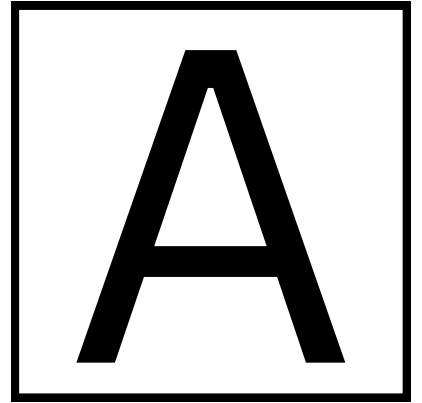




MANIKA IAS
TURNING ASPIRANTS INTO ACHIEVERS

ALL INDIA OPEN PRELIMS MOCK TEST-1

Test Booklet Series



Total Time: 2 hours

Maximum Marks: 200

CANDIDATE INSTRUCTIONS

- **Document Verification:** Upon the commencement of the exam, verify that this booklet contains all pages and that no items are unprinted or torn. Request a replacement booklet immediately if any defects are found.
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Avoid writing anything else on the test booklet cover.
- **Answering Method:** This test consists of 100 multiple-choice items. Select the single most appropriate response for each item and mark it exclusively on the separate Answer Sheet provided.
- **Marking Scheme:** All items carry equal marks.
- **Rough Work:** Space for rough calculations is appended at the end of the test booklet.
- **Negative Marking:** Incorrect answers will incur a penalty.
 - A deduction of one-third of the total marks assigned to that specific question will be applied for every wrong answer.
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 - Unattempted questions will not receive any penalty.
- **CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE:** Please wait for the invigilator's signal before opening this test booklet.



MANIKA IAS

TURNING ASPIRANTS INTO ACHIEVERS

UPSC OMR ANSWER SHEET

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Q.1 Consider the following

Mr. X: "A truly secular State requires a strict 'wall of separation.' The government must never fund religious schools, subsidize pilgrimages, or allow religious symbols in public offices. The State must remain completely blind to religion."

Ms. Y: "That is too rigid for our society. Secularism means 'principled distance.' The State respects all faiths equally, but it can—and must—interfere in religious practices to eradicate social injustices, while still providing equitable support to minority institutions."

Based on the brief conversation above and the constitutional philosophy of India, which of the following inferences is CORRECT?

- (a) Mr. X's view accurately reflects the Indian constitutional mandate, which strictly prohibits the State from engaging in any religious affairs to maintain absolute neutrality.
- (b) Ms. Y's concept of 'principled distance' implies that the State must treat all religions with equal indifference, leaving communities completely free to self-regulate their internal practices.
- (c) While Mr. X advocates for a model based on 'mutual exclusion', Ms. Y's model permits the State to actively intervene in religious affairs to protect fundamental constitutional values like equality and dignity.
- (d) The conversation illustrates that both models ultimately aim to assimilate diverse religious identities into a single, uniform civic identity to prevent communal disharmony.

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding the role of a Constitution in a democratic polity:

Statement-I: In a constitutional democracy, the most fundamental function of a Constitution is to limit the power of the State, ensuring that the government can never function as a legally omnipotent entity.

Statement-II: The Constitution explicitly guarantees certain Fundamental Rights to its citizens, establishing structural boundaries that the legislature and executive can never validly trespass, even if they possess an overwhelming electoral mandate.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (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, but Statement-II is NOT the correct explanation for Statement-I.
- (c) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are incorrect.
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect, and Statement-II is correct.

Q3. Consider the Case study

Mr. X, a popular stand-up comedian known for dark humor, appears on a prominent digital podcast hosted by Mr. Y. During the unscripted conversation, Mr. X makes a satirical, edgy joke regarding a sensitive cultural topic. The clip goes viral, outraging a specific community who claim their sentiments are hurt. Several FIRs are filed against both Mr. X and Mr. Y, demanding their arrest on the grounds that the content threatens "public order" and violates "decency and morality." Mr. X approaches the court,

arguing that as a comedian, his satire is protected under his Fundamental Rights.

In the context of Article 19 of the Indian Constitution and relevant Supreme Court judgments, consider the following statements regarding the above scenario:

1. The right to freedom of speech and expression includes the freedom of the press and the right to broadcast podcasts on digital platforms.
2. Satire and comedic expression enjoy absolute constitutional protection and cannot be penalized solely on the grounds that they are offensive or unpopular to a section of society.
3. For the State to legally restrict Mr. X's joke on the grounds of "public order," there must be a direct and proximate nexus between the joke and an actual incitement to violence or public disorder.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q4. Consider the following:

Mr. X (Government Lawyer): "The court cannot interfere here. We did not pass a proper Act in the Assembly; we only issued an *executive order* to ban this book. Also, this ban is based on an old community *custom*. Therefore, Article 13 does not apply to us."

Ms. Y (Citizen's Lawyer): "That is wrong. Article 13 is broad enough to cover both your executive order and your custom. If they violate Fundamental Rights, the court can strike them down."

Based on the constitutional text of Article 13, consider the following statements regarding the arguments made above:

1. Ms. Y is correct about the executive order, because Article 13 clearly states that "law" includes government orders, rules, and notifications.
2. Ms. Y is correct about the custom, because Article 13 explicitly includes any "custom or usage" that has the force of law.
3. If Parliament passes a Constitutional Amendment to make this ban legal, the written text of Article 13 states that the amendment will also be treated as a "law" and can be struck down.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q5. In early 2026, the Parliament passes the *Strategic Infrastructure Land Acquisition Act, 2026*. To prevent the Supreme Court from striking down the Act due to widespread petitions alleging severe violations of Article 14 and Article 19, the Parliament immediately passes a Constitutional Amendment to place this 2026 Act into the **Ninth Schedule** of the Constitution. The Attorney General argues that

placing the Act in the Ninth Schedule grants it absolute immunity from judicial review.

Based on the constitutional jurisprudence regarding the Ninth Schedule and the Basic Structure Doctrine, consider the following statements regarding the Attorney General's claim:

1. The Attorney General is constitutionally correct, as Article 31B explicitly protects any law placed in the Ninth Schedule from being challenged on the grounds of violating Fundamental Rights, regardless of when it was added.
2. According to the *I.R. Coelho* (2007) judgment, the Supreme Court has the authority to review the 2026 Act; if the Act violates the Basic Structure of the Constitution, the Ninth Schedule will not protect it.
3. The Supreme Court established April 24, 1973, as the cut-off date; laws placed in the Ninth Schedule *after* this date are subject to the Basic Structure test.

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

Q6. With reference to the legislative, executive, and financial dimensions of Indian federalism, consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution strictly restricts State governments from borrowing outside the territory of India, retaining external

sovereign debt as an exclusive domain of the Union government.

2. Under the doctrine of repugnancy (Article 254), if a State law on a Concurrent List subject receives Presidential assent, it prevails over an existing Parliamentary law, and Parliament is constitutionally barred from amending or repealing that specific State law thereafter.
3. The Constitution explicitly grants the Union the power to issue executive directions to States to ensure compliance with Central laws, and a State's failure to follow these directions constitutes a valid constitutional ground for the imposition of President's Rule.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q7. Consider the following statements:

- I. The Parliament of India is bicameral, with the Rajya Sabha serving as the Upper House to represent the interests of the constituent states within the federal structure.
- II. While both Houses have equal authority regarding the passage of ordinary legislation and constitutional amendments, the Lok Sabha possesses exclusive power regarding the voting of Demands for Grants.
- III. The Constitution provides for a Joint Sitting of both Houses under Article 108 to resolve deadlocks on Ordinary Bills,

but this mechanism is explicitly barred for Constitutional Amendment Bills.

Following are the inferences that can be drawn :

1. The federal character of the Indian Constitution is structurally safeguarded by the Rajya Sabha's co-equal veto power over Constitutional Amendment Bills, preventing the Lok Sabha from unilaterally altering federal provisions.
2. The legislative process in India is designed such that the Union Executive's financial survival is tethered solely to the confidence of the directly elected Lower House.
3. The constitutional prohibition of a Joint Sitting for Constitutional Amendments implies that the federal interest represented by the Rajya Sabha is prioritized over the numerical efficiency of a combined parliamentary session.

Which of the inferences given above are correctly derived from the statements provided?

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

Q8. Consider the following statements regarding the comparative legal and constitutional status of the Prime Minister and the President of India:

1. While Article 361 provides the President with absolute immunity from criminal proceedings during their term, the Prime Minister remains fully amenable to criminal prosecution, including for acts

performed under the color of their office.

2. The constitutional requirement of a two-month advance notice for instituting civil proceedings against the President regarding their personal acts is a mandatory procedural safeguard that cannot be waived, even if the suit involves an urgent claim of irreparable harm.
3. The jurisdiction of the Lokpal over the Prime Minister is absolute, extending to all administrative decisions and policy-related actions undertaken by them, provided the matter is not related to international relations or national security.
4. The removal of the Prime Minister, unlike the President, is not tethered to specific constitutional grounds but is instead governed by the principle of collective responsibility to the Lok Sabha, which can be invoked by a simple majority vote.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q9. Consider the following pairs regarding the various parliamentary devices and their characteristics:

1. **Short Notice Question** : Asked on a matter of urgent public importance by giving a notice of less than ten days and is answered orally.

2. **Starred Question** : Distinguished by an asterisk, it requires a written answer and prohibits any follow-up supplementary questions.
3. **Zero Hour** : An informal Indian innovation not mentioned in the Rules of Procedure, allowing members to raise matters without prior notice.
4. **Half-an-Hour Discussion** : Allotted to thoroughly discuss a matter from a recent question, concluding with a formal motion and voting by the House.

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Q10. Mr. X, a citizen of India, is embroiled in a protracted legal battle regarding a complex civil dispute over a commercial contract. He eventually loses the case in the High Court of his state. Seeking further remedy, Mr. X wishes to appeal to the Supreme Court. However, the High Court explicitly refuses to grant him a 'certificate for appeal', ruling that the case does not involve any substantial question of law of general importance. Mr. X still believes a grave miscarriage of justice has occurred due to procedural errors by the lower courts.

Under which of the following constitutional provisions can Mr. X still approach the Supreme Court of India as his final legal recourse?

- (a) Article 32 (Writ Jurisdiction)
- (b) Article 131 (Original Jurisdiction)
- (c) Article 133 (Appellate Jurisdiction in civil matters)

(d) Article 136 (Special Leave Petition)

Q11. Consider the following case study: In the State of 'X', the Governor independently takes the following three executive decisions during his tenure:

1. **Decision 1:** He issues an order granting a *full pardon* to a prisoner who was sentenced to death by the State High Court for a crime exclusively violating a State Law.
2. **Decision 2:** He issues an order *commuting* the death sentence of another prisoner to life imprisonment.
3. **Decision 3:** He directly appoints a prominent local advocate as a District Judge, expressly bypassing consultation with the State High Court on the grounds that judicial appointments at the district level are an exclusive executive prerogative.

Based on the constitutional provisions regarding the powers of the Governor, which of the decisions taken above is/are constitutionally INVALID?

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

Q12. Consider the following statements regarding the administration of Tribal Areas under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India:

1. Every Autonomous District Council (ADC) consists of 30 members, all of whom are directly elected on the basis of adult franchise to ensure complete democratic decentralization.

2. The laws enacted by the Autonomous District Councils regarding matters such as the inheritance of property, marriage, and social customs require the mandatory assent of the Governor to come into effect.
3. The power to direct that an Act of Parliament shall not apply to an autonomous district in the states of Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram is vested exclusively in the President of India, not the Governor.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q13. Consider the following statements regarding the Registration and Recognition of political parties in India:

1. The registration of political parties is governed by the Representation of the People Act, 1951, whereas their recognition as a State or National party is governed by the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968.
2. The Election Commission of India possesses the explicit statutory power under the Representation of the People Act, 1951 to de-register a political party if it violates the Model Code of Conduct.
3. While a candidate fielded by a recognized political party requires only one elector as a proposer to file

nomination papers, a candidate from a registered-unrecognized party requires at least ten electors as proposers.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q14. Consider the following statements regarding the administration of Scheduled Areas under the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution of India:

1. While the executive power of the State extends to the Scheduled Areas, the executive power of the Union specifically extends to giving administrative directions to the State regarding their administration.
2. The Tribes Advisory Council (TAC) must consist of not more than twenty members, of whom exactly half must be the representatives of the Scheduled Tribes in the State Legislative Assembly.
3. The Governor can make regulations for the peace and good government of any area which is a Scheduled Area, but such regulations shall have no effect until they receive the assent of the President.

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

Q15. Read the following constitutional case study carefully:

In the Legislative Assembly of State 'X', the ruling 'Party A' has a total strength of 60 MLAs. A faction of 15 rebel MLAs from Party A submit a memorandum to the Governor explicitly withdrawing their support for their own Chief Minister. Anticipating disciplinary action, these 15 MLAs immediately issue a formal notice for the removal of the Speaker of the Assembly. The next day, the Chief Whip of Party A files a petition seeking the disqualification of these 15 MLAs under the Tenth Schedule. The Speaker ignores the notice for his own removal and proceeds to initiate disqualification hearings. Before the Speaker can issue a final order, the rebel MLAs approach the Supreme Court seeking an interim injunction to halt the Speaker's proceedings.

Based on the constitutional jurisprudence regarding the Tenth Schedule (Anti-Defection Law), consider the following statements:

1. Because the 15 rebel MLAs have only submitted a letter to the Governor and have neither formally resigned from Party A nor defied a formal voting whip on the floor of the House, they are currently immune from disqualification under the Tenth Schedule.
2. According to the constitutional benchmark set in the *Kihoto Hollohan (1992)* judgment, the Supreme Court is constitutionally empowered to issue a pre-emptive interim injunction to halt the Speaker's adjudication proceedings if a violation of natural justice is apprehended.

3. As per the *Nabam Rebia (2016)* judgment, it is constitutionally impermissible for the Speaker to adjudicate upon the disqualification petitions of these MLAs while a formal notice for his own removal is pending.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q16. Which of the following was a mandatory condition imposed on an Indian sovereign state that entered into a Subsidiary Alliance with the British East India Company?

- (a) The ruler was forced to completely surrender internal administrative and revenue-collection powers to the stationed British Resident.
- (b) The ruler was prohibited from establishing diplomatic relations or negotiating with any other Indian or foreign power without the explicit consent of the Company.
- (c) The ruler was required to disband their traditional nobility and replace them with Company-appointed administrators.
- (d) The ruler had to permit the unrestricted entry and settlement of all European trading companies within their territorial dominion.

Q17. Consider the following statements regarding the emergence of "internal challengers" and their impact on Mughal paramountcy during the 18th century:

- **Statement I:** The decline of Mughal imperial authority was fundamentally accelerated by regional insurgencies that evolved from localized rebellions into parallel political and sovereign structures across the subcontinent.
- **Statement II:** The Marathas successfully eroded Mughal administrative control in the Deccan by substituting imperial taxation with their own *Chauth* and *Sardeshmukhi* collections, ultimately reducing Emperor Shah Alam II to a mere puppet under the protection of Mahadji Scindia by the 1770s.
- **Statement III:** Operating in the northwest and near the imperial capital respectively, the Sikhs and Jats consolidated their regional supremacy by serving as loyal auxiliary forces, systematically securing the frontiers on behalf of the Mughal crown.

Choose the most appropriate option based on the analytical relationships between these statements:

- (a) Statement II provides the specific empirical evidence that substantiates the broader political transition asserted in Statement I, while Statement III historically mischaracterizes the antagonistic nature of these regional powers.
- (b) Statement III is logically supported by Statement II, demonstrating that the internal challengers ultimately sought formal integration into the traditional Mughal military hierarchy.
- (c) Statement I is empirically supported by Statement III, proving that the decentralization of the empire was a carefully managed devolution of power initiated by Delhi.

(d) Statement II and Statement III both logically contradict Statement I by establishing that the challengers functioned strictly as localized raiders without broader territorial ambitions.

Q18. Consider the following statements regarding the Malguzari System implemented during British colonial rule:

1. Primarily operating in the Central Provinces, the system was conceptualized as a variation of the Mahalwari model but practically resembled the Zamindari system by conferring proprietary ownership upon village headmen.
2. During the preceding Maratha administration, the Malguzars possessed absolute hereditary ownership rights over the land, which the British subsequently downgraded to mere revenue-farming status in the 1860s.
3. In contrast to the Permanent Settlement of Bengal, the state's revenue demand imposed on the Malguzars was not permanently fixed and remained subject to periodic revision, typically every 20 to 30 years.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q19. Consider the following statements regarding the trajectories of 19th-century socio-religious reform movements:

- **Statement I:** The Prarthana Samaj achieved practical social reforms, such as establishing the Widow Remarriage Association, by deliberately choosing to work within the existing framework of Hinduism rather than breaking away from it.
- **Statement II:** The radicalism of Keshub Chandra Sen's Brahmo Samaj of India, which included pushing for inter-caste marriages, alienated many followers but simultaneously succeeded in spreading the movement beyond Bengal.
- **Statement III:** The failure of the Young Bengal Movement to sustain a mass following was primarily due to its lack of intellectual foundation and reliance on conservative religious texts.

Choose the most appropriate option based on the relationships between these statements:

- (a) Statement I and Statement II are historically accurate and represent two distinct tactical approaches to social reform, while Statement III is factually incorrect.
- (b) Statement I is empirically supported by Statement III, demonstrating the widespread rejection of radicalism across all Indian provinces.
- (c) Statement II explains the ideological origins of the Prarthana Samaj mentioned in Statement I, and Statement III provides a logical contradiction to both.
- (d) All three statements are historically accurate and collectively demonstrate the necessity of Western education in Indian social reform.

Q20. Reflecting the 2025 and 2026 academic updates to the modern Indian history curriculum - which emphasize a deeper analysis of early colonial tribal resistance and administrative

responses - consider the following statements:

1. The Kol Mutiny (1831–1832) was primarily triggered by the large-scale transfer of tribal lands in the Chotanagpur region to outsider farmers by the local Raja, eventually compelling the British to administer the area directly through the South West Frontier Agency (SWFA).
2. The Khond Uprisings (1837–1856), led by Chakra Bisoi across the Odisha-Srikakulam belt, were largely a reaction against the imposition of new taxes and colonial attempts to suppress the traditional socio-religious practice of "Mariah."
3. While the Kols under Buddho Bhagat engaged in mass violent uprisings targeting the properties of moneylenders and officials, the Khonds employed guerrilla warfare tactics against British forces until the eventual establishment of the Mariah Agency.

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

Q21. In the context of the recent 2025 and 2026 academic reviews of agrarian and subaltern resistance during the non-cooperation era, consider the following statements:

1. The Eka Movement re-emerged in districts like Hardoi and Sitapur as a militant manifestation of peasant resistance following the suppression of the mainstream Kisan Sabha movement.

2. Under the leadership of Madari Pasi, the Eka Movement mobilized small tenants and petty zamindars who collectively refused to pay rents exceeding the officially recorded rates.
3. The Mappila Revolt began as an integrated anti-British and anti-landlord struggle with initial backing from Congress and Khilafat leaders before deteriorating into a violent communal conflict.

Which of the following conclusions regarding the validity of the statements above is accurate?

- (a) There is only one correct statement
- (b) There are only two correct statements
- (c) All three statements are correct
- (d) There is no correct statement

Q22. Consider the following statements regarding the proliferation and leadership of pre-Congress political organizations in 19th-century India:

1. Led by Surendranath Banerjee and Anandamohan Bose, the Indian Association of Calcutta emerged as a critical pre-Congress body by spearheading an all-India agitation against the reduction of the age limit for the Indian Civil Service.
2. Gazulu Lakshminarasu Chetty served as a primary architect and founding member of the Madras Mahajana Sabha in 1884, deliberately organizing the southern presidency's political elite to stimulate regional nationalism.
3. Operating outside the subcontinent, the East India Association was established in 1866 by Dadabhai Naoroji in London with the specific strategic objective of

influencing British public opinion regarding Indian affairs.

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

- (a) Only one statement is correct
- (b) Only two statements are correct
- (c) All three statements are correct
- (d) There is no correct statement

Q23. Assertion (A): The thickness of oceanic crust is constantly renewed and destroyed, whereas continental crust is much older and rarely subducted.

Reason (R): The continental crust is primarily composed of highly dense basaltic rocks that act as a heavy anchor, forcing the lighter, granitic oceanic crust to buckle and subduct beneath it during plate collisions.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- C) A is true but R is false.
- D) A is false but R is true.

Q 24. Which of the following is the correct definition of "Tillite", a term frequently used as evidence for the distribution of oceans and continents?

- A) An igneous rock formed by the rapid cooling of submarine lava.
- B) A sedimentary rock formed out of deposits made by glaciers.

C) A metamorphic rock found exclusively along the mid-oceanic ridges.

D) A fossilized remain of marine flora found in the Himalayas.

Q25. Assertion (A): The Earth's lower atmosphere is primarily heated directly from above through the absorption of incoming short-wave solar radiation.

Reason (R): The atmosphere is largely transparent to incoming short-wave solar radiation but absorbs the outgoing long-wave terrestrial radiation emitted by the Earth's surface.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

(a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.

(b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.

(c) A is true but R is false.

(d) A is false but R is true.

Q26. Read the following passage:

"This specific mode of inland transportation is uniquely immune to the chronic logistical problems of empty return cargo, urban traffic congestion, and severe weather delays. While the initial capital expenditure (CAPEX) for acquiring land rights and laying the physical network is astronomically high, its operational running costs (OPEX) are the lowest among all inland transport modes. Historically used to transport water, it is now the backbone for moving volatile, high-volume commodities across transcontinental distances."

Which of the following modes of transportation is best described in the passage above?

- (a) Roll-on/Roll-off (Ro-Ro) Railways
- (b) Inland Waterways (Barges)
- (c) Pipeline Transport
- (d) Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFCs)

Q27. Consider the following pairs of coal types and their key characteristics or primary locations in India:

Coal Type	Key Characteristic / Location
1. Anthracite	Predominantly found in the Gondwana coalfields of the Damodar Valley.
2. Lignite	The Neyveli region in Tamil Nadu holds the largest reserves in India.
3. Peat	Represents the first stage of wood transformation into coal, known for its extremely high carbon content.
4. Bituminous	The most widely used commercial coal in India, extensively used in metallurgy.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Q 28. Consider the following statements regarding groundwater usage and regulation in India:

1. India is the largest user of groundwater in the world, extracting more than the United States and China combined.

2. The agricultural sector accounts for nearly 90% of total groundwater extraction in the country.

3. According to the latest Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) assessment, every single state and Union Territory in India now has at least one 'over-exploited' groundwater assessment unit.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Q 29. If you travel by road from Gujarat to Arunachal Pradesh choosing the shortest possible route (i.e., traversing the minimum number of states, including the origin and destination), what is the *minimum* number of states on your route one must have to cross that are intersected by the Tropic of Cancer?

- (a) 2
- (b) 5
- (c) 4
- (d) 3

Q 30. Read the following geographical case study carefully:

"This protected area is situated near the tri-junction of Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu. It is bounded by the Kabini River to its north and the Moyar River to its south, while the Nugu River runs right through it. Serving as a crucial ecological corridor connecting the

Western Ghats to the Eastern Ghats, it forms a central, contiguous block of the larger Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve."

Which of the following protected areas is described in the passage above?

- (a) Nagarhole National Park
- (b) Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary
- (c) Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary
- (d) Bandipur Tiger Reserve

Q31. Consider the following statements regarding the selection and implementation of standard time zones across the globe:

- **Statement I:** The longitude of 82°30' E has been selected as the 'standard meridian' of India, which places Indian Standard Time exactly 5 hours and 30 minutes ahead of Greenwich Mean Time.
- **Statement II:** There is a general understanding among the countries of the world to select their standard meridians in multiples of 7°30' of longitude.
- **Statement III:** In order to maintain national unity and administrative uniformity, countries possessing a vast east-to-west geographical extent universally adhere to a single standard meridian.

Which of the following options best describes the relationship between these statements?

- (a) Statement I and Statement II are empirically correct, and Statement II serves as the underlying logical rationale for the specific longitudinal value adopted in Statement I;

Statement III contradicts established geographical realities.

Indian subcontinent.

(b) All three statements are empirically correct, with Statement III providing the administrative framework that governs the principles mentioned in Statements I and II.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

(c) Statement I and Statement III are empirically correct, with Statement III acting as the primary logical explanation for the single time zone mentioned in Statement I; Statement II is factually incorrect.

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) Only three

(d) All four

(d) Statement II and Statement III are factually correct but present a mutually contradictory relationship regarding global timekeeping; Statement I is an incorrect empirical claim.

Q32. Consider the following statements regarding the international borders of Indian states and their associated geographical features:

Q33. You are the lead technical advisor for a maritime infrastructure committee evaluating a proposal to build a major natural deep-water port, coupled with an extensive inland backwater navigation and tourism network. The initial proposal heavily recommends situating this mega-project along the eastern coastal plain, specifically near the Godavari or Krishna delta regions. Based on the geomorphological characteristics of the Indian coastal plains, what is the most scientifically sound strategic action?

1. The state of West Bengal shares international boundaries with three different countries, including Bangladesh, which accounts for the longest land frontier with India.
2. The Indus river flows in India exclusively through the Union Territory of Ladakh before crossing the international boundary into Pakistan near Chilas.
3. The Sarda river (also known as the Saryu) marks a geographical boundary by flowing along the Indo-Nepal border before eventually joining the Ghaghara river.
4. Sri Lanka and the Maldives are island nations that geographically form an integral part of the entity known as the

- (a) Approve the proposal, as the eastern coastal plain is an emergent coast with a continental shelf extending up to 500 km into the sea, providing the shallow, stable bedrock required to easily anchor natural deep-water harbours.
- (b) Relocate the project to the eastern coast's northernmost sector, because unlike the western coastal plain which is strictly emergent, the eastern coast's submerged nature prevents delta formation and keeps harbour channels naturally clear.
- (c) Approve the eastern coast location but restrict it to non-deltaic zones, because the rivers flowing eastward into the Bay of Bengal are strictly ephemeral and will not provide the necessary year-round

water volume for the inland navigation network.

(d) Relocate the project to the western coastal plain, because its submerged geomorphology inherently provides natural conditions for port development, and the Malabar region specifically features 'Kayals' ideally suited for inland navigation and tourism.

Q34. Identify the river on the basis of the following information:

1. It rises near Mhow in the Malwa plateau, and its waters are harnessed by the Gandhisagar dam constructed along its course.
2. It is a major tributary originating from the Peninsular plateau that flows northwards through a deep gorge.
3. After flowing through Madhya Pradesh, it traverses down to Bundi, Sawai Madhopur, and Dholpur in Rajasthan before finally joining the Yamuna.
4. The river basin is distinctively famous for severe gully erosion resulting in a prominent badland topography.

- (a) The Betwa
- (b) The Son
- (c) The Chambal
- (d) The Ken

Q35. With reference to the Traditional Indian Seasons based on the Indian calendar and the Gregorian calendar, consider the following details:

Sl. No.	Traditional Season	Indian Calendar Months	Gregorian Calendar Months
1	Vasanta	Chaitra-Vaisakha	March-April
2	Varsha	Asvina-Kartika	July-August
3	Shishira	Margashirsa-Pausa	January-February

In how many of the above rows are the given details correctly matched?

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

Q36. You have been appointed as the District Forest Officer (DFO) for a forest division in the Western Ghats containing a fragile tract of Tropical Semi-Evergreen Forest. Recently, due to illicit selective logging of commercially valuable tall trees and localized climate stress, the forest has suffered severe canopy fragmentation. This opening of the canopy has led to the aggressive proliferation of sun-loving invasive weeds (such as *Lantana camara*) in the understory. Consequently, a rapid ecological shift is occurring, where hardy, light-demanding deciduous species are outcompeting the moisture-dependent, shade-loving evergreen species, threatening the unique mixed character of the forest.

As an administrator prioritizing ecological restoration, which of the following is the most

scientifically sound and appropriate silvicultural strategy to halt this degradation and restore the semi-evergreen character of the tract?

- (a) Introduce controlled, low-intensity ground fires before the pre-monsoon showers to eradicate the invasive weeds, as semi-evergreen forests are naturally fire-climax ecosystems requiring periodic burns to stimulate the germination of evergreen seeds.
- (b) Undertake gap-enrichment planting using indigenous shade-tolerant evergreen climax species in the fragmented areas, systematically remove the invasive undergrowth, and strictly regulate any further extraction of canopy trees to restore the forest's micro-climatic humidity.
- (c) Clear-fell the severely degraded, weed-infested patches and initiate large-scale compensatory afforestation using fast-growing, resilient exotic evergreen species (such as *Eucalyptus* or *Acacia*) to rapidly close the canopy and prevent soil erosion.
- (d) Halt all active silvicultural interventions and declare the zone a 'Strict Nature Reserve', allowing secondary natural succession to run its course without human interference, even if it results in the permanent conversion of the tract into a dry deciduous forest.

Q37. Consider a scenario where a newly launched designer watch sees a sudden surge in consumer demand exclusively because its manufacturer doubled its retail price. Consumers perceive the higher price as a mark of superior social status and exclusivity.

The economic behavior described in this scenario best reflects the characteristics of which of the following?

- (a) Giffen Good
- (b) Public Good
- (c) Substitute Good
- (d) Veblen Good

Q38. Consider the following statements regarding Payments Banks in India:

- 1. They are permitted to accept demand deposits but cannot accept time deposits (fixed deposits).
- 2. They are strictly prohibited from undertaking any lending activities or issuing credit cards.
- 3. They are exempt from maintaining the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) with the RBI.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q 39. Consider the following transactions involving the Indian economy:

- 1. An Indian company repays the principal amount of a massive loan it had previously taken from a Japanese bank.
- 2. An Indian IT professional working in the United States sends part of his salary back to his family in Kerala.
- 3. A foreign multinational company repatriates the profits earned from its Indian branch back to its home country.

How many of the transactions listed above are recorded in the Current Account of India's Balance of Payments?

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

Q40. Consider the following pairs regarding the different types of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) based on their operational strategy:

Type of FDI	Scenario
1. Horizontal FDI	A Japanese automobile company establishing a factory in India to produce and sell the exact same cars it manufactures in Japan.
2. Vertical FDI	A US-based software giant acquiring an Indian food-processing company.
3. Conglomerate FDI	A multinational coffee chain purchasing coffee bean plantations in South America to secure its raw material supply.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one pair
- (b) Only two pairs
- (c) All three pairs
- (d) None of the pairs

Q41. Consider the following macroeconomic proposition:

"During the initial transition of a country from a pre-industrial to an industrialized economy,

income inequality rises rapidly as wealth concentrates in emerging sectors. However, as the economy matures, per capita income rises further, and the state establishes welfare mechanisms, this inequality naturally begins to fall."

Which of the following economic curves graphically represents the historical trajectory described above?

- (a). Lorenz Curve
- (b). Engel Curve
- (c). Kuznets Curve
- (d). Beveridge Curve

Q42. Consider the following statements regarding the Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) project in India:

1. The Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC) connects Dadri in Uttar Pradesh to the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) in Maharashtra.
2. The Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) is being predominantly funded by loans from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

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

Q 43.With reference to macroeconomic and industrial performance indices in India, consider the following details:

Sl. No.	Indicator / Survey	Primary Function / Scope	Compiling Agency / Office
1.	Index of Industrial Production (IIP)	Measures short-term changes in the volume of production in mining, manufacturing, and electricity	Central Statistics Office (CSO), MoSPI
2.	Index of Core Industries (ICI)	Tracks production performance of eight individual infrastructure-support industries	Office of the Economic Adviser, DPIIT
3.	Annual Survey of Industries (ASI)	Comprehensive principal survey of registered factory-sector manufacturing and employment	Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour and Employment

In how many of the above rows are all the given details correctly matched?

- (a) Only 1 row
- (b) Only 2 rows
- (c) All 3 rows
- (d) None of the rows

Q 44. With reference to the Asian Development Bank (ADB), consider the following statements:

1. Membership in the ADB is not restricted to the Asia-Pacific; it admits

non-regional developed countries as well.

2. Voting power within the ADB is distributed in proportion to members' capital subscriptions rather than on a "one-member-one-vote" basis.
3. The ADB extends direct loans and equity investments to private enterprises in developing member countries without requiring a sovereign guarantee.

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

Q46. Consider the following statements regarding emerging economic models and asset classifications:

1. The **Orange Economy** is driven by creativity, culture, and intellectual property, fundamentally relying on intangible investments such as technical knowledge, copyrights, and brand recognition.
2. The **Concert Economy** is a subset of the Orange Economy involving large-scale live entertainment events; when these events attract foreign nationals, the resulting tourism income is classified as an invisible export.
3. **Global Capability Centres (GCCs)** are offshore units established by multinational firms for tech development and business operations; the intellectual property and patents they generate are officially classified as tangible assets.

Which of the following conclusions regarding the validity of the statements above is correct?

- (a) All three statements are correct
- (b) Only two statements are correct
- (c) There is only one correct statement
- (d) There is no correct statement

Q46. Consider the following statements regarding the decisions (awards) rendered by the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID):

1. An ICSID arbitral award is legally binding on the disputing parties and cannot be appealed on its substantive legal or factual merits.
2. The ICSID framework features a permanent standing Appellate Body modeled after the World Trade Organization (WTO) to review contested tribunal rulings.
3. Member states are obligated to enforce the pecuniary (monetary) obligations of an ICSID award within their territory as if it were a final judgment of their own domestic courts.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q47. Consider the following statements regarding the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme in India:

1. The scheme provides direct financial incentives to companies based on the

incremental sales of products manufactured in domestic units.

2. It is exclusively restricted to the pharmaceutical, medical devices, and electronics sectors to reduce critical import dependence.
3. The scheme aims at promoting *aatmanirbhar* Bharat, so it is limited only to Indian companies.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q48. Consider the following indicators used to assess deprivation:

1. Child Mortality
2. Maternal Health
3. Years of Schooling
4. Bank Accounts

Which of the indicators given above are uniquely included in NITI Aayog's **National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)** but are **NOT** a part of the UNDP's **Global MPI**?

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

Q 49. Consider the following statements about Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) in India:

1. RRBs can accept demand deposits and form a part of the payment and settlement system.
2. The equity capital of an RRB is jointly held by the Central Government, the

concerned State Government, and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

3. RRBs are classified as Scheduled Commercial Banks and are required to maintain both the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) and Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR).
4. The deposit insurance facility of the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) is not available to the depositors of RRBs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q50. Consider the following macroeconomic scenario:

Country 'X', a vulnerable middle-income nation, is facing a dual economic crisis. First, it is experiencing a short-term balance of payments (BoP) deficit due to a temporary global commodity shock. Second, its long-term economic stability is severely threatened by climate change, requiring massive investments in green transition and pandemic preparedness.

*The government of X formally approaches the IMF, requesting long-term financing exclusively through the newly established **Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF)**. To avoid politically unpopular austerity measures, the government explicitly refuses to sign up for any traditional IMF macroeconomic adjustment program (such as a Stand-By Arrangement).*

Based on the operational framework of the IMF, which of the following statements correctly evaluates the likely outcome of this request?

- (a) The IMF will approve the request, as the RSF was specifically established as a standalone facility to provide long-term climate finance independent of traditional macroeconomic conditionalities.
- (b) The IMF will reject the request, because the RSF is financed through the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PRGT) and is strictly restricted to Low-Income Countries (LICs).
- (c) The IMF will approve the request, but only after converting the RSF application into an Extended Fund Facility (EFF), which is the IMF's primary tool for short-term liquidity crises.
- (d) The IMF will reject the request, because accessing the RSF strictly requires the country to concurrently have an active IMF Upper Credit Tranche (UCT) program in place.

Q51. A fundamental difference between a commercial bank and a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) is that an NBFC:

1. Cannot accept demand deposits from the public.
2. Does not form a part of the national payment and settlement system and cannot issue cheques drawn on itself.
3. Depositors do not get the deposit insurance facility of the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC).

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

Q52. Which of the following countries are members of the European Union but are not members of the OECD?

1. Bulgaria
2. Cyprus
3. Poland
4. Malta

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

Q53. Which of the following countries are members of BRICS but are not members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)?

1. South Africa
2. United Arab Emirates
3. Iran
4. Egypt

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

Q54: During its tenure as the chair of the expanded BRICS bloc in 2026, India advanced a comprehensive framework to guide the group's agenda, demonstrating its commitment to global economic recovery and multipolar development.

Which of the following combinations correctly represents the core pillars of the official theme "Building for..." adopted under India's 2026 BRICS presidency?

- (a) Recovery, Innovation, Collaboration and Security
- (b) Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability
- (c) Resilience, Infrastructure, Commerce and Stability

(d) Reconstruction, Integration, Cooperation and Sustainability

Q55. Consider the following statements with respect to the 18th BRICS Summit, 2026 held in New Delhi:

1. The Summit marked India's fourth time assuming the Chairship of the BRICS grouping since its inception.
2. The BRICS Presidency rotates bi-annually among member nations according to the alphabetical order of the expanded membership.

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

Q56. Which of the following international conventions have **not** been ratified by India?

1. United Nations Convention Against Torture (UNCAT)
2. Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (1951 Refugee Convention)
3. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
4. Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC)
5. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)

Which one of the following is correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 5 Only
- (b) 2 and 3 Only
- (c) 1, 2 and 4 Only
- (d) 4 and 5 only

Q57. Match List I with List II and select the answer using the code given below the Lists:

List I (Cross-Border Project)	List II (Connecting Terminals)
A.Motihari–Amlekhgunj Pipeline	1. Assam to Sarpang District
B. Agartala–Akhaurya Rail Link	2. Bihar to Bara District
C.Kokrajhar–Gelephu Rail Link	3. Manipur to Mae Sot via Mandalay
D. IMT Trilateral Highway	4. Tripura to Brahmanbaria

Code:

- | | A | B | C | D |
|-----|---|---|---|---|
| (a) | 2 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| (b) | 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 |
| (c) | 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| (d) | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 |

Q58. Consider the following statements regarding India's contemporary diplomatic engagements and plurilateral diplomacy:

- I. Under the "Partners for Multilateralism" (P4M) framework, India collaborates with middle powers and regional anchors—such as Canada, Kenya, Brazil, and the European Union—to champion "Reformed Multilateralism," seeking structural overhaul of the United Nations to preserve collective governance outside great-power rivalry
- II. In its engagement with the Visegrad Group (V4), India focuses on pragmatic, functional cooperation in defense co-production, technological transfers,

and structured Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreements (MMPAs) to address demographic and skill shortages in Central Europe.

- III. India's strategic posture harmonizes normative advocacy for international institutional reform with transactional, region-specific partnerships, operationalizing a doctrine of issue-based multi-alignment to maximize strategic autonomy.

Which one of the following options best describes the logical and empirical relationship among the statements given above?

- (a) Statements I and II are empirically verifiable diplomatic initiatives, and Statement III provides the overarching analytical framework that logically synthesizes them into a coherent foreign policy doctrine.
- (b) Statement I and Statement II describe fundamentally contradictory strategic commitments, exposing an irreconcilable policy paradox that invalidates the conceptual claim in Statement III.
- (c) The regional agreements identified in Statement II serve as the legal and institutional prerequisite for entering the broader multilateral coalition outlined in Statement I, rendering Statement III empirically flawed.
- (d) Statements I and II are empirically accurate, but Statement III presents a flawed deduction because normative global governance advocacy structurally precludes participation in transactional unilateral blocs.

Q 59. Consider the following statements:

1. Rare Earth Elements (REEs) are classified as "rare" because their overall

crustal abundance is substantially lower than that of precious metals like platinum and gold.

2. The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2023 omitted several critical and strategic minerals from the list of atomic minerals, opening them to private sector commercial auction.
3. Under the proposed domestic processing ecosystem, Odisha and Maharashtra are earmarked as dedicated hubs for rare earth processing.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) None
- (b) All three
- (c) Only Two
- (d) Only One

Q60. Consider the following pairs of major astronomical facilities in India:

S.No.	Telescope	Location	Primary Purpose / Design
1.	MACE Telescope	Hanle, Ladakh	Designed to detect Cherenkov radiation (faint blue flashes) from high-energy cosmic gamma rays hitting the atmosphere.
2.	International Liquid-Mirror	Devasthal, Uttarakhand	Tracks space debris and transient phenomena

	Telescope (ILMT)		by actively panning and steering a rotating liquid mercury mirror across the sky.
3.	10–12-Metre Optical Telescope	Devasthal, Uttarakhand	An upcoming large-aperture facility sanctioned to place India in frontier ground-based deep space optical astronomy.
4.	Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT)	Pune, Maharashtra	Operates an array of antennas to investigate astrophysical phenomena like pulsars and active galaxies at radio wavelengths.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Q61. Which of the following statements with regard to the working of Large Language Models (LLMs) is/are correct?

1. To process language, LLMs map words into high-dimensional mathematical spaces (embeddings) where words with similar semantic meanings are placed geographically closer to one another.
2. Adjusting the "temperature" parameter of an LLM to zero forces the model to consistently select the mathematically most probable next token, resulting in highly deterministic outputs.
3. Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) is a technique that continuously updates and alters the foundational neural weights of the LLM in real-time to prevent it from providing outdated information.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q 62. Which one of the following chemical processes is specifically employed to convert complex cellulose from agricultural stubble into simple fermentable sugars during the production of Second-Generation (2G) ethanol?

- (a) Transesterification
- (b) Steam reforming
- (c) Enzymatic hydrolysis
- (d) Anaerobic digestion

Q 63. Consider the following vaccine-preventable diseases:

1. Hepatitis A
2. Pertussis
3. Tuberculosis
4. Poliomyelitis
5. Measles
6. Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)

Which of the diseases listed above are NOT covered by the recently introduced Hexavalent vaccine?

- (a) 1, 3, and 5 only
- (b) 2, 4, and 6 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 5 only
- (d) 3, 4, and 6 only

Q 64. With reference to the design and operational physics of the Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3), India's heaviest operational launch vehicle, consider the following statements:

1. The cryogenic upper stage utilizes liquid hydrogen primarily because its high volumetric density enables a compact, lightweight propellant tank design.
2. To regulate aerodynamic stress during the period of maximum dynamic pressure (Max-Q), the thrust of the twin S-200 solid boosters is actively throttled down and subsequently throttled back up using variable propellant valves.
3. The vehicle is launched along a westward trajectory from Sriharikota to exploit the Earth's rotational velocity and provide an additional velocity boost toward orbit.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q 65. Consider the following statements regarding the practical advantages and

functional impacts of sub-nanometer semiconductor chips:

1. By dramatically improving performance-per-watt, these chips enable complex generative AI models to be processed directly on edge devices without relying constantly on cloud data centers.
2. Because these chips operate at the atomic scale, they inherently transition classical binary computing into quantum computing, allowing standard consumer devices to process qubits.
3. The adoption of "Backside Power Delivery" networks in these chips reduces electrical resistance and voltage loss, allowing processors to sustain higher speeds at lower power consumption.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q 66. Consider the following Assertion and Reason:

Assertion (A): Vision-Language-Action (VLA) models allow physical robots to execute complex, improvised commands (such as "move the extinct animal to the red square" when shown a group of plastic toys) without requiring explicit, step-by-step mechanical programming.

Reason (R): VLA models achieve this by utilizing a highly modular robotics architecture, where the natural language processing, visual recognition, and mechanical motor controls are handled by completely separate, independently trained AI subsystems.

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- (c) A is true, but R is false.
- (d) A is false, but R is true.

Q 67. Consider the following statements regarding how autonomous drone swarms actually work in the military:

1. In a true drone swarm, if the enemy shoots down a few drones, the remaining drones automatically communicate with each other and rearrange themselves to complete the mission.
2. Military drone swarms rely on a single "leader drone" to give commands to the rest; if this leader is destroyed, the entire swarm stops working.
3. These drones use "Edge AI," meaning they have their own computer chips to process camera footage and make decisions, allowing them to fly even if the enemy blocks their connection to the base.
4. To stop a drone swarm, militaries prefer to use High-Power Microwave weapons that instantly fry the electronics of multiple drones at once, rather than trying to shoot them down one by one with bullets.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q 68. What is the primary purpose of the BIO-NIVESH platform launched by the Indian government in September 2026?

- (a) To provide basic educational grants to university students studying biotechnology.
- (b) To replace private venture capital entirely with government-backed loans.
- (c) To bridge the gap between biotech startups and private investors to scale up "anchor" companies globally.
- (d) To privatize existing public-sector research laboratories across India.

Q 69. Consider the following statements regarding the comparative scales of Carnatic Melakarta ragas and Hindustani Thaats:

1. Dheera Shankarabharanam in the Carnatic tradition employs only *Shuddha Swaras* (natural notes), making it the exact structural counterpart to the Bilawal Thaats in Hindustani classical music.
2. The Carnatic Melakarta raga Nat Bhairavi structurally corresponds to the Asavari Thaats of Hindustani music, which equates to the natural minor scale in the Western musical tradition.
3. Hanumatodi, commonly referred to simply as Todi in the Carnatic system, shares its underlying note structure with the Todi Thaats of the Hindustani classical tradition.

Which one of the following options best describes the validity of the statements given above?

- (a) All three statements are correct
- (b) There are only two correct statements
- (c) There is only one correct statement
- (d) There is no correct statement

Q 70. Consider the following statements:

I. Hoards of punch-marked pieces of silver and copper, bearing specific symbols such as a hill, tree, fish, bull, and crescent, emerge in the archaeological record.

II. Pali texts indicate the plentiful use of this medium to pay wages and estimate the prices of goods, supplanting the earlier mutual gift and barter modes of exchange.

The above statements have been associated with which of the following?

1. The transition to a metallic money economy during the age of Gautama Buddha and later periods.
2. The primary mode of economic exchange prevalent during the early Vedic times.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Q 71. Consider the following statements about the architectural and spatial layout of the ancient city of Vijayanagara:

- I. A massive, towering stone platform known as the Mahanavami Dibba is located on one of the highest elevation points strictly within the Royal Centre of the city.
- II. The Mahanavami Dibba functioned as a highly visible stage for grand imperial ceremonies, particularly the Mahanavami (Navaratri) festival.
- III. The Virupaksha Temple is an ancient, sprawling complex situated along the banks of the Tungabhadra River in the Sacred Centre, physically distinct from the royal enclosure.

Which of the following inferences can be drawn from the above statements?

1. Statements I and II suggest that the Vijayanagara rulers strategically utilized monumental architecture and natural topography to project imperial authority during major state festivals.
2. Statement III suggests that the spatial geography of Vijayanagara maintained a distinct zoning separation between the everyday imperial administrative/royal spaces and the primary ancient temple complexes.
3. The statements collectively suggest that the Mahanavami Dibba was originally constructed to serve as the elevated structural foundation for the Virupaksha Temple.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Q 72. Which of the following temples is/are characteristic examples of the *Vesara* style of architecture?

1. Brihadisvara Temple, Thanjavur
2. Chennakeshava Temple, Belur
3. Shore Temple, Mahabalipuram
4. Hoysaleswara Temple, Halebidu

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Q 73. In Buddhist philosophy, the concept of a sentient being is deconstructed into five fundamental physical and mental aggregates known as the *Skandhas*. Which one of the

following is **not** included among these five aggregates?

- (a) Rupa (Physical form or matter)
- (b) Vedana (Sensations or feelings)
- (c) Jiva (The eternal, unchanging life principle)
- (d) Vijnana (Consciousness or discernment)

Q 74. Consider the following statements regarding the evolution and stylistic features of miniature painting schools in medieval India:

- I. The Rajasthani schools of miniature painting (such as Mewar, Bundi, and Kishangarh) were deeply rooted in indigenous Hindu religious themes, heavily utilizing Vaishnava subjects like the *Gita Govinda*, *Bhagavata Purana*, and the *Ragamala* system to express devotional fervor (*Bhakti*).
- II. The Mughal school of miniature painting was primarily a court-centric, secular art form focused on naturalistic portraiture, historical documentation (like the *Akbarnama*), and highly detailed flora and fauna, largely devoid of overt Hindu mythological narratives.
- III. The stylistic divergence between these two major schools suggests that the socio-political patronage base strictly dictated thematic content, resulting in complete isolation of the indigenous Rajasthani artistic idiom from any Persian-Mughal technical or aesthetic influence.

Which one of the following options best describes the logical and empirical relationship among the statements given above?

- (a) Statements I and II are empirically correct, and Statement III provides the overarching analytical framework that logically synthesizes their historical evolution.

- (b) Statements I and II are empirically accurate observations regarding thematic differences, but Statement III presents a flawed deduction because cross-cultural artistic synthesis and technical borrowing were pervasive across regional courts.
- (c) Statement I contradicts Statement II, proving that regional painting schools could not coexist simultaneously, thereby rendering Statement III empirically unverifiable.
- (d) Statement II is a direct consequence of the religious themes identified in Statement I, confirming the premise established in Statement III.

Q 75. Consider the following statements relating to the development of science and mathematics in ancient India:

1. The earliest epigraphic evidence for the use of the decimal system in India is found in the inscriptions of Ashoka, inscribed in the third century BC.
2. In the second century BC, Apastamba produced a practical text on geometry for constructing sacrificial altars, which described acute, obtuse, and right angles.
3. In his fifth-century work *Aryabhatiya*, Aryabhata discovered the cause of lunar and solar eclipses and pointed out that the sun is stationary while the earth rotates.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q 76. Which of the following pairs of ancient Harappan sites and their associated rivers is/are correctly matched?

1. Harappa : Ravi
2. Lothal : Bhogava
3. Kalibanga : Luni
4. Dholavira : Indus

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

Q77. Which of the following pairs of Jain Tirthankaras and their concerned Yakshinis is/are correctly matched?

1. Rishavadev : Chakreshwari
2. Neminath : Ambika
3. Parshwanath : Siddhayika
4. Mahavir : Padmavati

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

Q 78. Which of the following pairs of ancient dynasties and their founders is/are correctly matched?

1. The Chalukyas of Vatapi : Jayasimha
2. The Kadambas of Vanavasi : Mayurasharma
3. The Pallavas of Kanchi : Kodungon
4. The Maitrakas of Vallabhi : Vindhyaashakti

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

Q 79. Consider the following statements regarding the prominent medieval kingdoms of Peninsular India, their capitals, and their founders:

1. The Western Chalukyas (also known as the Later Chalukyas) were established by Tailapa-II and operated from their capital at Kalyani in present-day Karnataka.
2. The Kakatiya dynasty, recognized with Prolaraja-II as its real founder, established its imperial capital at Devagiri in Maharashtra.
3. The Hoyasala kingdom was centered around its capital at Dwarasamudra in Karnataka, with Vittigadeva (also known as Vishnuvardhana) recognized as its real founder.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q 80. Which of the following pairs of medieval administrative units and their respective heads is/are **not** correctly matched?

1. Mandalam (Province) : Gauda
2. Nadu (District) : Naduprabhu
3. Gram (Village) : Mandaleswar

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

Q 81. Which of the following pairs of Sufi terms and their meanings is/are **not** correctly matched?

1. Khanqah : Musical recital
2. Murid : Disciple
3. Fana : Successor

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

Q 82. Consider the following statements about British financial and currency commissions in India:

I. The Herschell Committee (1893) recommended the closure of Indian mints to the free coinage of silver, and the Fowler Committee (1898) subsequently made the British gold sovereign legal tender.

II. Prominent Indian nationalists testified before the Welby Commission (1895), which was tasked with investigating civil and military expenditures, to mathematically expose the "Drain of Wealth".

III. The Babington Smith Committee (1919) recommended fixing the exchange rate at a highly inflated 2 shillings per gold rupee, which led to massive financial losses for the government when defending the peg.

Which of the following inferences can be drawn from the above statements?

1. Statement I suggests a phased, deliberate transition of the Indian monetary system away from a pure

silver standard toward a managed gold-backed system.

2. Statement II suggests that the British colonial administration established the Welby Commission with the primary objective of acknowledging and correcting the economic drain from India.
3. Statement III suggests that implementing artificially overvalued currency pegs contrary to global market realities proved economically detrimental and unsustainable for the colonial government.

Select the 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

Q 83. Consider the historical contributions of medieval Bhakti saints to regional literature and philosophy. Which of the following accurately identifies the primary cultural and literary achievements of the 13th-century saint Jnanesvara (Jnanadeva)?

- (a) He spearheaded the early Saguna Bhakti tradition in the Bengal region, dedicating his life to translating the Upanishads into colloquial Bengali.
- (b) He was a leading advocate of the Nirguna school in North India, focusing his primary literary efforts on compiling the mystic verses of the *Bijak*.
- (c) He composed a series of profound Telugu *kirtans* dedicated to Lord Venkateshwara, firmly establishing the foundation of Carnatic musical traditions.
- (d) He is revered as the fountainhead of the Bhakti movement in Maharashtra and authored the *Bhavarthadipka*, a seminal

regional-language commentary on the Bhagavad Gita.

Q 84. Consider the following statements with reference to India's updated climate change mitigation targets:

- I. India has elevated its medium-term climate ambitions for 2035, committing to reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by 47% compared to 2005 levels and to achieve 60% cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel sources.
- II. The updated strategy relies exclusively on the technological decarbonization of the energy and industrial sectors to secure the long-term commitment of achieving net-zero emissions by 2070.
- III. The 2035 targets include a definitive ecological mandate to create an additional carbon sink of 3.5 to 4.0 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through enhanced forest and tree cover.

Which of the following relationships among the above statements is/are correct?

1. Statement III empirically contradicts the restrictive premise presented in Statement II.
2. Statement I and Statement III collectively represent the multi-sectoral mitigation approach necessary to advance toward the 2070 net-zero target.
3. Statement II logically establishes the fundamental policy basis for the emission targets outlined in Statement I.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Q 85. Consider the following statements regarding the recently discovered marine nematode species (*Corononema dhriti* and *Epacanthion indica*) and their ecological significance:

1. *Corononema dhriti*, discovered off the coast of Tamil Nadu, represents an entirely new genus to science that is exclusively endemic to Indian territorial waters.
2. Unlike typical microbe-feeding nematodes, *Epacanthion indica* functions as a microscopic predator within the benthic food web, utilizing specialized mandibles and teeth.
3. Free-living marine nematodes are critical to the maintenance of coastal sediment health, acting as essential nutrient recyclers and serving as bio-indicators for environmental shifts.

Which one of the following options best describes the validity of the statements given above?

- (a) All three statements are correct
- (b) There is no correct statement
- (c) There is only one correct statement
- (d) There are only two correct statements

Q 86. Consider the following statements regarding India's recent administrative initiatives and treaty compliance concerning climate action and ozone layer protection:

1. The newly launched Net Zero Portal functions as a centralized digital repository that enables industries, organizations, and government bodies to voluntarily register and showcase their progress toward net-zero emissions.
2. Under the ratified Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, India is obligated to achieve a complete phase-out of

Hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) production and consumption by the year 2032.

3. To support the India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP) and Montreal Protocol commitments, 248 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) have been adopted by Refrigeration and Airconditioning (RAC) manufacturers to train a workforce in eco-friendly, low-global-warming-potential (GWP) technologies.
4. India has already successfully achieved the phase-out of Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), Carbon tetrachloride (CTC), and Halons for controlled applications.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q 87. In September 2026, India hosted the World Circular Economy Forum (WCEF), marking the first time this global environmental event was held in the South Asian region. Which of the following accurately identifies the host city and the official theme for the WCEF 2026?

- (a) New Delhi; 'Sustainable Development and Net-Zero Innovations'
- (b) Bengaluru; 'Accelerating the Transition to a Green Economy'
- (c) Mumbai; 'Global Action for a Cooler Planet'
- (d) Gandhinagar; 'Circular Economy: Transition for People and Prosperity'

Q 88. Consider the following statements regarding India's biodiversity conservation policies and the overarching global environmental governance framework:

1. India's updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) for the period 2024–2030 has been structurally aligned with the targets and goals of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).
 2. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), includes a mandatory, legally binding provision that forces every individual signatory nation to convert exactly 30% of its sovereign land into strictly protected, human-free zones by 2030.
 3. The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) serves as the principal national-level policy instrument through which signatory countries domesticate and implement their obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
2. The Nagoya Protocol establishes a mandatory, legally binding global tax on all commercialized genetic resources, the proceeds of which are directly distributed to indigenous communities by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
 3. Target 13 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) specifically calls for the implementation of effective measures to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

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

Q 89. Consider the following statements regarding the international legal frameworks and mechanisms governing biological diversity and genetic resources:

1. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) mandates that member states develop national strategies, such as the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), as their primary policy instrument for domesticating international conservation commitments.

Q 90. 'X' was addressing a seminar on the recent designation of Glaw Lake as India's 101st Ramsar Site. 'X' explained that as Arunachal Pradesh's first Ramsar Site located within the Kamlang Tiger Reserve, the international designation mandates a strict, 'no-human-interference' policy, completely barring local communities from the wetland to protect its 49 recorded orchid species. 'Y' pointed out that the Ramsar designation actually integrates environmental protection with sustainable development, specifically safeguarding the interests and livelihoods of communities dependent on these vital ecosystems, to which 'X' was not convinced.

Based on the above, select the correct conclusion from the options given below:

- (a) 'X' is correct in the interpretation of the Ramsar designation, including the view

on the non-inclusion of local communities.

- (b) The view of 'Y' that the designation safeguards community interests is not correct.
- (c) The views of both 'X' and 'Y' are correct.
- (d) The view of only 'Y' is correct.

Q 91. Under the Green Credit Rules notified pursuant to the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, what are the specific statutory criteria and administrative mechanisms an applicant must fulfill to successfully claim green credits for the eco-restoration of degraded forest lands?

- (a) The applicant is eligible to claim credits immediately upon the initial planting of seedlings on degraded lands, provided the lands are directly registered by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- (b) The applicant must complete a minimum of three years of restoration work and achieve a canopy density of 10%, after which the State Forest Department acts as the Administrator to issue the credits.
- (c) The applicant must surrender existing carbon credits to a designated agency, which then recommends the issuance of equivalent green credits through the Central Pollution Control Board.
- (d) The applicant must complete a minimum of five years of restoration work and achieve a minimum canopy density of forty percent, with the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education acting as the Administrator for issuing the credits.

Q 92. Consider the following statements regarding the recently launched Clouded Leopard Conservation Action Plan (CAP):

1. The CAP, prepared under a Government of India–GEF–UNDP initiative, strengthens institutional frameworks by including the Clouded Leopard under the Species Recovery Programme of the Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (IDWH) scheme.
2. A central strategy of the Action Plan involves the identification of 14 priority conservation landscapes located exclusively across the Western Ghats to restore forest connectivity and corridors.
3. The conservation framework mandates standardized scientific monitoring using methods like environmental DNA (eDNA) and integrates the M-STrIPES smart application to build the capacity of frontline staff.

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

Q 93. Under the current environmental regulatory framework in India, which of the following accurately describes the Environmental Clearance (EC) requirements and jurisdictional authority for establishing Artificial Intelligence (AI) Data Centres?

- (a) All AI Data Centres uniformly require mandatory prior EC directly from the Central Government due to their classification as highly water-intensive commercial industries.
- (b) While AI Data Centres do not inherently require an EC, they must obtain prior EC from the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) if their built-up area exceeds 20,000 square meters.

- (c) AI Data Centres are entirely exempt from the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, provided they strictly adhere to the Bureau of Energy Efficiency's District Cooling Guidelines for wastewater recycling.
- (d) Prior EC for AI Data Centres is exclusively evaluated and granted by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, which strictly oversees groundwater extraction for commercial digital infrastructure.

Q 94. Consider the following statements regarding the ecological recognition and conservation of India's Open Natural Ecosystems (ONEs), such as grasslands, savannas, and scrublands:

- I. Historically, India's Open Natural Ecosystems have frequently been marginalized and mischaracterized in administrative frameworks as unproductive "wastelands" primarily due to their natural absence of dense tree canopies.
- II. Open Natural Ecosystems are highly dynamic biomes that sequester substantial amounts of terrestrial carbon within their soils, regulate critical hydrological processes, and sustain unique endemic biodiversity alongside traditional pastoral livelihoods.
- III. Achieving national Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets and enhancing climate resilience necessitates a paradigm shift towards the science-based, landscape-level conservation of ONEs on par with traditional forest-centric management.

Which one of the following options best describes the logical and empirical relationship among the statements given above?

- (a) Statement I highlights a historical administrative misconception that is empirically countered by the scientific realities presented in Statement II, thereby providing the logical justification for the policy realignment articulated in Statement III.
- (b) Statement I and Statement II are mutually supportive empirical observations that logically demonstrate the inherent unsuitability of ONEs for conservation, directly contradicting the targets proposed in Statement III.
- (c) Statement II logically invalidates the premise of Statement I, proving that ONEs are technically sub-categories of closed-canopy forests, making Statement III the only independently verifiable fact.
- (d) Statement III is a direct consequence of the historical land-use patterns described in Statement I, whereas Statement II presents a scientifically false claim regarding the carbon sequestration potential of treeless landscapes.

Q 95. Consider the following statements regarding India's national framework and international commitments for land restoration and sustainable land management:

- 1. India's Second Progress Report on the Bonn Challenge (2011–2020) evaluates restoration strictly through an ecological lens by measuring hectares restored, deliberately excluding socio-economic parameters such as employment generation.
- 2. As a major global pledger to the Bonn Challenge, India has enhanced its initial commitment to restore 26 million hectares of degraded and deforested land by the year 2030.

3. The Nagar Van Yojana complements rural restoration efforts by explicitly extending the national restoration agenda into urban and peri-urban landscapes through the development of urban forestry and green spaces.

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

Q 96 In 2010, the leaders of 13 Tiger Range Countries convened at the St. Petersburg Tiger Summit to address the critical decline of wild tiger populations. Which of the following accurately describes the primary target of the "TX2" initiative launched during this summit?

- (a) The ambitious goal of doubling the global wild tiger population by the year 2030.
- (b) The ambitious goal of doubling the global wild tiger population by the year 2027.
- (c) The ambitious goal of doubling the global wild tiger population by the year 2025
- (d) The ambitious goal of doubling the global wild tiger population by the year 2022

Q 97. Consider the following statements regarding the implementation and global integration of the Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) initiative:

1. Mission LiFE has been formally incorporated as a qualitative goal within India's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement.

2. The 'Meri LiFE Portal' was established specifically to function as a centralized knowledge repository for the initiative, whereas the 'Mission LiFE Portal' handles the structured reporting and monitoring of grassroots events.
3. At the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the Ramsar Convention, a resolution introduced by India focused on promoting sustainable lifestyles for the wise use of wetlands was successfully adopted.
4. According to India's First Biennial Transparency Report (BTR-1), the country achieved over 50% of its cumulative installed electric power capacity from non-fossil fuel sources five years ahead of the 2030 target.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q98. Who recently became India's first world champion in the 10m air pistol event at the ISSF World Championships?

- (a) Saurabh Chaudhary
- (b) Sarabjot Singh
- (c) Samrat Rana
- (d) Manu Bhaker

Q99. Match the following Locations (List I) with their corresponding Countries (List II):

List I (Location)

List II

- | | |
|-----------|------------|
| 1. Larak | A. Ukraine |
| 2. Odessa | B. Iran |
| 3. Aleppo | C. Sudan |
| 4. Darfur | D. Syria |

Options:

- (a) 1-B, 2-A, 3-D, 4-C
- (b) 1-A, 2-B, 3-C, 4-D
- (c) 1-C, 2-D, 3-B, 4-A
- (d) 1-B, 2-C, 3-A, 4-D

Q100. Consider the following statements regarding 'Mithila Makhana' and Geographical Indication (GI) tags in India:

1. Mithila Makhana (*Euryale ferox*) is a distinct aquatic crop cultivated primarily in the oxbow lakes and wetlands of North Bihar.
2. Under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection)

Act, 1999, the GI tag granted to Mithila Makhana is valid indefinitely to protect the traditional rights of the farmers.

3. It is the first and only agricultural product from the state of Bihar to receive a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

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



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