statement I
- (c) Statement I is correct but Statement II is not correct
- (d) Statement I is not correct but Statement II is correct

Answer: (c) Statement I is correct but Statement II is not correct

🌳 🙏 🌳 Explanation:

- Dust maxima occur in subtropical belts (Sahara, Arabian, Gobi) & mid-latitudes due to aridity and strong winds → I √.
- These regions actually experience more (not less) dry winds such as trade-winds and westerlies crossing deserts → II ×.
 Therefore only Statement I is right.

Question 77

Consider the following statements :

Statement I : In January, in the Northern Hemisphere, the isotherms bend equator-ward while crossing the landmasses and pole-ward while crossing the oceans.

Statement II : In January, the air over the oceans is warmer than that over the landmasses in the Northern Hemisphere.

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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 explains Statement I
- (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct but Statement II does not explain Statement I
- (c) Statement I is correct but Statement II is not correct
- (d) Statement I is not correct but Statement II is correct

Answer: (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I

@≜♥ Explanation:

- **>** In mid-winter (January) the **continents cool faster** than the oceans.
- Therefore *isotherms* (lines of equal temperature) **dip southward over cold land** and **arch northward over comparatively warm seas** exactly as stated in I.
- He temperature contrast described in Statement II causes the isotherm bending, so II logically explains I.

VQuestion 78

Consider the following statements :

Statement I : In the context of effect of water on rocks, chalk is very permeable whereas clay is quite impermeable.

Statement II : Chalk is porous and hence can absorb water.

Statement III : Clay is not at all porous.

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

- (a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I
- (b) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct but only one of them explains Statement I
- (c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I

(d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

Answer: (c)

🌳 📥 🌳 Explanation:

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- Chalk consists of loosely packed calcite micro-fossils → high porosity & permeability, so Statement II is true and explains why chalk is permeable (supports I).
- **Clay** actually *i*s porous (tiny pores) but its pores are so fine that permeability is extremely low. Hence Statement III is **false**.
- Thus exactly **one** of II & III (namely II) is correct and it accounts for Statement I.

🗹 Question 79

Consider the following statements :

I. Without the atmosphere, temperature would be well below freezing point everywhere on the Earth's surface.

II. Heat absorbed and trapped by the atmosphere maintains our planet's average temperature.
 III. Atmospheric gases, like carbon dioxide, are particularly good at absorbing and trapping radiation.

Which of the statements given above are correct? (a) I and III only (b) I and II only (c) I, II and III (d) II and III only

Answer: (d) II and III only

🌳 🕹 🌳 Explanation:

- Statement I over-generalises; without an atmosphere, equatorial day-side could soar above boiling point (cf. Moon). It wouldn't be "below freezing *everywhere*."
- Statement II √ The greenhouse blanket lifts mean surface temperature from ≈ -18
 °C to +15 °C.
- Washing Statement III ✓ CO₂, CH₄, H₂O vapour etc. have strong infrared absorption bands, trapping outgoing radiation.

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Our earth is surrounded by a huge blanket of air called atmosphere. All living beings on this earth depend on the atmosphere for their survival. It provides us the air we breathe and protects us from the harmful effects of the sun's rays. Without this blanket of protection, we would be baked alive by the heat of the sun during day and get frozen during night. So it is this mass of air that has made the temperature on the earth liveable.

VQuestion 80

Consider the following statements about the Rashtriya Gokul Mission :

I. It is important for the upliftment of rural poor as a majority of low-producing indigenous animals are with small and marginal farmers and landless labourers.

II. It was initiated to promote indigenous cattle and buffalo rearing and conservation in a scientific and holistic manner.

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) Both I and II

🏟 🦾 🖗 Explanation:

- ✓ Objective The 2014-launched mission funds breeding centres & genetic up-grading of native bovine breeds, directly benefitting small holders ⇒ I √.
- Scope Schemes include Gokul Grams, IVF technology, and national genomic centres to scientifically conserve & enhance indigenous cattle/buffalo germ-plasm ⇒ II
 √. 55

Question 81

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Consider the following statements about Raja Ram Mohan Roy :

I. He possessed great love and respect for the traditional philosophical systems of the East.

II. He desired his countrymen to accept the rational and scientific approach and the principle of human dignity and social equality of all men and women.

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) Both I and II

🌳 🙏 🌳 Explanation:

- Upanishadic scholar: Roy translated and defended Vedānta texts, showing deep regard for Indian philosophical heritage → I √.
- Social reformer: His writings urged Indians to embrace reason, science, and genderequal humanism → II √.

VQuestion 82

Consider the following subjects with regard to Non-Cooperation Programme :

- I. Boycott of law-courts and foreign cloth
- II. Observance of strict non-violence
- III. Retention of titles and honours without using them in public
- IV. Establishment of Panchayats for settling disputes

How many of the above were parts of Non-Cooperation Programme? (a) Only one (b) Only two (c) Only three (d) All the four

Answer: (c) Only three

♀▲♀ Explanation:

- $\Re \mathbf{I} \checkmark$ Boycott of foreign goods & courts was central.
- ¹ ✓ Gandhiji's insistence on non-violence.
- 🔮 III × Programme called for **surrender**, not retention, of titles.
- \Re IV \checkmark Village Panchayats were promoted for dispute resolution.

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Total correct items = 3.

🔽 Question 83

The irrigation device called 'Araghatta' was

- (a) a water bag made of leather pulled over a pulley
- (b) a large wheel with earthen pots tied to the outer ends of its spokes
- (c) a larger earthen pot driven by bullocks
- (d) a large water bucket pulled up by rope directly by hand

Answer: (b) a large wheel with earthen pots tied to the outer ends of its spokes

🌳 📥 🌳 Explanation:

• **Araghatta = Persian wheel**: bullock-powered wheel turns pots that lift water continuously from a well—classic device of medieval Indian irrigation.

VQuestion 84

Who among the following rulers in ancient India had assumed the titles 'Mattavilasa', 'Vichitracitta' and 'Gunabhara'?

(a) Mahendravarman I (b) Simhavishnu (c) Narasimhavarman I (d) Simhavarman

Answer: (a) Mahendr<mark>av</mark>arman I

🖗 🕹 🌳 Explanation:

Pallava king Mahendravarman I (c. 600–630 CE) styled himself "Mattavilasa" (lover of intoxicating sport), "Vichitracitta" (of curious mind) and "Gunabhara" (abode of virtues), famed for rock-cut temples and Sanskrit–Tamil plays.

Question 85

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Fa-hien (Faxian), the Chinese pilgrim, travelled to India during the reign of

(a) Samudragupta (b) Chandragupta II (c) Kumaragupta I (d) Skandagupta

Answer: (b) Chandragupta II

🌳 🙏 🌳 Explanation:

Me Buddhist monk Faxian journeyed (399–414 CE) across Gupta India, specifically under Chandragupta II Vikramāditya, documenting Pataliputra, Mathura, and Buddhist sites in his *Record of the Buddhist Kingdoms*.

🗹 Question 86

Who among the following led a successful military campaign against the kingdom of Srivijaya, the powerful maritime state which ruled the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Java and the neighbouring islands?

(a) Amoghavarsha (Rashtrakuta) (b) Prataparudra (Kakatiya) (c) Rajendra I (Chola) (d) Vishnuvardhana (Hoysala)

Answer: (c) Rajendra I (Chola)

Explanation: Around 1025 CE the Chola ruler **Rajendra I** dispatched a large naval expedition that defeated Srivijaya, captured Kadaram (Kedah) and secured control over key sea-lanes, demonstrating Tamil naval power in South-East Asia.

Question 87

With reference to ancient India (600 - 322 BC), consider the following pairs :

Territorial region	River flowing in the region
I. Asmaka	Godavari
II. Kamboja	Vipas
III. Avanti	Mahanadi

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IV. Kosala

Sarayu

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

🖗 🙏 🌳 Explanation:

- **V Asmaka Godavari:** Southern Mahājanapada on the Godavari.
- **X Kamboja** lay in the north-west (Kabul region); **Vipas (Beas)** flows in Punjab.
- X Avanti centred on Malwa; Mahanadi is far east (Chhattisgarh–Odisha).
- 🗸 Kosala Sarayu (Ghaghara) in today's Awadh.

Hence 2 correct matches

VQuestion 88

The first Gandharva Mahavidyalaya, a music training school, was set up in 1901 by Vishnu Digambar Paluskar in

(a) Delhi (b) Gwalior (c) Ujjain (d) Lahore

Answer: (d) Lahore

Explanation: Pt Vishnu Digambar Paluskar founded the **Gandharva Mahavidyalaya at Lahore in 1901**, pioneering institutional Hindustani-music education before shifting activities to Bombay.

🔽 Question 89

Ashokan inscriptions suggest that the 'Pradeshika', 'Rajuka' and 'Yukta' were important officers at the

(a) village-level administration(b) district-level administration(c) provincial administration(d) level of the central administration

Answer: (b) district-level administration

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Q explanation:

Edicts mention **Pradeshikas (district governors), Rajukas (revenue & justice officers) and Yuktas (subordinate officials)** working at the **'ajanapada'/district tier** to oversee revenue, justice and public welfare.

🗹 Question 90

Consider the following statements in respect of the Non-Cooperation Movement :

I. The Congress declared the attainment of 'Swaraj' by all legitimate and peaceful means to be its objective.

II. It was to be implemented in stages, with civil disobedience and non-payment of taxes for the next stage only if 'Swaraj' did not come within a year and the Government resorted to repression.

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) Both I and II

Q explanation:

- **Calcutta (Sept 1920) & Nagpur (Dec 1920) sessions** adopted a resolution: Congress now sought **Swaraj (self-government) through lawful & peaceful methods**.
- The programme was graduated: boycott of titles, schools, courts & foreign cloth first; only if Swaraj was unmet within a year and repression continued would the next stage of mass civil disobedience and possible tax refusal be launched.

🔽 Question 91

With reference to investments, consider the following :

I. Bonds

- II. Hedge Funds
- III. Stocks
- IV. Venture Capital

How many of the above are treated as Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) $\ensuremath{\mathsf{?}}$

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

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Answer: (b) Only two

$\mathbf{Q}_{\mathbf{A}}$ Explanation:

- **Hedge Funds** \rightarrow SEBI classifies them under **Category III AIFs**.
- **#** Venture-Capital Funds \rightarrow fall under Category I AIFs.
- Bonds and Stocks are regular marketable securities, *not* pooled AIF vehicles.
 Hence, exactly two items qualify.

Question 92

Which of the following are the sources of income for the Reserve Bank of India ?

- I. Buying and selling Government bonds
- II. Buying and selling foreign currency
- III. Pension-fund management
- IV. Lending to private companies
- V. Printing and distributing currency notes

Select the correct answer using the code given below. (a) I and II only (b) II, III and IV (c) I, III and V (d) I, II and V

Answer: (d) I, II and V

@≟@ Explanation:

- **¾ I. & II.** RBI earns interest / trading gains from **G-Secs** & **forex reserves**.
- Solution V. The seigniorage (face value minus printing cost) from currency issuance adds to surplus.
- 🕺 III. Managing its own staff-pension is an expense, not an external revenue line.
- **IV.** RBI does **not** lend directly to private companies.

VQuestion 93

With reference to the Government of India, consider the following information :

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Organisation	Some of its functions	It works under
1. Directorate of Enforcement	Enforcement of the Fugitive Economic	Internal Security
	Offenders Act, 2018	Division-I, MHA
2. Directorate of Revenue	Enforces the provisions of the	Department of
Intelligence	Customs Act, 1962	Revenue, MoF
3. Directorate General of	Carrying out big-data analytics to	Department of
Systems & Data Management	assist tax officers & nab tax-evaders	Revenue, MoF

In how many of the above rows is the information correctly matched?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

Q explanation:

- X Row 1 Enforcement Directorate is under Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, not the MHA.
- SRow 2 DRI + Customs + DoR ✓
- 🔽 Row 3 DG-Systems is a CBIC arm in DoR ✔

🗹 Question 94

Consider the following statements :

I. The Reserve Bank of India mandates all the listed companies in India to submit a Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BRSR).

II. In India, a company submitting a BRSR makes disclosures in the report that are largely nonfinancial in nature.

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: (b) II only

Q¹ **Explanation:**

 \square **BRSR** requirement is issued by **SEBI** (for top-1000 listed entities), not by RBI \rightarrow **I** \times .

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The report covers ESG metrics—energy, diversity, CSR, etc.—i.e., non-financial sustainability data → II √.

VQuestion 95

Consider the following statements :

Statement I : In India, income from allied agricultural activities like poultry farming and wool rearing in rural areas is exempted from any tax.

Statement II : In India, rural agricultural land is not considered a capital asset under the provisions of the Income-tax Act, 1961.

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

- (a) Both I and II are correct and II explains I
- (b) Both I and II are correct but II does not explain I
- (c) Statement I is correct but Statement II is not correct
- (d) Statement I is not correct but Statement II is correct

Answer: (d)

🌳 🕹 🌳 Explanation:

- Income from poultry, dairy, sericulture, etc. is not agricultural income and is taxable above thresholds → I ×.
- In Rural agricultural land (as defined by distance from municipality) is excluded from
 "capital asset," so capital-gains tax doesn't apply → II √.

🔽 Question 96

Consider the following statements :

I. India has joined the Minerals Security Partnership (MSP) as a member.

II. India is a resource-rich country in all the 30 critical minerals that it has identified.

III. The Parliament in 2023 has amended the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 empowering the Central Government to exclusively auction mining lease and composite licence for certain critical minerals.

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Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) I and I only (misprint) (b) II and III only (c) I and III only (d) I, II and III

Answer: (c) I and III only

Q¹ **Explanation**:

- \bigoplus I \checkmark India became the 14-th member of the US-led **MSP** in 2023.
- II × India is short of many critical minerals (lithium, cobalt, rare earths, etc.); thus not resource-rich in all 30.
- III ✓ The 2023 MMDR (Amendment) Act authorises the Union to conduct auctions for 24 designated critical & strategic minerals, centralising the process.

VQuestion 97

Consider the following statements :

Statement I : As regards returns from an investment in a company, generally, bond-holders are considered to be relatively at lower risk than stock-holders.

Statement II : Bond-holders are lenders to a company whereas stock-holders are its owners. Statement III : For repayment purposes, bond-holders are prioritised over stock-holders by a company.

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

- (a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I
- (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I
- (c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I
- (d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

Answer: (a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I

♥▲♥ Explanation:

- **Bond-holders = creditors** \rightarrow enjoy contractually fixed coupons and legal priority.
- **Stock-holders = owners** \rightarrow receive residual profits, hence face greater risk.

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• III At liquidation, **bond-holders are paid first**, confirming their lower risk. Both II & III give the reasons that make Statement I true.

🗹 Question 98

Consider the following statements :

I. India accounts for a very large portion of all equity-option contracts traded globally, thus exhibiting a great boom.

II. India's stock market has grown rapidly in the recent past, even overtaking Hong Kong's at some point of time.

III. There is no regulatory body either to warn small investors about the risks of options trading or to act on unregistered financial advisers in this regard.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) I and II only (b) II and III only (c) I and III only (d) I, II and III

Answer: (a) I and II only

$\mathbf{Q}_{\mathbf{A}}$ Explanation:

- \checkmark I \checkmark NSE now hosts over **80** % of the world's equity-index-option volume.
- II ✓ In Jan 2024 India's market-capitalisation briefly surpassed Hong Kong, ranking 4th globally.
- **§ III** × **SEBI** is the statutory regulator; it issues risk-disclosures and penalises unregistered advisers.

Question 99

Consider the following statements :

Statement I : A circular economy reduces the emissions of greenhouse gases. Statement II : A circular economy reduces the use of raw materials as inputs. Statement III : A circular economy reduces wastage in the production process.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements ?(a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I

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- (b) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct but only one of them explains Statement I
- (c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I
- (d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

Answer: (a)

$\mathbf{Q}_{\mathbf{A}}$ **Explanation**:

• **Using fewer virgin resources (II)** and **cutting waste (III)** each lowers energy demand and methane/CO₂ emissions, thereby **explaining how GHGs fall (I)**.

Question 100

Consider the following statements :

- I. Capital receipts create a liability or cause a reduction in the assets of the Government.
- II. Borrowings and disinvestment are capital receipts.
- III. Interest received on loans creates a liability of the Government.

Which of the statements given above are correct ?

(a) I and II only (b) II and III only (c) I and III only (d) I, II and III

Answer: (a) I and II only

$\mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{A}}$ **Explanation**:

- S Capital receipts = funds that either raise liabilities (e.g., market loans) or reduce assets (e.g., sale of shares) → I √.
- **(asset sale)** fit the definition \rightarrow **II** \checkmark .
- **Interest received** is a **revenue receipt**, not a liability \rightarrow **III** \times .

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