

UPPCS Prelims 2025 Test 18 (Solution) – Current Affairs 4 (May + June) (SSW - 8077834630)

Question 1. Which of the following monuments was recently restored by ASI in collaboration with the World Monuments Fund India and TCS Foundation?

- (a) Hauz Khas Baoli
- (b) Rajon ki Baoli
- (c) Agrasen ki Baoli
- (d) Gandhak ki Baoli

Answer – (b) Rajon ki Baoli

Explanation – Rajon ki Baoli, a 16th-century Lodi-era stepwell at Mehrauli Archaeological Park, New Delhi, was recently restored using traditional lime plaster and mortar.

Why in News? It was restored by the **ASI, World Monuments Fund India, and TCS Foundation** to highlight traditional water systems and cultural heritage conservation.

Question 2. Assertion (A): The Sacred Buddha relics from Sarnath will be displayed at UN Vesak Day 2025 in Vietnam.

Reason (R): The relics were excavated at Sarnath by Alexander Cunningham in 1927–31.

Code:

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

Answer – (c) A is true, but R is false

Explanation –

The relics are indeed being sent from **Sarnath, Uttar Pradesh**, for UN Vesak Day 2025. But they were excavated at **Nagarjunakonda (Andhra Pradesh)** between 1927–31 by H. Longhurst, not Cunningham.

Why in News? India is showcasing its Buddhist heritage globally during the **UN Vesak celebrations in Vietnam (May 2025)**.

Question 3. Match the following manuscripts with their authors:

List-I | List-II

A. Dravyaratnākara Nighaṇṭu | 1. Mudgala Paṇḍita

B. Dravyanamākara Nighaṇṭu | 2. Bhisma Vaidya

Code:

- (a) A-1, B-2
- (b) A-2, B-1
- (c) Both incorrect
- (d) None of the above

Answer – (a) A-1, B-2

Explanation –

- **Dravyaratnākara Nighaṇṭu** (1480 AD) was authored by **Mudgala Paṇḍita**. It is an Ayurvedic lexicon with 18 chapters detailing synonyms of drugs, therapeutic actions, and medicinal properties.
- **Dravyanamākara Nighaṇṭu** is attributed to **Bhisma Vaidya**. It is a specialized appendix to the *Dhanvantari Nighaṇṭu*, focusing on homonyms of drug and plant names, which often create confusion in Ayurvedic pharmacology.

Why in News? In 2025, the **Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS)** under the Ministry of Ayush revived and published these two rare manuscripts, thereby restoring crucial knowledge of India's traditional pharmacopeial heritage.

Question 4. Consider the following:

1. Shirui Festival promotes eco-tourism.
2. Sangai Festival celebrates the state animal of Arunachal Pradesh.

Which is correct?

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

Answer – (a) Only 1

Explanation –

- **Statement 1 – Correct**
The **Shirui Lily Festival** (held in Ukhrul district, Manipur) indeed promotes **eco-tourism**, celebrates the rare Shirui Lily (*Lilium mackliniae* – Manipur's state flower), and showcases the Tangkhul Naga culture.

- **Statement 2 – Incorrect**

The **Sangai Festival** is also from **Manipur**, not Arunachal Pradesh. It is named after the **Sangai deer (*Rucervus eldii eldii*)**, Manipur's **state animal**, found in Keibul Lamjao National Park (the world's only floating national park).

Why in News? In **May 2025**, the **Shirui Lily Festival resumed after a two-year hiatus** due to conflict in Manipur, drawing attention to eco-tourism and cultural promotion in the state.

Question 5. On which river is the **Kiru Hydropower Project** located?

- (a) Beas
- (b) Ravi
- (c) Chenab
- (d) Sutlej

Answer – (c) Chenab

Explanation – Kiru HEP (624 MW) lies on the **Chenab River, J&K**, between Kirthai II and Kwar projects.

Why in News? Came into limelight after **CBI filed corruption chargesheet** in 2025.

Question 6. Which species has set a world record for the longest banana infructescence (4.2 metres)?

- (a) *Musa acuminata*
- (b) *Musa paradisiaca*
- (c) *Musa indandamanensis*
- (d) *Musa balbisiana*

Answer – (c) *Musa indandamanensis*

Explanation – *Musa indandamanensis*, a wild banana endemic to the Andamans, recorded a **4.2 m infructescence** in 2025.

Why in News? Recognised globally in **Botany Letters journal (2025)**, displayed in Indian Museum & Andaman Museum.

Question 7. Which species, recently sighted in the Coimbatore Forest Division after more than a decade, is the State Animal of Tamil Nadu?

- (a) Lion-tailed Macaque
- (b) Nilgiri Tahr
- (c) Indian Bison (Gaur)
- (d) Grizzled Giant Squirrel

Answer – (b) Nilgiri Tahr

Explanation – The **Nilgiri Tahr (*Nilgiritragus hylocrius*)**, a mountain ungulate endemic to the

Western Ghats, was sighted in **Coimbatore Forest Division (May 2025)** after 10+ years.

Why in News? The rare sighting indicates **habitat revival** in the Western Ghats.

Question 8. Assertion (A): Greater Hesaraghatta Grassland was declared a Conservation Reserve in 2025.

Reason (R): It is the last remaining grassland habitat in the Bengaluru region.

Code:

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

Answer – (a) Both A and R true, and R is the correct explanation

Explanation – Greater Hesaraghatta Grassland near Bengaluru is a unique ecosystem and the **last surviving grassland in the region**, now protected under **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**.

Why in News? Karnataka govt issued the **final notification in 2025** declaring it a Conservation Reserve.

Question 9. Consider the following about the Red-Crowned Roofed Turtle (*Batagur kachuga*):

1. Found mainly in Chambal River Sanctuary today.
2. Feeds primarily on water plants.
3. IUCN status – Vulnerable.

Which are correct?

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

Answer – (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation – This turtle is **Critically Endangered (not Vulnerable)**, survives mainly in **National Chambal Sanctuary**, herbivorous, feeding on aquatic plants.

Why in News? Species revival noted as a **positive Ganga conservation outcome (2025)**.

Question 10. Assertion (A): The Green Hydrogen Certification applies to all hydrogen production methods.

Reason (R): It is limited to hydrogen produced via electrolysis or biomass conversion.

Code:

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

Answer – (d) A false, R true

Explanation – Certification scheme applies **only** to hydrogen from **electrolysis and biomass conversion**, not all methods.

Why in News? MNRE launched this scheme to prevent **greenwashing** in hydrogen markets.

Question 11. According to IEA's Global Methane Tracker 2025, which sector is responsible for about one-third of human-caused methane emissions?

- (a) Agriculture
- (b) Fossil fuel sector
- (c) Waste management
- (d) Livestock

Answer – (b) Fossil fuel sector

Explanation –

- According to the IEA's Global Methane Tracker 2025, the fossil fuel sector (oil, gas, coal production, abandoned wells/mines, and bioenergy) is responsible for nearly one-third of human-caused methane emissions.
- Agriculture is the largest contributor overall, mainly from livestock (enteric fermentation and manure), followed by rice cultivation.
- Waste sector (landfills, sewage) is also a significant source, but smaller compared to agriculture and fossil fuels.

Why in News? The IEA 2025 report highlighted that annual methane emissions remain above 120 million tonnes, with fossil fuels offering the fastest and cheapest reduction potential. Methane has caused ~30% of global warming since the Industrial Revolution.

Question 12. Which rare snail species, recently filmed laying an egg from its neck, is endemic to New Zealand?

- (a) Achatina fulica
- (b) Powelliphanta augusta
- (c) Cornu aspersum
- (d) Anguispira alternata

Answer – (b) Powelliphanta augusta

Explanation – The **Powelliphanta augusta**, a threatened snail of New Zealand, was filmed for the first time laying an egg through an opening just below its head.

Why in News? First-ever footage released in **May 2025**, giving new hope for conservation of this rare species.

Question 13. Match the following with their innovations:

List-I | List-II

- A. Denmark (Kasso) | 1. First commercial e-methanol plant
- B. India (DST) | 2. First CCU testbeds cluster in cement industry
- C. Odisha (ICG) | 3. Operation Olivia for turtle protection

Code:

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

Answer – (a) A-1, B-2, C-3

Explanation –

- Denmark → World's first commercial-scale **e-methanol plant**.
- India (DST) → First **CCU testbeds cluster** for cement.
- Odisha → Operation Olivia protects Olive Ridleys.

Why in News? All three launched/achieved milestones in **2025**.

Question 14. Assertion (A): E-methanol is produced from natural gas and coal.

Reason (R): It uses renewable electricity and biogenic CO₂ captured from sustainable sources.

Code:

- (a) Both A and R true, and R is the correct explanation.
- (b) A true, R false.
- (c) A false, R true.
- (d) Both A and R false.

Answer – (c) A false, R true

Explanation – Traditional methanol uses fossil fuels, but **e-methanol** is produced from **renewable electricity + water electrolysis + captured CO₂**.

Why in News? Denmark inaugurated **world's first large-scale e-methanol plant (2025)**.

Question 15. Assertion (A): Arribada refers to synchronised mass nesting of sea turtles.

Reason (R): It is observed mainly in Olive Ridley turtles (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), listed as Vulnerable.

Code:

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

Answer – (a) Both A and R true, and R is correct explanation

Explanation – Arribada = Spanish word for “arrival” → synchronised nesting. Olive Ridleys are **IUCN Vulnerable** and known for mass nesting in Odisha.

Why in News? Record arribada at **Rushikulya in March 2025**.

Question 16. Which Ministry launched the **e-Zero FIR initiative** for faster cybercrime response?

- (a) Ministry of Electronics & IT
- (b) Ministry of Home Affairs
- (c) Ministry of Law & Justice
- (d) Ministry of Communications

Answer – (b) Ministry of Home Affairs

Explanation – The **Union Home Ministry** through I4C launched the e-Zero FIR system to enable **jurisdiction-free FIRs** for major cybercrimes.

Why in News? Launched in **2025**, pilot project started in Delhi for financial cyberfrauds above ₹10 lakh.

Question 17. Match the writs with their purposes:

List-I (Writ) | List-II (Purpose)

- A. Mandamus | 1. Direct public authority to perform duty
- B. Habeas Corpus | 2. Release of unlawfully detained person

C. Certiorari | 3. Quash illegal order of lower court

D. Prohibition | 4. Stop a court from exceeding jurisdiction

Code:

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

Answer – (a) A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4

Explanation –

- Mandamus = duty enforcement.
- Habeas Corpus = release from illegal detention.
- Certiorari = quash lower court order.
- Prohibition = prevent overreach.

Why in News? SC dismissed writ petition seeking **mandamus against Justice Yashwant Varma** (May 21, 2025).

Question 18. Consider the following about Operation AAHT:

1. Launched by Railway Protection Force (RPF).
2. Focuses on anti-trafficking efforts on India's railway network.
3. Has rescued over 900 victims between 2024–25.

Which are correct?

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

Answer – (d) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation – Operation AAHT is RPF's flagship anti-trafficking mission. By 2024–25, it rescued **929 victims (874 children)**.

Why in News? Notable rescue at Raxaul in **May 2025**.

Question 19. Consider the following:

Assertion (A): President of India can seek the opinion of the Supreme Court on constitutional questions.

Reason (R): Article 143(1) empowers the President to refer questions of law or fact of public importance to the Supreme Court.

Code:

- (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

Answer – (a)

Explanation – In May 2025, President Droupadi Murmu invoked Article 143(1) and referred 14 constitutional questions to the Supreme Court for advisory opinion. This was in news as a significant exercise of the President's advisory jurisdiction to clarify constitutional matters related to **assent to Bills and federal relations**.

Question 20. Consider the following statements regarding **disqualification of legislators**:

1. Disqualification can occur under Article 191(1)(e) if convicted under law made by Parliament.
2. Lily Thomas Case (2013) ensures immediate disqualification of convicted legislators.

Choose the correct answer:

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

Answer – (c)

Explanation – Karnataka MLA **G Janardhan Reddy** was disqualified in 2025 after conviction under corruption charges. The legal basis is **Article 191(1)(e) + Section 8, RP Act, 1951**, and as per **Lily Thomas judgment**, disqualification is **immediate**. This was in news because of his removal from the Assembly.

Question 21. Match the following states with **highest and lowest life expectancy** (2017–2021):

List I – State | List II – Life Expectancy

- A. Delhi (Male) – 1. 73 years
- B. Kerala (Female) – 2. 77.9 years
- C. Chhattisgarh (Male) – 3. 62.8 years
- D. Chhattisgarh (Female) – 4. 66.4 years

Code:

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

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

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

Answer – (a)

Explanation – Life expectancy extremes reported in **2025: Delhi (Male – 73 years), Kerala (Female – 77.9 years), and Chhattisgarh lowest for both genders**.

Question 22. Which of the following states have already achieved the **SDG target of MMR ≤70 by 2030**?

1. Kerala
2. Maharashtra
3. Jharkhand
4. Bihar

Select the correct answer:

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

Answer – (b) 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation – The **SRS 2021 and UN-MMEIG reports (2023)** noted that states like **Kerala (20), Maharashtra (38), Jharkhand (51)** already achieved the **SDG target**. Bihar (MMR still high) has not.

Question 23. Consider the following statements about **Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan**:

1. It was launched in Puri district, Odisha in May 2025.
2. It ensures two-way communication between scientists and farmers.
3. Over 16,000 ICAR scientists are expected to participate.

Which statements are correct?

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

Answer – (d) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation – The **VKSA (2025)** aims at **transforming agriculture through scientist–farmer collaboration**. It was launched from **Sakhigopal, Puri (Odisha)**, with **16,000 ICAR scientists** engaging in a **two-way knowledge exchange**.

Question 24. Consider the following regarding **anthrax**:

1. It is caused by *Bacillus anthracis*.
2. It spreads commonly from human-to-human.

Choose the correct statement:

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

Answer – (a) Only 1

Explanation – The **Thailand anthrax fatality (2025)** highlighted its cause – ***Bacillus anthracis***, but it **does not spread person-to-person**; transmission occurs through **infected animals/products**.

Question 25. Which of the following statements about India's Human Development Report 2025 performance is correct?

1. India's HDI value is 0.685, the same as Bangladesh.
2. Inequality-Adjusted HDI (IHDI) for India shows a 30.66% decline.
3. India's Gender Development Index (GDI) value is higher than 0.900.

Code:

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

Answer – (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation –

- HDR 2025 highlighted India's progress but also gender gaps.
- India and Bangladesh both recorded **0.685 HDI**.
- IHDI: **0.475** (30.66% decline due to inequality).
- GDI: **0.874** (not above 0.900).

Question 26. Which infamous US prison, nicknamed "The Rock", is set to reopen after more than 60 years as per Donald Trump's 2025 directive?

- (a) Sing Sing
- (b) Alcatraz

- (c) San Quentin
- (d) Rikers Island

Answer – (b) Alcatraz

Explanation –

- On **4 May 2025**, Donald Trump announced reopening and expansion of **Alcatraz prison**, closed since 1963.
- Located 2 km offshore San Francisco, also called "Devil's Island".
- Famous inmates: **Al Capone**.
- Initially a military fort → prison (1933) → closed (1963).

Question 27. Which of the following countries does NOT border the Persian Gulf?

- (a) Qatar
- (b) Iran
- (c) Oman
- (d) Jordan

Answer – (d) Jordan

Explanation –

- Reports suggested Donald Trump may call the Persian Gulf as the *Arabian Gulf* during his Arab visit in 2025.
- Iran strongly opposed this, calling it historical distortion.
- Countries bordering Persian Gulf: **Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, Oman (via Strait of Hormuz)**.
- Jordan does not border it.

Question 28. Which of the following is NOT a major use of Germanium?

- (a) Semiconductors
- (b) Fiber optic cables
- (c) Solar panels
- (d) Nuclear fuel rods

Answer – (d) Nuclear fuel rods

Explanation –

- China tightened export controls on Germanium in 2025, threatening India's high-tech industries.
- Uses: semiconductors, fiber optics, solar panels.
- Not used as nuclear fuel.

Question 29. The Resistance Front (TRF), targeted by India for UN terror listing in 2025, is

considered a front group for:

- (a) Jaish-e-Mohammed
- (b) Lashkar-e-Taiba
- (c) Hizbul Mujahideen
- (d) Taliban

Answer – (b) Lashkar-e-Taiba

Explanation –

- After the **22 April 2025 Pahalgam terror attack** (26 civilians killed), India moved to designate TRF as a terrorist outfit at the **UNSC 1267 Committee**.
- TRF is believed to be a **front of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)**, already UN-banned.

Question 30. Which glacier became Asia's first to receive a memorial plaque marking its symbolic "death"?

- (a) Gangotri Glacier
- (b) Siachen Glacier
- (c) Yala Glacier
- (d) Khumbu Glacier

Answer – (c) Yala Glacier

Explanation –

- On **12 May 2025**, **Yala Glacier** (Langtang, Nepal) became the first in Asia to get a **memorial plaque**.
- It has shrunk **66% since the 1970s** and retreated 784 meters.
- Ceremony organized by **ICIMOD** with monks, locals, and scientists.

Question 31. The word "Sagarmatha" in Nepal's "Sagarmatha Sambaad" refers to:

- (a) Mount Everest
- (b) Mount Annapurna
- (c) Mount Kanchenjunga
- (d) Mount Lhotse

Answer – (a) Mount Everest

Explanation –

- "Sagarmatha" is the **Nepali name for Mount Everest**, the world's highest peak.
- The dialogue platform aims to link global climate challenges with mountain ecosystem preservation.

Question 32. Indian researchers recently suggested that the mineral "Jarosite" can act as a natural geological clock for:

- (a) Moon

(b) Venus

(c) Mars

(d) Jupiter's Moon Europa

Answer – (c) Mars

Explanation –

- In May 2025, Indian researchers discovered that **Jarosite** could be used as a **geological clock on Mars**.
- Samples: Taken from **Kachchh, Gujarat**, whose terrain resembles Mars.
- Method: Luminescence analysis of Jarosite (K-Fe-sulphate mineral).
- Significance: Helps in dating geological events and reconstructing Mars' history.

Question 33. The Golden Dome missile defense project announced in 2025 is modeled after which country's Iron Dome system?

- (a) USA
- (b) Israel
- (c) Russia
- (d) France

Answer – (b) Israel

Explanation –

- On **20 May 2025**, President Trump unveiled the **Golden Dome Project**, inspired by **Israel's Iron Dome**.
- Aim: **Nationwide US missile defense**, integrating land, sea, and space assets.

Question 34. Under the Take It Down Act, how soon must online platforms remove reported non-consensual content?

- (a) 12 hours
- (b) 24 hours
- (c) 48 hours
- (d) 72 hours

Answer – (c) 48 hours

Explanation –

- The Act mandates **removal within 48 hours** after a victim's request.
- Platforms must also delete duplicates to prevent re-circulation.

Question 35. Which of the following is NOT part of global missile defense systems?

- (a) THAAD – USA
- (b) S-400 – Russia

- (c) HQ-9 – China
- (d) Golden Shield – France

Answer – (d) Golden Shield – France

Explanation –

- Golden Dome was compared with existing global missile defense systems.
- Examples: **THAAD (USA), S-400 (Russia), HQ-9 (China), Patriot (USA), David's Sling (Israel), Aster 30 (France/Italy), Barak-8 (India/Israel).**
- No system called *Golden Shield* in France.

Question 36. The first legally binding International Pandemic Agreement was adopted in 2025 under which article of the WHO Constitution?

- (a) Article 14
- (b) Article 19
- (c) Article 25
- (d) Article 32

Answer – (b) Article 19

Explanation –

- At the **78th World Health Assembly (20 May 2025)**, WHO adopted the **first pandemic agreement**.
- Adopted under **Article 19** (same as the 2003 FCTC on tobacco).
- Focus: global preparedness, equitable access, data sharing, tech transfer.

Question 37. The 17th edition of the India–Mongolia joint military exercise *NOMADIC ELEPHANT 2025* is being held at:

- (a) Shillong, India
- (b) Leh, India
- (c) Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
- (d) Lhasa, Tibet

Answer – (c) Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Explanation –

- From **31 May – 13 June 2025**, India–Mongolia are conducting **Nomadic Elephant 2025**.
- Indian contingent: **45 personnel (Arunachal Scouts).**
- Focus: UN-mandated operations, semi-conventional scenarios, mountainous terrain.

- Last edition (2024) was in **Umroi, Meghalaya (India).**

Question 38. The RBI transferred a record surplus of ₹2.68 lakh crore to the Government in FY25. This was enabled by which framework?

- (a) Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act
- (b) Monetary Policy Committee framework
- (c) Economic Capital Framework
- (d) Basel III framework

Answer – (c) Economic Capital Framework

Explanation –

- **Why in News?** At its **616th Central Board Meeting (May 2025)**, RBI approved record surplus (₹2.68 lakh crore) transfer to the Government in FY25.
- Framework: **Revised Economic Capital Framework (ECF)**, based on Bimal Jalan Committee.
- Ensures balance between **government's fiscal needs** and **RBI's risk buffer**.

Question 39. India recorded its highest-ever FDI inflow of **USD 81.04 billion** in FY 2024–25. Which state received the largest share?

- (a) Karnataka
- (b) Maharashtra
- (c) Delhi
- (d) Tamil Nadu

Answer – (b) Maharashtra

Explanation –

- Commerce Ministry announced **record FDI inflows**.
- Top states: **Maharashtra (39%)**, Karnataka (13%), Delhi (12%).
- Top source: **Singapore (30%).**

Question 40. “Basket sneaking” — recently flagged as a dark pattern by CCPA — refers to:

- (a) Displaying fake urgency on product sale
- (b) Adding extra items to cart without user consent
- (c) Subscribing user automatically to a service
- (d) Hiding true cost until checkout

Answer – (b) Adding extra items to cart without user consent

Explanation –

- Union Consumer Affairs Minister warned firms against **dark patterns** in May 2025.
- Dark patterns = deceptive website/app designs.
- Example: Basket sneaking = **auto-adding items/donations at checkout**.

Question 41. Which Act provides the legal basis for regulating “dark patterns” in India?

(GNAFC)

- (a) IT Act, 2000
- (b) Consumer Protection Act, 2019
- (c) Companies Act, 2013
- (d) Digital India Act, 2023

Answer – (b) Consumer Protection Act, 2019

Explanation –

- CCPA issued **2023 guidelines** under the **Consumer Protection Act, 2019**.
- Recognized **13 dark patterns** (false urgency, basket sneaking, bait & switch, drip pricing, etc.).

Question 42. Where was the first **World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES 2025)** held?

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) Jaipur
- (d) Bengaluru

Answer – (b) Mumbai

Explanation –

- **WAVES 2025** held at **Jio World Centre, Mumbai**, with 90+ participating countries.
- Showcased India's **media & entertainment** industry globally.

Question 43. Which body is designated as the nodal agency for implementing the Cashless Road Accident Scheme in States/UTs?

- (a) State Health Ministry
- (b) State Road Safety Council
- (c) Central Steering Committee
- (d) NHAI Regional Office

Answer – (b) State Road Safety Council

Explanation –

- States/UTs will implement scheme via **State Road Safety Councils**.

- Functions: Onboard hospitals, manage records, ensure payments.
- Central Steering Committee (headed by Road Secretary) supervises nationally.

Question 44. The ASW SWC ‘Arnala’ is named after a historic fort located in:

- (a) Goa
- (b) Maharashtra
- (c) Gujarat
- (d) Kerala

Answer – (b) Maharashtra

Explanation –

- ‘Arnala’ is named after the **Arnala Fort** near Vasai (Maharashtra), reflecting India's maritime heritage.

Question 45. Which country supplies India with the S-400 Triumf Missile Defence System?

- (a) Israel
- (b) USA
- (c) Russia
- (d) France

Answer – (c) Russia

Explanation –

- India signed **\$5 billion deal in 2018** for 5 units of S-400.
- Capabilities: detects up to **600 km**, neutralises aircraft, cruise & ballistic missiles.
- Considered among the **world's most advanced SAM systems**.

Question 46. “Ozempic mouth,” recently in news, is associated with:

- (a) Oral cancer caused by chewing tobacco
- (b) Facial changes after rapid weight loss from diabetes drug Ozempic
- (c) Gum disease linked to sugar substitutes
- (d) Genetic disorder affecting oral cavity

Answer – (b) Facial changes after rapid weight loss from diabetes drug Ozempic

Explanation –

- Widespread use of **Ozempic (diabetes drug)** for weight loss caused **facial hollowing, sagging, aging effects** called *Ozempic Mouth*.
- Features: loss of cheek/jaw fat, deeper wrinkles, jowls, hollowed temples.

Question 47. The first patient treated with **base-editing gene therapy** in 2025 suffered from:

- (a) Sickle Cell Anaemia
- (b) CPS1 Deficiency
- (c) Thalassemia
- (d) Muscular Dystrophy

Answer – (b) CPS1 Deficiency

Explanation –

- A 9-month-old boy became **first recipient of base-editing therapy for CPS1 deficiency**, a rare metabolic disorder.
- Developed by University of Pennsylvania & CHOP.

Question 48. India's first gene-edited sheep was developed by scientists from:

- (a) ICAR – Indian Council of Agricultural Research
- (b) IISc Bengaluru
- (c) SKUAST Kashmir
- (d) CSIR–CCMB Hyderabad

Answer – (c) SKUAST Kashmir

Explanation –

- Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology (SKUAST) created **India's first gene-edited sheep** using **CRISPR-Cas9**.
- Gene targeted: **Myostatin**, which suppresses muscle growth.
- Outcome: ~30% more muscle mass, non-transgenic (no foreign DNA).

Question 49. The Gleason score is used to evaluate:

- (a) Lung fibrosis severity
- (b) Prostate cancer aggressiveness
- (c) Kidney function decline
- (d) Brain tumour staging

Answer – (b) Prostate cancer aggressiveness

Explanation –

- Former US President **Joe Biden** diagnosed with aggressive prostate cancer, **Gleason score 9**.
- Score ranges **6–10** → higher = more aggressive.

Question 50. Europe Day is observed every year on:

- (a) May 5
- (b) May 7

(c) May 9

(d) May 20

Answer – (c) May 9

Explanation –

- On **9 May 2025**, India joined **Europe Day celebrations** marking the **75th anniversary of the Schuman Declaration**.
- Origin: 1950 declaration by Robert Schuman (France) → formed ECSC → foundation of EU.
- Symbolizes **peace & unity** in post-WWII Europe.

Question 51. World Metrology Day 2025 marked the _____ anniversary of the Metre Convention (1875).

- (a) 100th
- (b) 125th
- (c) 150th
- (d) 175th

Answer – (c) 150th

Explanation –

- On **20 May 2025**, India commemorated **150 years of Metre Convention**.
- Convention signed in **Paris (1875)** → established **BIPM** for global metric standardization.

Question 52. Who among the following was removed from the post of India's Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in April 2025, seven months before completion of tenure?

- (a) Arvind Subramanian
- (b) K. Subramaniam
- (c) Raghuram Rajan
- (d) Shaktikanta Das

Answer – (b) K. Subramaniam

Explanation – K. Subramaniam, India's former Chief Economic Advisor (2018–2022), was appointed as India's Executive Director at the IMF in November 2022. He represented India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan. On April 30, 2025, the Government of India issued an order terminating his tenure with immediate effect, seven months before its scheduled end (November 2025).

Why in News – He was removed from his IMF post unexpectedly in April 2025.

Question 53. Which international award is considered the most prestigious in the field of journalism?

- (a) Booker Prize
- (b) Pulitzer Prize
- (c) Ramon Magsaysay Award
- (d) Abel Prize

Answer – (b) Pulitzer Prize

Explanation – The **Pulitzer Prize**, established in 1917 and administered by Columbia University, is America's top award in journalism. In 2025, it was awarded across 23 categories, including journalism, drama, books, and music.

Why in News – Pulitzer Prize **2025 winners** were announced in April 2025.

Question 54. Mariangela Hungria, who won the **2025 World Food Prize**, is known for her work in which field?

- (a) Green Revolution in India
- (b) Seed and Soil Microbiology
- (c) Climate Change Mitigation
- (d) GM Crop Development

Answer – (b) Seed and Soil Microbiology

Explanation – Brazilian scientist **Mariangela Hungria** has worked for 40 years in sustainable agriculture, especially in **nitrogen-fixing soil bacteria for soybeans**, reducing fertilizer use.

Why in News – She was awarded the **2025 World Food Prize** for her contribution to food security.

Question 55. Banu Mushtaq, who won the **International Booker Prize 2025**, writes in which Indian language?

- (a) Kannada
- (b) Malayalam
- (c) Hindi
- (d) Tamil

Answer – (a) Kannada

Explanation – Banu Mushtaq became the **first Kannada writer** to win the International Booker Prize (2025) for her short story collection *Hridaya Deepa (Heart Lamp)*, translated into English by Deepa Bhashti.

Why in News – Historic achievement for Kannada literature as she won this global award.

Question 56. The Jewar Semiconductor Plant approved in 2025 is a joint venture between:

- (a) Tata & Micron
- (b) Vedanta & TSMC

- (c) HCL & Foxconn
- (d) Infosys & Samsung

Answer – (c) HCL & Foxconn

Explanation – HCL (India) and Foxconn (Taiwan) will jointly set up the **display driver chip unit** at Jewar. These chips will be used in laptops, PCs, smartphones, and automobiles.

Why in News – The project was approved in April 2025 as part of the **UP Semiconductor Policy 2024**.

Question 57. Which of the following is correct about the **International Film City Project in Noida**?

1. It will be located in Sector-21, Greater Noida.
2. It is North India's largest film city project.
3. Phase-I investment is estimated at ₹1,510 crore.

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

Answer – (d) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation –

- Location: **Sector-21, Greater Noida** along Yamuna Expressway.
- Scale: Spread over **1,000 acres**, making it North India's largest film city.
- Phase-I: ₹1,510 crore investment over 230 acres.

Why in News – In May 2025, the layout plan was submitted to YEIDA, marking progress in the project.

Question 58. Which scheme has been launched in Uttar Pradesh to promote eco-tourism in tiger reserve buffer zones?

- (a) Jungle Safar Yojana
- (b) Buffer Mein Safar Yojana
- (c) Paryatan Mitra Yojana
- (d) Van Vistaar Yojana

Answer – (b) Buffer Mein Safar Yojana

Explanation – The UP Forest and Wildlife Department launched **Buffer Mein Safar Yojana** to promote eco-tourism in tiger reserve buffer zones while empowering local communities and strengthening conservation. Key sites include

Dudhwa, Pilibhit, Lakhimpur Kheri, Sohagibarwa, Katarniaghat, and Semrai Lake.

Why in News – Announced in 2025 as part of UP's push to become a leading eco-tourism destination.

Question 59. Which of the following regions will benefit from the centrally notified high-yielding **soybean varieties** recommended in 2025?

- (a) Bundelkhand
- (b) Purvanchal
- (c) Rohilkhand
- (d) Terai

Answer – (a) Bundelkhand

Explanation – The Agriculture Department recommended high-yield soybean varieties suited to **Bundelkhand's soil and rainfall conditions**. These varieties will improve productivity in rain-fed black soils.

Why in News – Ahead of Kharif 2025, Bundelkhand was identified for special soybean productivity improvement.

Question 60. Which special schools are being developed under **Project Alankar**?

- 1. Chief Minister Model Schools
- 2. Chief Minister Abhyudaya Schools
- 3. Chief Minister Navodaya Schools

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

Answer – (b) 1 and 2 only

Explanation – Project Alankar includes **CM Model Schools (Pre-primary to Class 12)** and **CM Abhyudaya Schools (Pre-primary to Class 8)**, equipped with STEM labs and smart classrooms. No such category as CM Navodaya Schools.

Why in News – These schools are central to UP's education reform and were highlighted in 2025.

Question 61. Under the **Shaadi Anudan Yojana**, how much financial assistance is provided for the marriage of daughters from eligible families?

- (a) ₹10,000
- (b) ₹15,000
- (c) ₹20,000
- (d) ₹25,000

Answer – (c) ₹20,000

Explanation – Shaadi Anudan Yojana provides **₹20,000 per marriage** to poor OBC families for their daughters' weddings. Maximum 2 daughters per family are eligible.

Why in News – In FY 2024–25, UP government doubled beneficiaries to **1 lakh OBC families**, after income limit was raised to ₹1 lakh annually.

Question 62. The record-breaking road construction by UP in 2025 took place between which districts?

- (a) Agra – Etawah
- (b) Hardoi – Unnao
- (c) Lucknow – Barabanki
- (d) Prayagraj – Mirzapur

Answer – (b) Hardoi – Unnao

Explanation – UP achieved records for crash barrier and bituminous road construction along the **Ganga Motorway between Hardoi and Unnao districts**.

Why in News – The project gained recognition in multiple record books in May 2025.

Question 63. Which scheme launched in 2020 provides educational support to working children in Uttar Pradesh?

- (a) Bal Suraksha Yojana
- (b) Bal Shramik Vidya Yojana
- (c) Child Labour Mukt Abhiyan
- (d) Shiksha Samarth Yojana

Answer – (b) Bal Shramik Vidya Yojana

Explanation – **Bal Shramik Vidya Yojana** was started in 2020 to combat child labour. Under it, **2,000 working children** have been enrolled in schools.

Why in News – The scheme was highlighted in UP's 2025 mission to eradicate child labour.

Question 64. Uttar Pradesh government plans to invest how much in **tourism road infrastructure upgrade** during 2025–26?

- (a) ₹2,500 crore
- (b) ₹3,200 crore
- (c) ₹4,560 crore
- (d) ₹6,100 crore

Answer – (c) ₹4,560 crore

Explanation – The UP government allocated **₹4,560 crore** for **272 projects** to upgrade roads connecting major religious and cultural sites like Ayodhya, Varanasi, Mathura, Prayagraj, Chitrakoot, Naimisharanya, and Mirzapur.

Why in News – This major investment was announced for 2025–26 to enhance religious tourism.

Question 65. Which of the following districts was recently added under ODOP with **Sattu products**?

- (a) Etah
- (b) Ballia
- (c) Bareilly
- (d) Baghpat

Answer – (b) Ballia

Explanation – The 12 new ODOP products include **Ballia – Sattu products**, Etah – Chicory, Bareilly – Wood products, and Baghpat – Agricultural machinery.

Why in News – In 2025, these districts were added under ODOP expansion to boost local employment.

Question 66. Which city in Uttar Pradesh hosts **India's largest Titanium & Superalloy Plant** inaugurated in 2025?

- (a) Kanpur
- (b) Agra
- (c) Lucknow
- (d) Varanasi

Answer – (c) Lucknow

Explanation – India's largest titanium and superalloy plant was inaugurated in **Lucknow**, operated by **Aeroalloy Technologies Limited**, subsidiary of PTC Industries. Capacity: 6,000 tonnes annually.

Why in News – Inaugurated in 2025 by Union Defence Minister and UP CM, strengthening defence & aerospace self-reliance.

Question 67. The **Gomti River** is a tributary of which river?

- (a) Yamuna
- (b) Ganga
- (c) Ghaghara
- (d) Saryu

Answer – (b) Ganga

Explanation – The Gomti originates from **Madho Tanda in Pilibhit district** and joins the **Ganga at Kaithi, Ghazipur**. Length – 960 km.

Why in News – In 2025, Gomti faced a **severe pollution crisis** due to untreated sewage and rapid urbanisation in Lucknow.

Question 68. The **BrahMos missile**, produced in Lucknow's new unit, is named after which rivers?

- (a) Ganga & Volga
- (b) Brahmaputra & Moskva
- (c) Godavari & Neva
- (d) Indus & Yenisei

Answer – (b) Brahmaputra & Moskva

Explanation – BrahMos is named after **Brahmaputra (India)** and **Moskva (Russia)**. It is the world's fastest supersonic cruise missile (Mach 2.8).

Why in News – A **BrahMos production unit** was inaugurated in Lucknow under the UP Defence Industrial Corridor in 2025.

Question 69. The **AI Pragma Programme** launched by UP aims to train how many youth in AI, ML, and digital technologies?

- (a) 5 lakh
- (b) 7.5 lakh
- (c) 10 lakh
- (d) 12 lakh

Answer – (c) 10 lakh

Explanation – AI Pragma will train and certify **10 lakh youth** in AI, ML, data analytics, and cybersecurity, creating a digitally skilled workforce and promoting AI-based startups.

Why in News – Launched in Lucknow (2025) along with UP-AGREES to make UP a hub for AI innovation.

Question 70. When was the **Uttar Pradesh Skill Development Mission (UPSDM)** established?

- (a) 2009
- (b) 2011
- (c) 2013
- (d) 2015

Answer – (c) 2013

Explanation – UPSDM was set up on **13 September 2013** as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, to align with the **National Skill Development Policy (2009)**.

Why in News – Came into focus in 2025 after MoU with IIT Roorkee.

Question 71. The upcoming **Veer Rath Park** in Noida will commemorate how many freedom fighters?

- (a) 22
- (b) 28

- (c) 32
(d) 40

Answer – (c) 32

Explanation – Veer Rath Park in **Nalgarh village (Noida-Greater Noida Expressway)** will honour **32 freedom fighters**, featuring statues, museum, and open-air theatre.

Why in News – Project approved in 2025 with cost of ₹42 crore.

Question 72. When was **Mission Shakti** launched in Uttar Pradesh?

- (a) 2018
(b) 2019
(c) 2020
(d) 2021

Answer – (c) 2020

Explanation – Launched on **17 October 2020**, Mission Shakti focuses on women's safety, dignity, and empowerment.

Why in News – By 2025, Mission Shakti had reached **over 9 crore women** in the state.

Question 73. The headquarters of the newly formed **Uttar Pradesh Gramin Bank** is located at:

- (a) Kanpur
(b) Lucknow
(c) Varanasi
(d) Bareilly

Answer – (b) Lucknow

Explanation – Uttar Pradesh Gramin Bank, formed in 2025 after merger of 3 RRBs, is headquartered in **Lucknow**, operating through **22 regional offices**.

Why in News – This merger aimed at integrated management, faster loan disbursal, and expansion of digital services.

Question 74. Which expressway in Uttar Pradesh is set to become **India's first night fighter jet landing site**?

- (a) Purvanchal Expressway
(b) Agra–Lucknow Expressway
(c) Ganga Expressway
(d) Bundelkhand Expressway

Answer – (c) Ganga Expressway

Explanation – A **3.5 km stretch** in Shahjahanpur will enable **Rafale, Mirage, and Jaguar aircraft** to conduct night landings, making it India's first expressway with such capability.

Why in News – Announced in 2025 as part of IAF preparedness; UP now has **3 expressways** with fighter jet landing facilities.

Question 75. The tomb of legendary musician **Tansen** is located in which city?

- (a) Fatehpur Sikri
(b) Agra
(c) Gwalior
(d) Orchha

Answer – (c) Gwalior

Explanation – The tomb complex of **Hazrat Sheikh Muhammad Ghaus (d. 1563)** in **Gwalior** also houses the grave of **Tansen**, Akbar's Navratna and Hindustani classical music's pioneer. It is a **Centrally Protected Monument** under the ASI.

Why in News – In 2025, the **Madhya Pradesh High Court rejected a plea** seeking permission for religious/cultural practices at this protected heritage site.

Question 76. The **Ramraja Temple** at Orchha (MP) is unique because:

- (a) Lord Ram is worshipped as a child.
(b) Lord Ram is worshipped as a king.
(c) It is the only wooden temple in India.
(d) It was built by Chandela rulers.

Answer – (b) Lord Ram is worshipped as a king.

Explanation – The **Ramraja Temple, Orchha**, is the **only temple in India where Lord Ram is worshipped as a king**. He receives royal honours daily. It was originally constructed as a **palace under Madhukar Shah (Bundela dynasty, 16th c.)**, not as a temple.

Why in News – In June 2025, **Ayodhya Ram Temple consecrated Ram Darbar (King Ram)**, drawing parallels with Orchha tradition.

Question 77. The **Yantraraj (Astrolabe)**, found at Raigad Fort, was primarily used for:

- (a) Measuring rainfall
(b) Navigational & astronomical observations
(c) Military signalling
(d) Calculating taxes

Answer – (b) Navigational & astronomical observations

Explanation – The **astrolabe** was a sophisticated instrument used for **celestial observations, timekeeping, and directions**, signifying scientific progress of Maratha rule.

Why in News – Unearthed during 3–4 years of excavation at Raigad, adding to Maratha-era heritage.

Question 78. The **Tulbul Navigation Project** is proposed at the mouth of which lake?

- (a) Dal Lake
- (b) Pangong Tso
- (c) Wular Lake
- (d) Surinsar Lake

Answer – (c) Wular Lake

Explanation – Tulbul is planned at the **mouth of Wular Lake near Ningli (J&K)** as a **439-ft long, 40-ft wide barrage** with **0.30 MAF** storage to stabilize **Jhelum** levels for navigation.

Why in News – After India put the **Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)** “under abeyance” in **April 2025**, the Government decided to **revive the stalled Tulbul project** (pending since 1987 due to Pakistan’s objections).

Question 79. The so-called “**doomsday fish**” recently caught off **Tamil Nadu** refers to:

- (a) Giant sunfish (*Mola mola*)
- (b) Oarfish (*Regalecus glesne*)
- (c) Swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*)
- (d) Bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*)

Answer – (b) Oarfish (*Regalecus glesne*)

Explanation – The **oarfish**—the **world’s longest bony fish** (up to ~11 m)—inhabits the **mesopelagic zone** (~200–1000 m). Folklore links it to earthquakes/tsunamis, but **scientific studies** find **no causal link**; surfacing usually indicates **sickness/disorientation**.

Why in News – A rare **oarfish** catch off **Tamil Nadu** in 2025 revived such myths, countered by scientific evidence.

Question 80. The world’s **oldest fossil record of the plant genus Nothopogia** was discovered in 2025 in:

- (a) Western Ghats, Kerala
- (b) Makum Coalfield, Assam
- (c) Kutch, Gujarat
- (d) Bastar, Chhattisgarh

Answer – (b) Makum Coalfield, Assam

Explanation – Researchers from **BSIP, Lucknow** discovered **24–23 million-year-old fossilized Nothopogia leaves** in Assam’s Makum coalfield. Today, **Nothopogia** grows in the **Western Ghats**, not in NE India.

Why in News – Published in 2025, this discovery shows **migration of plant species** over millions of years.

Question 81. Which country announced the establishment of **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** in 2023?

- (a) Nepal
- (b) India
- (c) China
- (d) Kenya

Answer – (b) India

Explanation – PM **Narendra Modi** announced **IBCA** in 2023 at **Mysuru**, during 50 years of **Project Tiger**. It was formally set up in March 2024 under NTCA (MoEFCC).

Why in News – The **first Assembly** was held in **June 2025 in New Delhi**, with 9 countries participating.

Question 82. India’s renewable energy target for 2030 is:

- (a) 350 GW
- (b) 400 GW
- (c) 500 GW
- (d) 600 GW

Answer – (c) 500 GW

Explanation – India’s policy vision aims for **500 GW renewable energy capacity by 2030**, part of its **climate commitments** to lower carbon footprint and energy transition.

Why in News – Emphasized during **Global Wind Day 2025** as wind and solar expansions continue rapidly.

Question 83. The **Poson Poya Festival**, celebrated in Sri Lanka, commemorates:

- (a) The birth of Gautam Buddha
- (b) Buddha’s first sermon at Sarnath
- (c) Arahata Mahinda’s sermon to King Devanampiyatissa
- (d) Arrival of Bodhi tree sapling in Sri Lanka

Answer – (c) Arahata Mahinda’s sermon to King Devanampiyatissa

Explanation – In **3rd century BCE**, Arahata Mahinda (son of Ashoka) preached to King Devanampiyatissa at **Mihintale**, marking the arrival of **Buddhism in Sri Lanka**.

Why in News – Sri Lanka celebrated **Poson Poya on 10 June 2025**, second only to Vesak in importance.

Question 84. Mount Etna, which erupted in June 2025, is located in:

- (a) Italy
- (b) Greece
- (c) Spain
- (d) Turkey

Answer – (a) Italy

Explanation – Mount Etna lies on the east coast of Sicily, Italy. It is Europe's largest active volcano, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2013.

Why in News – On June 2025, Etna had a Strombolian eruption, sending ash and smoke but no major damage.

Question 85. Operation Deep Manifest, recently in news, was launched by:

- (a) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)
- (b) Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)
- (c) Enforcement Directorate (ED)
- (d) National Investigation Agency (NIA)

Answer – (b) Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)

Explanation – The DRI launched **Operation Deep Manifest** to crack down on illegal imports of Pakistani goods routed via Dubai and other third countries after India's complete ban in May 2025. Seized: 39 containers with 1,115 MT of goods worth ₹9 crore.

Why in News – India imposed a full ban on Pakistan imports after the Pahalgam terror attack (22 April 2025).

Question 86. According to the UNFPA State of World Population Report 2025, India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is:

- (a) 2.5
- (b) 2.1
- (c) 2.0
- (d) 1.9

Answer – (d) 1.9

Explanation – The report notes India's TFR at 1.9 in 2025, below the replacement level of 2.1, confirming a continuing fertility decline. Earlier, SRS 2021 reported TFR = 2.0.

Why in News – Released on 12 June 2025, the report highlighted India's demographic shift and fertility decline.

Question 87. Which stealth bomber was deployed in Operation Midnight Hammer to hit

Iran's nuclear facilities?

- (a) B-52 Stratofortress
- (b) B-1 Lancer
- (c) B-2 Spirit
- (d) F-117 Nighthawk

Answer – (c) B-2 Spirit

Explanation – The B-2 Spirit stealth bombers carried out precision strikes with GBU-57 Massive Ordnance Penetrators (MOPs), penetrating deep-buried sites at Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan.

Why in News – This was the largest B-2 operational strike in U.S. history.

Question 88. According to the UN Hunger Hotspots Report (2025), which five regions are at highest risk of famine?

- (a) Sudan, Palestine, South Sudan, Haiti, Mali
- (b) Syria, Yemen, Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia
- (c) Afghanistan, Nigeria, Haiti, Myanmar, Palestine
- (d) Chad, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Venezuela, Mali

Answer – (a) Sudan, Palestine, South Sudan, Haiti, Mali

Explanation – The FAO–WFP Hunger Hotspots Report (June 2025) flagged these five as facing catastrophic food insecurity, caused by conflict, economic shocks, climate hazards, compounded by restricted humanitarian access.

Why in News – Semi-annual early-warning analysis urging urgent humanitarian action.

Question 89. Which international network supports the Hunger Hotspots Report?

- (a) Global Food Security Compact
- (b) Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC)
- (c) World Health–Nutrition Alliance
- (d) UN Relief and Recovery Fund

Answer – (b) Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC)

Explanation – The Hunger Hotspots report is supported by EU through GNAFC, providing predictive analysis of food crises.

Why in News – Report warns of acute hunger in 13 regions and famine in 5.

Question 90. The 8th edition of Exercise Shakti-2025 is being conducted between:

- (a) India and UK
- (b) India and France

- (c) India and USA
- (d) India and Russia

Answer – (b) India and France

Explanation – Exercise Shakti is a **bilateral military drill** between **India and France**. The **8th edition** is held at **La Cavalerie, France (18 June – 1 July 2025)** focusing on **multi-domain sub-conventional operations**.

Why in News – Strengthens the **India–France strategic defence partnership**.

Question 91. Exercise Khaan Quest 2025 is being hosted by which country?

- (a) Kazakhstan
- (b) Mongolia
- (c) Kyrgyzstan
- (d) Russia

Answer – (b) Mongolia

Explanation – Khaan Quest 2025 is held in **Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (14–28 June 2025)**. It began in 2003 as a **bilateral US–Mongolia drill** and became a **multinational UN peacekeeping exercise** from 2006.

Why in News – Indian Army sent a **40-member contingent from Kumaon Regiment**, including **women officers & soldiers**.

Question 92. Operation Spider's Web, carried out on 1 June 2025, involved:

- (a) Indian Navy anti-piracy operations off Somalia
- (b) Israeli strikes on Iranian missile depots
- (c) Ukraine's long-range drone strikes inside Russia
- (d) NATO cyber exercise against Chinese hackers

Answer – (c) Ukraine's long-range drone strikes inside Russia

Explanation – Ukraine's **SBU** conducted covert drone strikes deep inside **Russia**, reaching as far as **Irkutsk (4,000+ km)**. They destroyed/damaged **41 Russian bombers** using **FPV drone swarms** hidden in sheds.

Why in News – Marked one of the **boldest long-range Ukrainian operations** in the ongoing war.

Question 93. The proposed Shaktipeeth Expressway in Maharashtra is planned as a:

- (a) Four-lane brownfield corridor from Nagpur to Pune
- (b) Six-lane greenfield, access-controlled corridor from Pavnar to Patradevi
- (c) Eight-lane access-controlled ring road around

Mumbai

- (d) Six-lane brownfield upgradation of NH-48

Answer – (b) Six-lane greenfield, access-controlled corridor from Pavnar to Patradevi

Explanation – The project is a **six-lane greenfield expressway (~802 km, ₹80,000+ crore)** linking **Pavnar (Wardha) to Patradevi (Sindhudurg, at the MH–Goa border)**, traversing **12 districts** and enhancing connectivity to major **Shakti Peeth** pilgrimage sites.

Why in News – The **Maharashtra Cabinet** approved **land acquisition** for the project, soon after a new **76-km Samruddhi Mahamarg** section was inaugurated.

Question 94. Akhanda Godavari Tourism Project is being developed at which location?

- (a) Nashik, Maharashtra
- (b) Warangal, Telangana
- (c) Rajamahendravaram, Andhra Pradesh
- (d) Bhadrak, Odisha

Answer – (c) Rajamahendravaram, Andhra Pradesh

Explanation – The project (~₹94+ crore) aims to transform **Rajamahendravaram** into a **spiritual & cultural tourism hub** along the **Godavari**, with the foundation laid at **Pushkar Ghat** by the **Union Tourism & Culture Minister** and the **Deputy CM of Andhra Pradesh**.

Why in News – **Foundation stone** was laid to kick-start the **Akhanda Godavari Tourism Project**.

Question 95. Which statement about Rajamahendravaram is correct?

- (a) It was renamed from Rajahmundry in 2015, after a Chalukya ruler's title.
- (b) It lies on the Krishna River and hosts the Krishna Pushkaralu.
- (c) It is the headquarters of East Godavari renamed in 2023.
- (d) It was earlier called Kakinada till 2010.

Answer – (a) It was renamed from Rajahmundry in 2015, after a Chalukya ruler's title.

Explanation – In **2015**, **Rajahmundry** was **officially renamed Rajamahendravaram**, referencing the **Chalukya lineage** associated with the city's medieval history.

Why in News – The **Akhanda Godavari** project revived public interest in the city's **historical identity** and renaming.

Question 96. The **World Bank** approved **\$250 million** support for the **Inga-3 hydropower** project in which country?

- (a) Angola
- (b) Democratic Republic of Congo
- (c) Nigeria
- (d) Mozambique

Answer – (b) Democratic Republic of Congo

Explanation – Inga-3, on the **Congo River** system, is intended to bridge **DRC's power deficit** (access to electricity ~**20%**). Critics say the benefits may flow disproportionately to **industrial users/foreign offtakers**, raising **governance & equity** concerns.

Why in News – The World Bank's **\$250 mn** approval re-ignited debate on **social impact & beneficiaries**.

Question 97. Who became the first Indian to enter the International Space Station (ISS) in June 2025?

- (a) Rakesh Sharma
- (b) Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman
- (c) Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla
- (d) Kalpana Chawla

Answer – (c) Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla

Explanation –

- **Shubhanshu Shukla**, IAF pilot from **Lucknow**, entered the ISS on **26 June 2025** through **Axiom Mission-4** launched by **SpaceX Falcon 9**.
- He is the **first Indian in ISS** and the **second Indian in space after Rakesh Sharma (1984)**.

Why in News? This historic feat revives India's human spaceflight legacy and builds global collaboration ahead of **Gaganyaan Mission**.

Question 98. Axiom Mission-4 (Ax-4), in which an Indian astronaut entered the ISS, was launched using which vehicle?

- (a) GSLV Mk III
- (b) Soyuz MS-24
- (c) SpaceX Falcon 9 with Crew Dragon
- (d) Blue Origin New Shepard

Answer – (c) SpaceX Falcon 9 with Crew Dragon

Explanation – The mission was organized by **Axiom Space (USA)** with launch from **NASA**

Kennedy Space Center, Florida on 25 June 2025.

Docking with ISS happened on 26 June.

Why in News? India's presence in this international private space mission boosts **India–US space ties**.

Question 99. In battery recycling, the term “Black Mass” refers to:

- (a) Carbon waste from thermal power plants
- (b) Mixture of valuable metals obtained after shredding Li-ion batteries
- (c) Coal tar used in anode preparation
- (d) Residue left after steel smelting

Answer – (b) Mixture of valuable metals obtained after shredding Li-ion batteries

Explanation –

- **Black Mass** is a dark powder obtained after **shredding and separating metals** from used **Li-ion batteries**.
- Contains **lithium, cobalt, nickel, manganese, graphite**.

Why in News? **BatX Energies** with **TDB (DST)** support is commercializing **Black Mass Recovery Technology** for **sustainable recycling**.

Question 100. The Ministry of Women and Child Development recently launched the ‘NAVYA’ programme in Sonbhadra, Uttar Pradesh. What does NAVYA stand for?

- (a) New Aspirations for Vocational Young Adolescents
- (b) Nurturing Aspirations through Vocational Training for Young Adolescent Girls
- (c) National Adolescent Vocational Youth Advancement
- (d) None of the above

Answer – (b) Nurturing Aspirations through Vocational Training for Young Adolescent Girls

Explanation –

The Government of India launched the **NAVYA programme** on **24 June 2025** in Sonbhadra, Uttar Pradesh. Its full form is *Nurturing Aspirations through Vocational Training for Young Adolescent Girls*. The programme focuses on providing vocational training to girls aged **16–18 years** in aspirational districts.

Why in News – NAVYA was launched as a joint initiative of MWCD and MSDE to empower adolescent girls with modern skills like drone

assembly, smartphone repair, and graphic designing.

Question 101. The world's rarest blood type, recently discovered in a French Caribbean woman, is officially known as:

- (a) Bombay Blood Group
- (b) EMM-negative
- (c) Gwada-negative
- (d) Null-blood

Answer – (b) EMM-negative

Explanation – In June 2025, researchers identified a woman from **Guadeloupe (French Caribbean)** as the only carrier of a new blood type, nicknamed **Gwada-negative**, but officially called **EMM-negative**. It became the **48th blood group system** recognized by ISBT.

Why in News – This blood type is the rarest ever recorded, with only one known carrier worldwide.

Question 102. SPARC, recently in news for cancer treatment, is a technique based on:

- (a) Stem-cell immunotherapy
- (b) Proton arc therapy
- (c) Laser ablation
- (d) Genomic DNA editing

Answer – (b) Proton arc therapy

Explanation – SPARC (**Step-and-shoot spot-scanning Proton Arc Therapy**) is a new radiation treatment that reduces damage to surrounding tissues compared to earlier methods.

Why in News – First used in the USA (June 2025) for treating a **rare parotid gland cancer**, marking a breakthrough in oncology.

Question 103. The Government of India has decided to standardise default Air Conditioner (AC) temperatures in the range of:

- (a) 18–22°C
- (b) 20–28°C
- (c) 24–30°C
- (d) 26–32°C

Answer – (b) 20–28°C

Explanation – On **10 June 2025**, Union Power Minister **Manohar Lal** announced that ACs (including automobile ACs) will have **default settings in the 20–28°C range** to boost energy efficiency. Even a **1°C higher setting saves ~6% energy**.

Why in News – This policy follows India's record

peak power demand of 241 GW on June 9, 2025, and is being prepared by the **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)**.

Question 104. The recent discovery of antibiotic-producing Actinobacteria was made in which location?

- (a) Bodh Gaya Hot Springs, Bihar
- (b) Rajgir Hot Spring Lake, Bihar
- (c) Nalanda University Ruins, Bihar
- (d) Ganga River Basin, Bihar

Answer – (b) Rajgir Hot Spring Lake, Bihar

Explanation – VIT researchers found **Actinobacteria (40–43% of microbial community)** in **Rajgir Hot Spring, Nalanda district**, with potential for new antibiotics against **Listeria monocytogenes**.

Why in News – Crucial for combating **Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)**, a global health crisis.

Question 105. In Ax-4, growth studies of **Spirulina** and **Synechococcus** on the ISS will use which **nitrogen sources**?

- (a) Ammonia only
- (b) Urea- and nitrate-based media
- (c) Amino acids only
- (d) Nitrogen gas fixation only

Answer – (b) Urea- and nitrate-based media

Explanation – The payload tests **proteomic response** and growth of cyanobacteria in **urea/nitrate media**, including feasibility of using **human-waste urea**—key for **in-situ resource utilisation**.

Why in news – Could validate **Spirulina** as a **space “superfood”** (high protein & vitamins) for **self-sustaining missions**.

Question 106. Which of the following is **correct** about **Rudrastra** and **Bhargavastra** (SDAL)?

- (a) Rudrastra is a fixed-wing runway UAV; Bhargavastra is a soft-kill jammer.
- (b) Rudrastra is **Hybrid VTOL** with >50 km mission radius; Bhargavastra is a **hard-kill** CDS using unguided micro-rockets.
- (c) Rudrastra is a loitering munition; Bhargavastra is a cyber take-over tool.
- (d) Rudrastra is a tethered quadcopter; Bhargavastra is radar-only.

Answer – (b) Rudrastra is Hybrid VTOL with >50 km mission radius; Bhargavastra is a hard-kill CDS using unguided micro-rockets.

Explanation – Rudrastra (tested **11 June 2025**, Pokharan) met stringent Army trials: **>50 km** mission radius with live video, projected **~1.5 h** endurance, **>170 km** total range. **Bhargavastra** (May 2025) is a **low-cost hard-kill** counter-drone system (up to **2.5 km**; **~20 m** lethal radius).
Why in news – Demonstrates India's **cost-effective swarm defence** and **precision ISR/strike** capability.

Question 107. The **Theme** of the **11th International Day of Yoga (2025)** was:

- (a) Yoga for Harmony and Peace
- (b) Yoga for Heart Care
- (c) Yoga for One Earth One Health
- (d) Yoga for Climate Action

Answer – (c) Yoga for One Earth One Health

Explanation – The **11th IDY** on **21 June 2025** adopted the theme **“Yoga for One Earth One Health.”**

Why in news – National celebrations were led by the PM at **Visakhapatnam**, setting a **Guinness World Record** for the **largest yoga gathering at a single location (3 lakh+ participants)**, showcasing India's soft power and wellness diplomacy.

Question 108. The **UN General Assembly** proclaimed **27 June** as the **International Day of Deafblindness** primarily to mark the birth anniversary of:

- (a) Louis Braille
- (b) Helen Keller
- (c) Alexander Graham Bell
- (d) Marlee Matlin

Answer – (b) Helen Keller

Explanation – **27 June 1880** is **Helen Keller's** birth date—an iconic advocate for the deafblind.

Why in news – The **UNGA resolution (moved by Croatia)** encourages visibility, inclusion and rights-based actions; coincides with **Deafblind International Awareness Week**.

Question 109. Who has been elected as the President of the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** for the term beginning September 2025?

- (a) Philemon Yang
- (b) Annalena Baerbock

- (c) António Guterres
- (d) Ursula von der Leyen

Answer – (b) Annalena Baerbock

Explanation – Germany's former Foreign Minister **Annalena Baerbock** was elected as the next **President of the UNGA** with **167 votes out of 193**. She will preside over the **80th anniversary of the UN**. She is the **first woman from the Western European group** and the **fifth woman overall** to hold the post.

Why in news – The election (June 2025) is historic as it strengthens female leadership at the UN and comes during a crucial year of global diplomacy.

Question 110. Which Indian animated film won the **Jury Award for Best Commissioned Film** at the **Annecy International Animation Festival 2025 (France)**?

- (a) Bombay Rose
- (b) Desi Oon
- (c) The Jungle Book Reimagined
- (d) Hanuman

Answer – (b) Desi Oon

Explanation – Directed by **Suresh Eriyat**, *Desi Oon* won the **Jury Award for Best Commissioned Film** at **Annecy 2025**, the world's foremost animation festival. The film also won the **WAVES Award of Excellence 2025**, topped the **Create in India Challenge**, and was shortlisted at **Cannes Lions 2025**.

Why in news – It marks a **major milestone for Indian animation** on global platforms, showcasing creative storytelling and indigenous art.

Question 111. The **Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III**, recently awarded to PM Modi, is named after:

- (a) The founder of Modern Greece
- (b) The first President of Cyprus
- (c) A UN diplomat from the Mediterranean
- (d) The last British Governor of Cyprus

Answer – (b) The first President of Cyprus

Explanation – **Archbishop Makarios III** was the **first President of independent Cyprus (1960)**. The **Grand Cross Order** is the nation's **highest civilian award**.

Why in news – During his **June 2025 visit**, PM Modi received this award, becoming the **first**

Indian PM to be so honoured, showcasing India's rising diplomatic stature.

Question 112. Which fossil park of Uttar Pradesh was added to the **UNESCO Tentative List of World Heritage Sites (2025)**?

- (a) Belan Fossil Park
- (b) Salkhan Fossil Park
- (c) Kaimoor Fossil Valley
- (d) Ghaghra Fossil Reserve

Answer – (b) Salkhan Fossil Park

Explanation – Located in **Sonbhadra district (Kaimur Range, 25 ha)**, Salkhan Park preserves **stromatolites** (cyanobacteria fossils, up to 1.4 billion years old). These are older than fossils in **Shark Bay (Australia)** and **Yellowstone (USA)**.

Why in news – In **June 2025**, Salkhan Fossil Park was added to UNESCO's **Tentative List**, highlighting its evolutionary significance.

Question 113. The **Green Data Centre** inaugurated in **Ghaziabad** has a capacity of:

- (a) 10 MW
- (b) 20 MW
- (c) 30 MW
- (d) 50 MW

Answer – (c) 30 MW

Explanation – Built at a cost of **₹1,000 crore**, the centre is a joint initiative of **Central Electronics Limited (CEL)** and **ESDS**. It includes **rainwater harvesting, reflective roofing, smart cooling, and 40 Gbps fibre network**.

Why in news – Part of **UP Data Centre Policy 2021** that targets **900 MW capacity and ₹30,000 crore investment**.

Question 114. Under the **UP Data Centre Policy 2021**, how much **land subsidy** is provided for projects in **Bundelkhand & Purvanchal**?

- (a) 10%
- (b) 25%
- (c) 40%
- (d) 50%

Answer – (d) 50%

Explanation – Land subsidies: **25% in Paschimanchal & Madhyanchal, 50% in Bundelkhand & Purvanchal**. Incentives capped at **₹75 crore or 7.5% of project cost**.

Why in news – The **Ghaziabad Green Data Centre** is one of the first flagship projects under this policy.

Question 115. The **South Asia Regional Centre of the International Potato Center (CIP)** will be established in:

- (a) Varanasi
- (b) Agra
- (c) Lucknow
- (d) Gorakhpur

Answer – (b) Agra

Explanation – The **CIP-South Asia Regional Centre (CSARC)** will be set up in **Singna, Agra** with **₹171 crore** funding (₹111 cr India + ₹60 cr CIP).

Why in news – It will develop **climate-resilient potato & sweet potato varieties** to benefit farmers across **UP, Bihar, WB, and South Asia**.

Question 116. Consider the following statements about **Gharials**:

1. They are distinguished from other crocodilians by a **long, narrow snout**.
2. They are **poikilothermic** and largely **nocturnal**.

Select the correct answer:

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

Answer – (c) Both 1 and 2

Explanation – Gharials have a **long snout** adapted for fish capture; like other reptiles, they are **ectothermic (poikilothermic)** and show **nocturnal** behaviour.

Why in news – Their large-scale hatching in the **Chambal** highlights the species' conservation gains in UP.

Question 117. **UP's four modern wildlife rescue centres** will be established at:

1. Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary (Meerut)
2. Pilibhit Tiger Reserve
3. Sohagibarwa Wildlife Sanctuary (Maharajganj)
4. Ranipur Wildlife Sanctuary (Chitrakoot)

Select the correct code:

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

Answer – (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Explanation – The **Forest & Wildlife Department, UP** is setting up **four centres** across **Western UP, Terai, Awadh, Bundelkhand** with **₹57.2 crore**, to manage **human–wildlife conflict** (tigers, leopards, jackals).

Why in news – A strategic response to **rising carnivore straying** and community safety.

Question 118. As per the 2025 decision, **UP's ULBs** (nagar nigam/palika/panchayat) can directly execute infra projects of up to:

- (a) ₹2 crore
- (b) ₹5 crore
- (c) ₹10 crore
- (d) ₹15 crore

Answer – (c) ₹10 crore

Explanation – **ULBs** may now **self-execute projects up to ₹10 crore** without prior sanction from the Urban Development Department—covering **sewerage, water supply, meters, tube wells, rainwater harvesting, recycling/treatment, and solar lights, desilting, retaining walls, plantations.**

Why in news – Intended to **speed up local infrastructure** via budgetary support and the **State Sector Scheme.**

Question 119. The **IN-SPACE CANSAT & Model Rocketry India Student Competition 2024–25** is scheduled at:

- (a) Prayagraj
- (b) Kushinagar
- (c) Varanasi
- (d) Agra

Answer – (b) Kushinagar

Explanation – **ASI**, with **IN-SPACE** and **ISRO**, conducted **rocket launch trials in UP** ahead of the **October 2025** student competition at **Kushinagar** to promote **hands-on space engineering** (CANSAT design, build, launch).

Why in news – Positions UP as a **STEM outreach hub** for student rocketry.

Question 120. Which district of Uttar Pradesh is witnessing a major shift from mentha cultivation to maize farming?

- (a) Sitapur
- (b) Barabanki
- (c) Hardoi
- (d) Kannauj

Answer – (b) Barabanki

Explanation – Recently, **Barabanki district** has seen progressive farmers shift from mentha (used in oil extraction) to **maize cultivation**, as maize requires less water, has higher nutritional value, and better market opportunities. **Why in News** – Uttar Pradesh government reported a rising trend in maize farming, especially in Barabanki, under the *Quick Maize Development Programme*.

Question 121. Under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0' campaign, how many trees are to be planted along the Delhi–Dehradun corridor in Baghpat (UP)?

- (a) 20,000
- (b) 25,000
- (c) 40,000
- (d) 1,00,000

Answer – (c) 40,000

Explanation – The **NHAI** launched a plantation drive under *Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0*, targeting **40,000 trees** in Baghpat along the Delhi–Dehradun highway. **Why in News** – This campaign, launched on **World Environment Day 2025**, merges **environmental conservation with honoring motherhood.**

Question 122. Consider the following statements about butterflies in Dudhwa Tiger Reserve:

1. Recently, 180 species of butterflies have been recorded here.
2. Rare species like Gaudy Baron and Grey Count were observed.

Select the correct code:

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

Answer – (c) Both 1 and 2

Explanation – The **University of Lucknow** survey reported **180 butterfly species** in Dudhwa, including rare species like **Gaudy Baron and Grey Count.** **Why in News** – The rise in butterfly diversity highlights **Dudhwa's improved ecosystem** and **successful conservation efforts.**

Question 123. Uttar Pradesh government announced how much **horizontal reservation** for ex-Agniveers in police recruitment?

- (a) 10%
- (b) 15%

- (c) 20%
(d) 25%

Answer – (c) 20%

Explanation – UP has provided **20% horizontal reservation + 3-year age relaxation** for ex-Agniveers in police force recruitment. **Why in News** – This is part of UP's support to Agniveers recruited under the **Agnipath Scheme**.

Question 124. Which Indian Institute topped in **QS World University Rankings 2026**?

- (a) IIT Bombay
(b) IIT Delhi
(c) IIT Madras
(d) IISc Bangalore

Answer – (b) IIT Delhi

Explanation – In QS 2026, **IIT Delhi ranked 123rd**, surpassing IIT Bombay (129th). **IIT Madras** jumped from 227 → 180.

Why in News – India recorded its **best-ever performance** with **54 institutions ranked**.

Question 125. INS Arnala, commissioned in June 2025, is:

- (a) A Nuclear Submarine
(b) An Aircraft Carrier
(c) An Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft
(d) A Guided Missile Destroyer

Answer – (c) An Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft

Explanation – INS Arnala, the **first ASW-SWC**, was commissioned at **Visakhapatnam** under Eastern Naval Command. Named after the historic **Arnala fort (Maharashtra)**.

Why in News – Enhances India's **coastal and shallow water defence**.

Question 126. India's rank in **Energy Transition Index (ETI) 2025** released by WEF is:

- (a) 55
(b) 61
(c) 71
(d) 81

Answer – (c) 71

Explanation – India ranked **71st out of 118** countries. Top performer – **Sweden**; **China 12th**; **USA 17th**.

Why in News – India showed progress in **energy equity, efficiency, and investment capacity**.

Question 127. Which drink recently became the first **feni** in India to receive a **GI Tag**?

- (a) Cashew Feni of Goa
(b) Coconut Feni of Kerala
(c) Goan Ozzo Feni
(d) Konkani Palm Feni

Answer – (c) Goan Ozzo Feni

Explanation – Produced by **Cazcar Distillery, Nanora village (Goa)**, it became the **first feni in India to get a GI tag**, protecting its authenticity. **Why in News** – Now placed among iconic global spirits like **Scotch & Champagne**.

Question 128. In the **UN Women – Women Political Leaders 2025** report, India's rank in women's representation in executive leadership is:

- (a) 151 out of 181
(b) 162 out of 181
(c) 174 out of 181
(d) 181 out of 181

Answer – (c) 174 out of 181

Explanation – India falls in the **second-lowest category (2–9.9% women ministers)** and ranks **174/181** on women's share in cabinet.

Why in News – The **UN Women 2025 report** flagged a global decline in women's cabinet representation and placed **India among the lowest**.

Question 129. Which of the following is **correct** as per **Global Gender Gap Report 2025**?

- (a) Pakistan is South Asia's best performer.
(b) Bangladesh rose dramatically to **24th** globally.
(c) India improved to **129th** rank in 2025.
(d) Sri Lanka rose to the global top 20.

Answer – (b) Bangladesh rose dramatically to 24th globally.

Explanation – South Asia: **Bangladesh (24)** leads; **Bhutan (119)**, **Nepal (125)**, **Sri Lanka (130)**, **India (131)**, **Maldives (138)**, **Pakistan (148)**.

Why in News – India's rank fell to **131**, while **Bangladesh surged** on political empowerment and economic participation.

Question 130. Which district **banned entry of Karnataka Totapuri mangoes** on **7 June 2025** amid pricing/procurement tensions?

- (a) Krishnagiri (TN)
(b) Chittoor (AP)

- (c) Kolar (KA)
- (d) Tiruvallur (TN)

Answer – (b) Chittoor (AP)

Explanation – To protect its ₹8/kg procurement + ₹4/kg subsidy mechanism for pulp units, Chittoor disallowed cheaper inflows from Karnataka.

Why in News – The Karnataka–Andhra Totapuri dispute highlights price supports vs. market spillovers in the pulp industry.

Question 131. The Green Skills & EV training programme by DGT (MSDE) with Shell India is being implemented by:

- (a) NSDC
- (b) Edunet Foundation
- (c) AICTE
- (d) Sector Skill Councils

Answer – (b) Edunet Foundation

Explanation – The programme, conducted across select ITIs/NSTIs in Delhi-NCR, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, is implemented by Edunet.

Why in News – Aligned to net-zero and e-mobility goals; complements FAME and state EV policies.

Question 132. The Hatti tribe's rare 'Jodidaran' tradition, recently in news, is associated with which state?

- (a) Uttarakhand
- (b) Himachal Pradesh
- (c) Sikkim
- (d) Arunachal Pradesh

Answer – (b) Himachal Pradesh

Explanation – The Hatti tribe of the Trans-Giri region in Himachal Pradesh recently witnessed a rare case of polyandry called 'Jodidaran', where a woman married two brothers. Though outlawed by modern laws, it survives under customary tribal practices. It was in news as an important case study on the tension between tradition and constitutional morality.

Question 133. The Tamil Nadu government announced the development of the historic 'Chola Gangam' lake (Ponneri) on the birth anniversary of which ruler?

- (a) Rajaraja Chola I
- (b) Rajendra Chola I
- (c) Kulottunga Chola I
- (d) Parantaka Chola I

Answer – (b) Rajendra Chola I

Explanation – On July 23, 2025 (Aadi Thiruvathirai), Tamil Nadu declared the development of the historic 700-acre 'Chola Gangam' lake, originally built by Rajendra Chola I. It was in news as part of nationwide celebrations of 1,000 years of his maritime expedition and the Gangaikonda Cholapuram temple construction.

Question 134. Sohrai Art, showcased at Kala Utsav 2025 in Rashtrapati Bhavan, originates from which state?

- (a) Odisha
- (b) Jharkhand
- (c) Chhattisgarh
- (d) Madhya Pradesh

Answer – (b) Jharkhand

Explanation – The ritualistic wall-painting tradition of Sohrai Art, primarily practiced by tribal women in Jharkhand during harvest and festivals, was highlighted at Kala Utsav 2025. It was in news for its recognition at the national level as a symbol of India's rich tribal heritage.

Question 135. In July 2025, UNESCO added the Khmer Rouge genocide sites to the World Heritage List. These are located in which country?

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

Answer – (b) Cambodia

Explanation – On 15 July 2025, UNESCO inscribed three Khmer Rouge torture and execution sites—Tuol Sleng, Choeung Ek, and M-13—in Cambodia on the World Heritage List. This was in news for preserving the memory of nearly 2 million victims of the 1975–1979 genocide.

Question 136. Which of the following was inscribed as India's 44th UNESCO World Heritage Site in July 2025?

- (a) Nalanda Mahavihara
- (b) Maratha Military Landscapes of India
- (c) Dholavira Harappan City
- (d) Kakatiya Rudreshwara Temple

Answer – (b) Maratha Military Landscapes of India

Explanation – On July 11, 2025, at UNESCO's 47th World Heritage Committee session in Paris, the

Maratha Military Landscapes of India (12 forts across Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu) were inscribed as India's 44th UNESCO World Heritage Site. It was in news as a recognition of the Maratha Empire's military strategy and architectural brilliance.

Question 137. According to the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023, what is India's total mangrove cover?

- (a) 3,912 km²
- (b) 4,991.68 km²
- (c) 5,432 km²
- (d) 6,215 km²

Answer – (b) 4,991.68 km²

Explanation – As per ISFR 2023, India's mangrove cover is 4,991.68 km² (0.15% of geographical area), showing an increase of 16.68 km² since 2019. It was in news because of successful conservation under legal safeguards and the **MISHTI initiative** (Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes).

Question 138. India's first Centre of Excellence for Hornbill Conservation is being established in which state?

- (a) Kerala
- (b) Assam
- (c) Tamil Nadu
- (d) Arunachal Pradesh

Answer – (c) Tamil Nadu

Explanation – In 2025, Tamil Nadu announced the establishment of India's first *Centre of Excellence for Hornbill Conservation* at Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR), Coimbatore. It was in news as a landmark initiative to protect hornbills (the "farmers of the forest"), which play a vital role in forest regeneration.

Question 139. Indore and Udaipur were recently recognized internationally as:

- (a) Smart Cities
- (b) Heritage Cities
- (c) Wetland Cities
- (d) Green Energy Cities

Answer – (c) Wetland Cities

Explanation – At **COP15 of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (2025, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe)**, India showcased its achievements, including the recognition of **Indore and Udaipur as Wetland Cities**. It was in news as India now

has 91 Ramsar sites (largest network in Asia) and leads globally in citizen-driven wetland conservation.

Question 140. In July 2025, India achieved 50% of installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel sources, meeting its Paris Agreement target how many years early?

- (a) 2 years
- (b) 3 years
- (c) 5 years
- (d) 10 years

Answer – (c) 5 years

Explanation – On **16 July 2025**, India announced it had reached **50% non-fossil electricity capacity (242.78 GW)**, meeting its **2030 Paris target five years early**. It was in news as a defining moment in India's clean energy transition, backed by schemes like **PM-KUSUM** and **PM Surya Ghar Yojana**.

Question 141. The newly discovered gecko species *Cnemaspis brahmaputra* was found at which location in Assam?

- (a) Kaziranga National Park
- (b) Dirgheswari Temple, Guwahati
- (c) Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary
- (d) Manas Biosphere Reserve

Answer – (b) Dirgheswari Temple, Guwahati

Explanation – In 2025, researchers discovered a **new diurnal gecko species, *Cnemaspis brahmaputra***, at **Dirgheswari Temple on the northern bank of the Brahmaputra River**. It was in news as the species provides evidence of ancient faunal links between Sri Lanka and Northeast India.

Question 142. The RhoDIS India Programme, recently in news, is linked to the conservation of which species?

- (a) Tigers
- (b) Elephants
- (c) Rhinos
- (d) Snow Leopards

Answer – (c) Rhinos

Explanation – In July 2025, under the **RhoDIS India Programme**, DNA analysis of **2,573 rhino horn samples** began at the Wildlife Institute of India. It was in news as the largest-ever effort to create a genetic database for rhino conservation

and to combat poaching through forensic evidence.

Question 143. Which island community of Sierra Leone was reported in July 2025 as the country's first climate-displaced population?

- (a) Sherbro Island
- (b) Nyangai Island
- (c) Bunce Island
- (d) Tasso Island

Answer – (b) Nyangai Island

Explanation – On **11 July 2025**, Nyangai islanders in the Turtle Islands of Sierra Leone were recognized as the country's **first climate-displaced people** due to rising sea levels that reduced the island to just 200×100 meters. It was in news as a stark example of global climate inequality.

Question 144. The White Sage Fire of July 2025 forced closures in which UNESCO World Heritage Site?

- (a) Yellowstone National Park
- (b) Yosemite National Park
- (c) Grand Canyon National Park
- (d) Rocky Mountain National Park

Answer – (c) Grand Canyon National Park

Explanation – In **July 2025**, the **White Sage Fire (19,000+ acres)** and **Dragon Bravo Fire** forced evacuations and closures at **Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona**. It was in news as the fires erupted during peak tourist season, threatening a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Question 145. For the first time, coral communities have been formally documented along the coastline of which Indian state?

- (a) Odisha
- (b) Andhra Pradesh
- (c) Kerala
- (d) West Bengal

Answer – (b) Andhra Pradesh

Explanation – A peer-reviewed study published in *Environmental Science Archives* confirmed **live corals along Visakhapatnam's coast**, with 23% coverage at Chintapalle Beach. It was in news as this extended India's coral zones beyond the Gulf of Mannar, Lakshadweep, Andamans, and Gulf of Kutch.

Question 146. Which Indian research centre recently developed a **portable sensor to detect SO₂** at trace levels?

- (a) IISc Bengaluru
- (b) BARC Mumbai
- (c) CeNS Bengaluru
- (d) IIT Kanpur

Answer – (c) CeNS Bengaluru

Explanation – Scientists at the **Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CeNS), Bengaluru** developed a **low-cost, portable SO₂ sensor**. It was in news as a breakthrough for air quality monitoring, since SO₂ causes respiratory illnesses and contributes to acid rain.

Question 147. The **Copper Vision Document**, released in July 2025, aims to boost India's role in which sector?

- (a) Defence production
- (b) Green technologies
- (c) Oil exploration
- (d) Textile industry

Answer – (b) Green technologies

Explanation – On **7 July 2025**, Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy released the **Copper Vision Document** in Hyderabad. It was in news as a roadmap to meet India's rising copper demand (projected six-fold rise by 2047) and to strengthen its role in **EVs, solar power, and energy transition technologies**.

Question 148. Which wildlife sanctuary was renamed in June 2025 as **India's first Butterfly Sanctuary**?

- (a) Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary
- (b) Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary
- (c) Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary
- (d) Choolannur Sanctuary

Answer – (b) Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary

Explanation – On **18 June 2025**, Kerala renamed **Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary (Kannur)** as **Aralam Butterfly Sanctuary**, the first in India dedicated entirely to butterflies. It was in news as it hosts **266 butterfly species (80% of Kerala's diversity)**, including many endemics.

Question 149. The year 2025 marked the 50th anniversary of which global biodiversity conservation treaty?

- (a) Ramsar Convention
- (b) CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity)

- (c) CITES
- (d) UNFCCC

Answer – (c) CITES

Explanation – In 2025, the **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)** completed **50 years since its enforcement in 1975**. It was in news for regulating trade in 40,000+ species and its role in curbing illegal wildlife trade.

Question 150. Which Indian state launched the country's first Tribal Genome Sequencing Project in 2025?

- (a) Madhya Pradesh
- (b) Chhattisgarh
- (c) Gujarat
- (d) Jharkhand

Answer – (c) Gujarat

Explanation – In 2025, Gujarat launched India's first **Tribal Genome Sequencing Project**, covering 20 tribal groups across 17 districts. It was in news for being the first state-level initiative to build a tribal genetic database, addressing diseases like sickle cell anaemia and enabling precision medicine.