

Solutions

DATE : 28th July- 3rd August

1) Answer: (b) Proportional Representation by Single Transferable Vote (STV)

Topic in Focus

- The Vice President of India is the **second-highest constitutional office**, presides over the **Rajya Sabha**, and can act as President in contingencies.
- Election ensures **representation, independence, and continuity** in governance.

Key Aspects

- **Policy Framework:**
 - Articles 66, 67, 68 of the Constitution.
 - Presidential & Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952.
- **Electoral College:**
 - All members (elected + nominated) of Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha.
- **Voting Mechanism:**
 - Proportional Representation by Single Transferable Vote (STV).
 - Secret ballot; no party whip allowed.
- **Current Relevance:**
 - Maintains parliamentary functioning and independence of the Rajya Sabha.
- **Broader Impact:**
 - Minimizes partisan influence.
 - Reinforces democratic integrity.

Analysis of Options:

- (a) Incorrect – Election Commission supervises, but not the method asked.
- (b) Correct – Uses STV under Proportional Representation.
- (c) Incorrect – No party whip is allowed.
- (d) Incorrect – Both Houses participate, not just Lok Sabha.

2) Answer: (d) Traditional seed varieties evolved through natural adaptation and farmer selection

Topic in Focus

- Landraces are genetically diverse, locally adapted traditional crop varieties that evolved through natural selection and farmer practices.

Key Aspects

- **Policy Context:**
 - Promoted for agro-biodiversity and climate-resilient farming.
- **Key Features:**
 - Locally adapted, pest-resistant, and nutritionally rich.
 - Provide resilience to climate change and sustainable yields.
- **Challenges:**
 - Threatened by modern hybrid adoption and genetic erosion.
- **Current Relevance:**
 - Critical for food security, seed sovereignty, and biodiversity conservation.

Analysis of Options:

- (a) Modern hybrids → Not landraces.
- (b) Patented corporate varieties → Not traditional.
- (c) Lab-created GMOs → Opposite of landraces.
- (d) Correct – Traditionally evolved, locally adapted seeds.

3) Answer: (a) Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

Topic in Focus

- PM-KISAN is a Central Sector Scheme launched in 2019 to provide direct income support to all landholding farmers.

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Key Aspects

- **Policy Development:**
 - ₹6,000/year to farmers in **3 equal DBT installments**.
 - Excludes institutional landholders and professionals.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.
- **Current Significance:**
 - Mitigates **farm distress** and stabilizes rural incomes.
 - Supports **inclusive agricultural growth**.

Analysis of Options:

- (a) Correct – Implemented by **Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Ministry**.
- (b) Rural Development is not the nodal ministry.
- (c) Finance Ministry only handles fund allocation.
- (d) Corporate Affairs is unrelated.

4) Answer: (b) II only

Topic in Focus

- IEPFA safeguards **investor interests**, manages **unclaimed dividends and deposits**, and promotes **financial literacy**.

Key Aspects

- **Policy Background:**
 - **Established:** 2016 under **Section 125(5) of Companies Act, 2013**.
- **Functioning:**
 - Administers **Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF)**.
 - Operates under **Ministry of Corporate Affairs**.
- **Current Significance:**
 - Ensures **transparency, investor confidence**, and returns unclaimed funds.

Analysis of Statements:

- **Statement I:** Incorrect – Functions under **Corporate Affairs**, not Finance Ministry.
- **Statement II:** Correct – Established under **Companies Act, 2013**.

5) Answer: (d) I and II only

◆ Topic in Focus

Endangered, solitary mammals found in **alpine regions of South & East Asia**, mainly threatened by **poaching for musk pods**.

◆ Key Aspects

Policy Background:

- Protected under **Schedule I of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**
- Listed as **Endangered on IUCN Red List**

Implementation & Conservation:

- Habitat protection, conservation breeding, anti-poaching measures
- Monitored under **Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)**

Current Significance:

- Poaching and habitat loss in Himalayan ecosystems
- Critical for maintaining **alpine biodiversity**

◆ Analysis of Statements

- I Correct – Endangered on IUCN Red List
- II Correct – Poached for musk pod (illegal trade)
- III Incorrect – Musk deer lack antlers and gall bladders
- IV Incorrect – Found in alpine meadows, not tropical forests

6) Answer: (a) I only

◆ Topic in Focus

Central Sector Scheme launched in **2019** to provide **direct income support** to all landholding farmers.

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◆ Key Aspects

Policy Development:

- ₹6,000/year to farmers in **3 equal DBT installments**
- **Excludes** institutional landholders & certain professional categories
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

Current Significance:

- Mitigates **farm distress** and stabilizes rural incomes
- Supports **inclusive agricultural growth** and input purchase

◆ Analysis of Statements

- I  **Correct** – ₹6,000/yr in 3 DBT installments
- II  **Incorrect** – Institutional landholders are excluded
- III  **Incorrect** – Covers only **landholding farmers**, not lessees

7) Answer:  (d) I and II only

◆ Topic in Focus

Recent studies reveal **cadmium & chromium** in **non-precipitating clouds** over Eastern Himalayas, exposing hidden environmental risks.

◆ Key Aspects

Policy Background:

- Supported by **Department of Science & Technology (DST)**
- Focus on **pollution monitoring & ecological risk assessment**



Current Significance:

- Clouds carry pollutants from **vehicular & industrial emissions**
- Threat to **biodiversity, water sources, and public health**

◆ Analysis of Statements

- I  **Correct** – Heavy metals detected in clouds
- II  **Correct** – Pollution linked to lowland industrial emissions
- III  **Incorrect** – Heavy metals also naturally occur in crust

8) Answer:  (a) II only

◆ Topic in Focus

Global plastic production surged from **2 MT (1950) → 436 MT (2022)**; **78% traded**, but recycling remains **~10%**.



◆ Key Aspects

Policy & Challenges:

- **No dedicated global convention** on plastics
- Bio-based & compostable plastics = **1.5% only**
- Plastic pollution drives **triple planetary crisis**

Current Significance:

- Major contributor to **ocean pollution & microplastics**
- Calls for **UN-led global plastic treaty**

◆ Analysis of Statements

- I  **Incorrect** – Bio-based plastics are negligible (1.5%)
- II  **Correct** – 78% of plastics traded globally
- III  **Incorrect** – Only ~10% recycled

9) Answer:  (b) II and III only

◆ Topic in Focus

Government-owned payments bank (2018) using **post office network** to provide **digital & doorstep banking** with **Aadhaar face-authentication**.

◆ Key Aspects

Policy & Features:

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- 100% Government-owned under **Department of Posts**
- **Doorstep & last-mile banking** using postal workforce
- **Face authentication** for secure, OTP-free transactions

Current Significance:

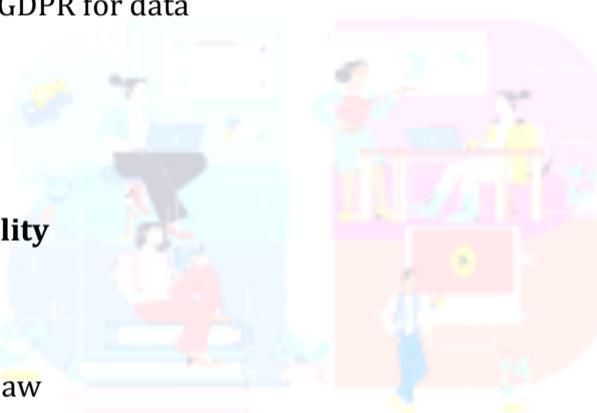
- Boosts **financial inclusion**, especially in rural areas
- Supports **Digital India & JAM trinity** goals

◆ Analysis of Statements

- I  **Incorrect** – Face-auth removes OTP/fingerprint need
- II  **Correct** – Fully government-owned under Postal Dept
- III  **Correct** – Uses postal network for doorstep banking

10) Answer:  (a) Both Statement-I and II correct; II explains I**◆ Topic in Focus**World's first comprehensive AI legislation, using a **risk-based approach** to ensure **safe & responsible AI**.**◆ Key Aspects****Policy Framework:**

- Classifies AI into **Unacceptable, High, Limited, Minimal risk**
- Sets **global AI governance benchmark**, like GDPR for data
- **Penalties:** Up to 7% of global turnover

**Current Significance:**

- Shapes **AI ethics & regulation** globally
- Balances **innovation vs safety & accountability**

◆ Analysis of Statements

- I  **Correct** – First global comprehensive AI law
- II  **Correct** – Risk-based framework regulates AI use

11) Answer:  (c) A wireless internet connection through communication satellites orbiting the Earth**◆ Topic in Focus**Satellite internet services provide **wireless internet connectivity via communication satellites**, crucial for **remote, rural, and disaster-prone areas** where terrestrial broadband is infeasible.**◆ Key Aspects***Wisdom leads to success*

- **Policy Development:** Initiatives like **Starlink**, OneWeb aim for global satellite constellations.
- **Key Features:**
 - Wireless connectivity
 - Geostationary & Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites
 - User terminals (dishes/modems)
- **Implementation Context:** Complements terrestrial broadband; ensures **last-mile access**.
- **Current Significance:** Enhances **digital inclusion**, disaster management, and IoT integration.

◆ Analysis of Options

- (a)  Coaxial cable is wired, urban-focused
- (b)  Cellular networks are ground-based
- (c)  **Correct** – Uses orbiting communication satellites
- (d)  Undersea cables are wired, not satellite

12) Answer:  (b) To make India a global hub for the production, usage, and export of green hydrogen and its derivatives**◆ Topic in Focus**A flagship initiative to **decarbonize India's economy** by producing **green hydrogen via renewable-powered electrolysis**.**◆ Key Aspects**

- **Policy Development:** Led by **Ministry of New & Renewable Energy**
- **Key Features:**
 - Target: 5 MMT by 2030

- Incentives for electrolyser manufacturing & hydrogen hubs
- Pilot projects in steel, shipping, and transport
- **Implementation Context:** Reduces fossil fuel dependence and boosts clean energy exports.
- **Current Significance:** Supports energy transition, job creation, and export potential.

◆ Analysis of Options

- (a) Not focused on hydrogen import
- (b) Correct – Establish India as global green hydrogen hub
- (c) Submarine tech is not a mission goal
- (d) Focus is on renewable (green) hydrogen only

13) Answer: (c) Project 17A (Nilgiri Class Frigates)

◆ Topic in Focus

'Himgiri' is an indigenous guided-missile stealth frigate, enhancing India's maritime power and Atmanirbhar defense capability.

◆ Key Aspects

- **Policy Development:** Part of Project 17A, an upgrade over Project 17 (Shivalik Class)
- **Key Features:**
 - 7 stealth frigates
 - Equipped with BrahMos & Barak-8 missiles
 - Built by GRSE & Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders
- **Implementation Context:** Strengthens blue-water Navy & counter-maritime threats.
- **Current Significance:** Advances self-reliance and maritime deterrence.

◆ Analysis of Options

- (a) Project 15A – Kolkata-class destroyers
- (b) Project 75 – Scorpene submarines
- (c) Correct – Part of Project 17A (Nilgiri class)
- (d) Project 28 – Kamorta-class corvettes



14) Answer: (b) It is a collection of red blood cell antigens carried on the decay-accelerating factor (DAF), also known as CD55

◆ Topic in Focus

A newly identified blood group system, crucial for transfusion safety and rare blood typing.

◆ Key Aspects

- **Policy/Scientific Context:** Expands beyond ABO & Rh systems
- **Key Features:**
 - 12 high-prevalence and 3 low-prevalence antigens
 - Located on DAF (CD55) on RBCs
- **Implementation Context:** Helps in rare transfusion cases and hematology research.
- **Current Significance:** Discovery in Bengaluru, enhances India's contribution to global medical science.

◆ Analysis of Options

- (a) Not Rh factor-based
- (b) Correct – Carried on DAF (CD55)
- (c) Not ethnicity-exclusive
- (d) D antigen is part of Rh group, not CRIB

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15) Answer: (a) Voting in favor of the party's official candidate

◆ Topic in Focus

The Tenth Schedule (1985) curbs political defection to ensure democratic stability and party discipline.

◆ Key Aspects

- **Policy Background:**
 - Added by 52nd Constitutional Amendment (1985)
 - Adjudicated by Speaker/Chairman of House
- **Grounds for Disqualification:**
 - Voluntarily giving up party membership
 - Defying party whip in legislative voting
 - Independent MLA joining a party after election
- **Current Significance:** Prevents instability, ensures loyalty to voters' mandate

◆ Analysis of Options

- (a) **Correct** – Supporting party candidate is **not** a ground
- (b) Voluntarily giving up membership leads to disqualification
- (c) Defying party whip is a ground
- (d) Independent joining party is a ground

16) Solution: d) – Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)

Topic in Focus:

PMKSY is a **Central Sector Scheme** by the **Ministry of Food Processing Industries** aimed at **modernizing the food processing sector** and **strengthening farm-to-retail supply chains**.

Key Aspects:

- **Policy Development:** Launched in 2017-18 with ₹6,520 crore outlay for 2021-26.
- **Major Components:** Integrated Cold Chain, Agro-Processing Clusters, Food Safety Infrastructure, **Operation Greens**.
- **Significance:** Promotes **private investment**, reduces wastage, enhances **farmers' income**, and supports **Atmanirbhar Bharat** in agro-processing.

Analysis of Options:

- (a), (b), (c) – Wrong ministries.
- (d) – **Correct**: Nodal ministry is **MoFPI**.

✓ Correct Answer: d) Ministry of Food Processing Industries

17) Solution: d) – Additional Judges in High Courts

Topic in Focus:

Appointment of **Additional Judges** under **Article 224** of the Constitution to handle **temporary case backlogs**.

Key Aspects:

- **Tenure:** Maximum **2 years**, or until age 62.
- **Purpose:** To manage **temporary surge** in workload and pending cases.
- **Authority:** **President** appoints in consultation with the **CJI**.

Analysis of Options:

- (a) Art. 216 – Constitution of High Courts.
- (b) Art. 217 – Permanent Judges.
- (c) Art. 222 – Transfer of Judges.
- (d) – **Correct**: Article 224 for max 2 years.

✓ Correct Answer: d) Article 224, not exceeding two years

18) Solution: a) – Panel of Chairpersons (Lok Sabha)

Topic in Focus:

The **Panel of Chairpersons** ensures continuity in presiding over **Lok Sabha sessions** when Speaker/Deputy Speaker are absent.

Key Aspects:

- **Rules:** Speaker nominates up to **10 MPs** at the start of each session (Rule 9).
- **Limitations:** Cannot preside if **Speaker's/Deputy Speaker's offices are vacant**; President must then appoint a member.

Analysis:

- **Statement I – Correct:** Speaker nominates panel members.
- **Statement II – Incorrect:** Panel cannot preside if offices are vacant.

✓ Correct Answer: a) I only

19) Solution: d) – National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM)

Topic in Focus:

A flagship **clean energy initiative** to make India a **global hub for green hydrogen production, usage, and export**.

Key Aspects:

- Launched by: **Ministry of New & Renewable Energy**.

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- **Targets:** 5 MMT by 2030, via **SIGHT incentives** for electrolyzers and hydrogen production.
- **Significance:** Decarbonizes industry, boosts **energy security** and **exports**.

Analysis:

- (I) India as global hub.
- (II) 5 MMT target.
- (III) Wrong ministry if said Petroleum & Natural Gas.
- (IV) SIGHT incentives.

Correct Answer: d) I, II, and IV only

20) Solution: b) – Blue Economy in India**Topic in Focus:**

India's **Blue Economy** promotes **sustainable use of ocean resources** for **economic growth**, jobs, and **ecosystem health**.

Key Aspects:

- **Scope:** Fisheries, shipping, offshore energy, tourism, marine biotechnology.
- **Challenges:** **Limited credit**, low private investment, **poor coordination** among ministries.
- **Relevance:** Core for **Viksit Bharat 2047**, food security, and **climate resilience**.

Analysis:

- **Statement I – Correct:** Blue economy is vital for India's growth.
- **Statement II – Correct but does not explain I:** Mentions challenges without linking causality.

Correct Answer: b) Both correct, but II does not explain I

21) Solution: d) Ministry of Food Processing Industries**Topic in Focus:**

PMKSY is a **Central Sector Scheme** launched in 2017-18 to **modernize the food processing sector**, strengthen **agro-value chains**, and reduce **post-harvest losses**.

Key Aspects:

- **Policy Development:** ₹6,520 crore allocated for 2021-26
- **Components:** Integrated Cold Chain, Food Safety Infrastructure, Agro-Processing Clusters, Operation Greens
- **Significance:** 1200+ projects approved; enhances food safety and private investment

Analysis of Options:

- (a) Ministry of Cooperation – not relevant
- (b) Ministry of Rural Development – not nodal
- (c) Ministry of Agriculture – only supportive role
- (d) **Correct – Implemented by Ministry of Food Processing Industries**

22) Solution: d) I, II and IV only**Topic in Focus:**

India's flagship mission to make the country a **global hub for green hydrogen production** by 2030.

Key Aspects:

- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE)
- **Target:** 5 million metric tonnes by 2030
- **Component:** SIGHT – incentives for electrolyzers & green hydrogen

Incorrect: Statement III (Ministry of Petroleum)

23) Solution: b) II and III only**Topic in Focus:**

Oversees **sanctions against terrorists** under UN law.

Key Aspects:

- **Mandate:** Freeze assets, travel bans, arms embargoes
- **Coverage:** Taliban, ISIS, Al-Qaida, affiliates

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- Current Chair: Denmark (till Dec 2025)

24) Solution: b) Statement I correct, II incorrect

Topic in Focus:

First dual-frequency (L & S band) SAR satellite for earth observation.

Key Aspects:

- **Use:** Maps ice sheets, glaciers, land, forests
- **Significance:** Climate studies & disaster management
- **Incorrect:** Claiming it was not dual frequency

25) Solution: a) Minimum 35 years of service in police

Topic in Focus:

Ensures merit-based, transparent DGP appointments.

Key Aspects:

- **Framework:** SC's Prakash Singh case (2006) & UPSC guidelines (2009)
- **Eligibility:** 30+ years of service, not retiring in 6 months
- **Impact:** Reduces political interference

26) Solution: a)

Topic in Focus and Key Aspects:

The Supreme Court in **UPP Tollways v. MP Road Development Corp.** affirmed that **safe and motorable roads** are a **fundamental right** under:

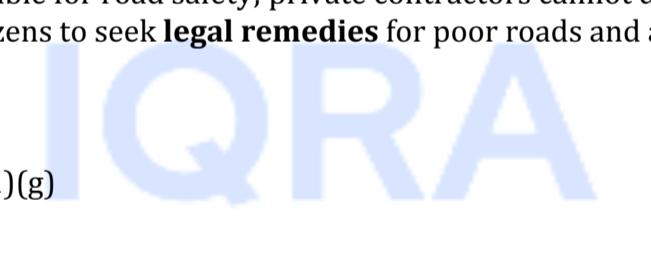
- **Article 21** – Right to life
- **Article 19(1)(g)** – Freedom of movement

Key Aspects:

- **Policy Development:** Expands the scope of Article 21 to include civic infrastructure and safety.
- **State Accountability:** The **State** is responsible for road safety; private contractors cannot dilute this duty.
- **Contemporary Relevance:** Empowers citizens to seek **legal remedies** for poor roads and accidents.

Analysis of Options:

- (a) **Correct** – Linked to Article 21 & 19(1)(g)
- (b) Article 300A – Property rights
- (c) Article 23 – Forced labour
- (d) Article 21A – Education

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Answer: (a)

27) Solution: c)

Topic in Focus and Key Aspects:

Banking Laws (Amendment) Act, 2025 modernizes banking governance and strengthens regulatory oversight.

Key Aspects:

- **Policy Development:** Updates 5 major banking statutes, enhances governance in **cooperative banks**, and aligns with **global standards**.
- **Key Feature:** Allows **Public Sector Banks** to transfer **unclaimed shares/funds** to IEPF for investor protection.
- **Contemporary Relevance:** Promotes **financial transparency** and safeguards **dormant investor assets**.

Analysis of Options:

- (a) PSBs can now pay statutory auditors
- (b) Tenure for cooperative bank directors was **increased**, not decreased
- (c) **Correct** – Transfer of unclaimed shares/funds to IEPF
- (d) Limit for unsecured loans **raised** to ₹2 crore

Answer: (c)

28) Solution: d)

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Topic in Focus and Key Aspects:

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) empowers rural women via **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)** and sustainable livelihood promotion.

Key Aspects:

- **Policy Context:** Implemented by **Ministry of Rural Development**.
- **Core Features:**
 - SHG formation and credit linkage
 - **Women Enterprise Acceleration Fund (WEAF)**
 - **Banking Correspondent Sakhis** for financial inclusion
- **Significance:** ₹11 lakh+ crore loans disbursed; strong role in **poverty alleviation & women empowerment**.

Analysis of Options:

- (a)  **Ministry of Finance – Incorrect**
- (b)  **Ministry of Social Justice – Incorrect**
- (c)  **Ministry of Women & Child Development – Incorrect**
- (d)  **Correct – Ministry of Rural Development**

Answer: (d)

29) Solution: a)

Topic in Focus and Key Aspects:

The **Ramsar Convention (1971)** is a **binding intergovernmental treaty** for the **conservation and wise use of wetlands**.

Key Aspects:

- **Policy Development:** Adopted in **Iran (1971)**, effective 1975; India has **91 Ramsar sites**.
- **Core Objective:** Promote **wise use, designate Ramsar sites**, integrate **wetland management with SDGs**.
- **Current Significance:** Supports **biodiversity, climate adaptation, water security, and Mission LiFE principles**.

Analysis of Options:

- (a)  **Correct – Conservation & wise use of wetlands**
- (b)  **Not about marine pollution**
- (c)  **Not about fisheries**
- (d)  **Not desertification protocol**

Answer: (a)

30) Solution: b)



Topic in Focus and Key Aspects:

Piprahwa Relics (1898) are **mortal remains of Lord Buddha** found in **Uttar Pradesh** (ancient Kapilavastu).

Key Aspects:

- **Archaeological Significance:** Contain **bone fragments, caskets, gold ornaments**, with **Brahmi inscriptions** of the **Sakya clan**.
- **Policy Context:** Classified as **AA antiquities**; protected under Indian heritage laws.
- **Current Significance:** Strengthens **Buddhist heritage & cultural diplomacy**.

Analysis of Options:

- (a)  **Not Kushan sculptures**
- (b)  **Correct – Mortal remains of Buddha, enshrined by Sakya clan**
- (c)  **Not manuscripts**
- (d)  **Not Ashokan inscriptions**

Answer: (b)

31) Solution: c) **Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks (CGPDTM)**

Topic in Focus:

CGPDTM administers **patents, designs, trademarks, and GIs**, fostering innovation and IP protection in India.

Key Aspects:

- **Policy Background:** Functions under DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- **Functions:** Supervises IP registries, advises government, updates IP examination guidelines.
- **Current Relevance:** Supports faster IP processing, global ranking in innovation.
- **Broader Impact:** Strengthens entrepreneurship, FDI, and IP protection.

Analysis of Statements:

- (I) ✓ Advises government on IPR matters.
- (II) ✓ Under DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
- (III) ✓ HQ in Mumbai.

✓ **Correct Answer:** (c) I, II and III

32) Solution: b) Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016**Topic in Focus:**

Ensures afforestation of diverted forest land, with funds created under CAMPA.

Key Aspects:

- **Policy Background:** Originates from SC directives in TN Godavarman case (1995).
- **Implementation:** Central & State CA Funds; oversight by National & State CAMPA.
- **Significance:** Promotes ecological restoration, carbon sequestration, and SDG alignment.

Analysis of Statements:

- (I) ✓ CA Funds in Public Accounts of India & States.
- (II) ✗ Geo-tagging is advisory, not statutory.
- (III) ✗ CAMPA exists at both levels.
- (IV) ✓ Based on SC directives in Godavarman case.

✓ **Correct Answer:** (b) I and IV only

33) Solution: c) Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs)**Topic in Focus:**

GLOFs are sudden floods from glacial lakes, triggered by climate change, avalanches, or seismic events.

Key Aspects:

- **Policy Context:** Managed under NDMA with early warning and SAR monitoring.
- **Triggers:** Meltwater pressure, avalanches, landslides, earthquakes.
- **Current Relevance:** Himalayan GLOFs increasing due to rapid glacial melt.

Analysis of Statements:

- Statement I ✓ Rising temperatures increase glacial lakes & GLOF risk.
- Statement II ✗ GLOFs can be triggered by multiple factors, not just meltwater.

✓ **Correct Answer:** (c) Statement-I is correct, Statement-II is incorrect

34) Solution: b) Jungle Cat & Small Cat Vocalization**Topic in Focus:**

Jungle cat is India's most widespread small cat; vocalization differences stem from hyoid bone structure.

Key Aspects:

- **Small Cats (Felinae):** Rigid hyoid bone, can purr continuously, cannot roar.
- **Big Cats (Pantherinae):** Flexible hyoid bone, can roar, limited purring.
- **Significance:** Aids in species-specific conservation and ecological planning.

Analysis of Statements:

- Statement I ✓ Jungle cat widely distributed.
- Statement II ✓ Small cats can purr due to rigid hyoid.
- Relation ✗ Statement II does not explain wide distribution.

✓ **Correct Answer:** (b) Both correct, but II does not explain I

35) Solution: a) SEBI and Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)

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Topic in Focus:

AIFs are privately pooled funds regulated under **SEBI (AIF) Regulations, 2012**, crucial for startup and infra funding.

Key Aspects:

- **Categories:** Venture Capital, Private Equity, Hedge, Infrastructure, SME Funds.
- **Implementation:** SEBI ensures **transparency, risk management, and investor protection**.
- **Significance:** Expands **capital access beyond traditional markets**, boosts **economic growth**.

Analysis of Options:

- (a) ✓ AIFs regulated by SEBI under 2012 rules.
- (b) ✗ Mutual Funds – different SEBI regulation.
- (c) ✗ PPF – Ministry of Finance.
- (d) ✗ NPS – PFRDA.

 **Correct Answer:** (a) Alternative Investment Funds

36) Solution: d) Ministry of Commerce and Industry**Topic in Focus:**

CGPDTM is the apex body administering patents, designs, trademarks, and geographical indications in India, critical for fostering **innovation and IP protection**.

Key Aspects:

- **Policy Development:** Operates under **Ministry of Commerce & Industry (DPIIT)**.
- **Functions:** Supervises IPR implementation, advises government, manages IPR registries.
- **Significance:** Supports **start-ups, innovation ecosystem, and foreign investment**.
- **Current Relevance:** Vital for India's **knowledge economy** and global IP rankings.

Analysis of Options:

- (a) ✗ MeitY deals with IT & Digital India, not IPR.
- (b) ✗ Ministry of S&T handles R&D, not CGPDTM.
- (c) ✗ Corporate Affairs manages companies & LLPs.
- (d) ✓ Correct – CGPDTM is under **Ministry of Commerce & Industry (DPIIT)**.

37) Solution: a) Surface-to-surface short range solid propellant quasi-ballistic missile**Topic in Focus:**

Pralay enhances India's **tactical strike capabilities**, reflecting DRDO's **indigenous missile program**.

Key Aspects:

- **Policy Development:** DRDO's Research Centre Imarat; part of India's **self-reliance in defense**.
- **Features:** Range **150–500 km, hypersonic speeds**, quasi-ballistic with **trajectory maneuverability**.
- **Current Significance:** Strengthens **regional deterrence and counter-force operations**.

Analysis of Options:

- (a) ✓ Correct – Matches Pralay's description.
- (b) ✗ Not an air-to-air or glide vehicle.
- (c) ✗ Not a cruise missile.
- (d) ✗ Not an anti-ship subsonic missile.

38) Solution: d) First known Indus Valley settlement in Rajasthan's arid zone**Topic in Focus:**

Ratadiya Ri Dheri expands the known geography of the **Indus Valley Civilization (IVC)**.

Key Aspects:

- **Location & Period:** Rajasthan; Mature Harappan Phase (2600–1900 BCE).
- **Significance:** Links **northern Rajasthan sites to Gujarat Harappan settlements**.
- **Broader Impact:** Strengthens **archaeological mapping and heritage studies**.

Analysis of Options:

- (a) ✗ Gujarat sites are already known.
- (b) ✗ Not a Buddhist monastery.

- (c) Not rock art in the Deccan.
- (d) Correct – First IVC site in **Rajasthan's arid region**.

39) Solution: c) Delivering measurable social impact through skills training and job placement**Topic in Focus:**

SIB is India's **first development impact bond** for **employment and skilling outcomes**.

Key Aspects:

- **Launch:** 2021, by **MSDE & NSDC**.
- **Features:** Outcome-based funding; aims to train **50,000 youth (60% women)**.
- **Significance:** Aligns **private capital** with **public social goals**.

Analysis of Options:

- (a) Not for overseas education scholarships.
- (b) Not MSME rural funding.
- (c) Focused on **skilling and job placement**.
- (d) Not DBT for farmers.

40) Solution: a) Saudi Arabia**Topic in Focus:**

Syria is strategically located in the **Levant region** of West Asia.

**Key Aspects:**

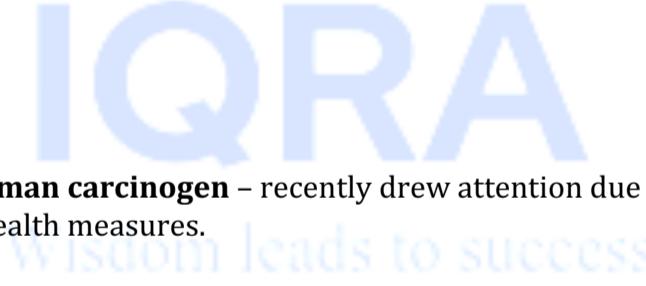
- **Borders:** Turkey (N), Iraq (E), Jordan (S), Israel & Lebanon (W).
- **Strategic Importance:** Affects **conflict zones, refugee flows, and geopolitics**.
- **Contemporary Relevance:** Civil war & regional instability.

Analysis of Options:

- (a) Correct – **Saudi Arabia does not share a border with Syria**.
- (b) Israel shares border via **Golan Heights**.
- (c) Turkey shares border to the **north**.
- (d) Lebanon shares border to the **west**.

41) Solution: a) I, II and IV only**Topic in Focus:**

NDMA (N-Nitrosodimethylamine) – a **probable human carcinogen** – recently drew attention due to contamination in pharmaceuticals like **ranitidine**, prompting regulatory and public health measures.

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- **Nature:** Yellow, odorless liquid; persistent in the environment.
- **Uses:** Earlier in rocket fuel; traces in plastics, lubricants, and cosmetics.
- **Health Impact:** Carcinogenic; unintentional presence in foods and drugs is a concern.
- **Regulation:** CDSCO and global agencies monitor NDMA contamination and restrict industrial use.

Analysis of Statements:

- (I) Used in lubricants, plastics, and cosmetics.
- (II) Previously used in rocket fuel.
- (III) Not intentionally added to food.
- (IV) Correct physical description.

42) Solution: b) I and II only**Topic in Focus:**

Environment Protection (Management of Contaminated Sites) Rules, 2025 – a new framework for **identifying, cleaning, and monitoring legacy contaminated sites** caused by hazardous waste.

Key Aspects:

- **Legal Basis:** Notified under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- **Process:** Local bodies report → SPCBs inspect → Polluter pays or SPCB cleans if unidentified.
- **Scope:** Excludes radioactive waste, oil spills, and municipal dumps.
- **Significance:** Addresses legacy pollution and enhances environmental justice.

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Analysis of Statements:

- (I) SPCB executes cleanup if polluter is unknown.
- (II) State Boards can impose penalties for non-compliance.
- (III) Radioactive waste is excluded.

43) Solution: a) To preserve and promote folk, tribal, and vanishing art forms

Topic in Focus:

Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) are autonomous institutions under the **Ministry of Culture** for **revival and promotion of India's traditional and vanishing art forms**.

Key Aspects:

- **Establishment:** 7 ZCCs across India for regional representation.
- **Focus Areas:** Folk, tribal, and vanishing arts; cultural exchanges; youth participation.
- **Significance:** Protects intangible heritage and fosters national unity through cultural pluralism.

Analysis of Options:

- (a) Core mandate is to preserve and promote folk & tribal art.
- (b) Not involved in monetary or economic policies.
- (c) Not focused on scientific research.
- (d) No industrial regulation role.

44) Solution: d) It provides a decent standard of living for workers and their families

Topic in Focus:

Living Wage – A wage level that ensures **a worker and their family can maintain a decent standard of living**, beyond mere subsistence.

Key Aspects:

- **Definition:** Covers food, housing, healthcare, clothing, transport, and education.
- **ILO Perspective:** Recognized globally as a social justice and SDG target.
- **India Context:** Discussed in policy; higher than statutory minimum wage.
- **Relevance:** Supports productivity, gender equity, and poverty reduction.

Analysis of Options:

- (a) Not limited to public sector employees.
- (b) Must reflect regional cost-of-living variations.
- (c) Higher than minimum wage, not equal.
- (d) Ensures a decent living standard for workers and families.

45) Solution: c) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect

Topic in Focus:

True Polar Wander (TPW) – Shifts in the Earth's rotational axis due to **mass redistribution** in the crust and mantle, now linked to **human activities** like **large dam construction**.

Key Aspects:

- **Drivers:** Glacial melt, tectonic movement, and large reservoir storage.
- **Impact:** Alters Earth's axis, relevant to satellite navigation and geodesy.
- **Significance:** Shows anthropogenic effects on global geophysical processes.

Analysis of Statements:

- (I) Large-scale dams can shift Earth's axis.
- (II) TPW is not caused **solely** by glacial and tectonic factors.

46) Solution: c) – Flame Retardants

Topic in Focus and Key Aspects:

- **Flame retardants** are chemicals added to materials to **prevent or slow fire spread**.
- Widely used in **textiles, electronics, furniture, and construction** but under review for **environmental persistence and health risks**.

Key Aspects:

- **Policy Development:** Developed for consumer and industrial fire safety.

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- **Key Features:** Chemicals like TCIPP, TDCIPP, TCEP; resistant to environmental degradation.
- **Current Significance:** Monitored for **carcinogenic potential** and global safety compliance.

Analysis of Statements:

- (I) **Correct** – TCIPP, TDCIPP, and TCEP are common flame retardants.
- (II) **Correct** – Their purpose is to slow fire spread.

 **Answer:** (c) Both I and II

47) Solution: b) – National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP)**Topic in Focus and Key Aspects:**

- NPOP is India's **organic certification framework**, implemented by **APEDA under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry**, crucial for **organic exports**.

Key Aspects:

- **Policy Background:** Supports organic production and global market access.
- **Implementation:** Accredits certification bodies; aligns with **EU and Swiss standards**.
- **Broader Impact:** Facilitates **organic trade** and **international recognition**.

Analysis of Statements:

- (I) **Incorrect** – Not under Ministry of Agriculture; implemented by **APEDA**.
- (II) **Correct** – Recognized by **European Commission & Switzerland** for unprocessed plant products.

 **Answer:** (b) II only

48) Solution: c) – Global Zoonotic Disease Risk**Topic in Focus and Key Aspects:**

- **Zoonotic diseases** are rising due to **land-use change, urbanization, livestock density, and water stress**.
- **One Health approach** is essential for mitigation.

Key Aspects:

- **Policy Background:** WHO priority; aligns with **global health surveillance**.
- **Drivers:** High **population density** and **livestock concentration** increase spillover risks.
- **Notable Finding:** **Water deficit** increases outbreaks by forcing **human-animal contact**.

Analysis of Statements:

- (I) **Incorrect** – Water deficit **increases**, not decreases, disease risk.
- (II) **Correct** – High livestock density raises spillover risk.
- (III) **Correct** – Population density is the strongest factor.

 **Answer:** (c) II and III only

49) Solution: a) – Integrated Battle Groups (IBGs)**Topic in Focus and Key Aspects:**

- IBGs are **agile, brigade-sized combat formations** for **rapid offensive actions**, aligned with **Cold Start Doctrine**.

Key Aspects:

- **Features:** Mechanized units, infantry, artillery, UAVs, and special forces (~5,000 troops).
- **Significance:** Boosts **border readiness** against China and Pakistan with **technology-enabled rapid deployment**.

Analysis of Options:

- (a) **Correct** – Designed for **pre-emption, dislocation, and disintegration** of enemy forces.
- (b), (c), (d) **Incorrect** – IBGs are not limited to cyber, logistics, or static defense.

 **Answer:** (a)

50) Solution: c) – India-Nepal Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) Agreement**Topic in Focus and Key Aspects:**

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- MLA agreements enable **cross-border criminal investigations, evidence sharing, and extradition support.**
- The **Ministry of Home Affairs** is the central authority in India.

Key Aspects:

- **Policy Context:** Addresses open-border security challenges with Nepal.
- **Impact:** Strengthens **bilateral law enforcement** and prevents **safe havens for criminals.**

Analysis of Statements:

- Statement-I: **Correct** – Formalizes evidence sharing and investigation cooperation.
- Statement-II: **Incorrect** – **MHA**, not Defence, is the central authority.

✓ **Answer: (c) Statement-I correct, Statement-II incorrect**



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