

## UPPCS Prelims 2025 Test 25 (Solution) – Current Affairs 5 (July + Aug + Mid Sep)

**Question 1.** Direct Action Day (1946), recently in news, was observed on which date?

- (a) 10 July 1946
- (b) 16 August 1946
- (c) 15 August 1947
- (d) 9 August 1942

**Answer – (b) 16 August 1946**

**Why in News –** A police complaint was filed in Kolkata against filmmaker Vivek Agnihotri's upcoming movie *Bengal Files*, which portrays the Great Calcutta Killing.

**Explanation –**

- Direct Action Day was observed on **16 August 1946** by the Muslim League to press for Pakistan.
- It led to the **Great Calcutta Killing**, the bloodiest communal riot before Partition.
- Thousands died, and violence spread to **Noakhali, Bihar, Garhmukteshwar, Bombay, and Punjab**.
- Triggered by **Jinnah's call** ("divide India or destroy India") after the failure of the Cabinet Mission Plan.

**Question 2.** Vitthalbhai Patel, whose 100th anniversary was celebrated in 2025, was the first Indian to hold which office?

- (a) Governor-General of India
- (b) President of Central Legislative Assembly
- (c) Vice-President of Executive Council
- (d) President of Indian National Congress

**Answer – (b) President of Central Legislative Assembly**

**Why in News –** The **All India Speakers' Conference** (August 2025) marked the centenary of his election.

**Explanation –**

- Elected on **22 August 1925** as the **first Indian President** of the Central Legislative Assembly.
- Elder brother of **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**.
- Co-founder of the **Swaraj Party (1923)** with Motilal Nehru and C. R. Das.

- Upheld parliamentary traditions still followed today.

**Question 3.** Which revolutionary was *not* associated with the Kakori Train Action of 1925?

- (a) Ram Prasad Bismil
- (b) Ashfaqulla Khan
- (c) Rajendra Lahiri
- (d) Bhagat Singh

**Answer – (d) Bhagat Singh**

**Why in News –** PM Narendra Modi and CM Yogi Adityanath paid tribute on **9 August 2025**, 100 years of Kakori Train Action.

**Explanation –**

- On **9 August 1925**, HRA revolutionaries looted govt. treasury from train near Kakori (UP).
- Main leaders: **Bismil, Ashfaqulla, Rajendra Lahiri, Roshan Singh, Chandrashekhar Azad**.
- Renamed from "Kakori Conspiracy" to **Kakori Train Action (2021)**.
- Four executed in 1927; Azad continued underground.

**Question 4.** Ratadiya Ri Dheri, a newly discovered Harappan site (2025), is located in which state?

- (a) Gujarat
- (b) Rajasthan
- (c) Haryana
- (d) Punjab

**Answer – (b) Rajasthan**

**Why in News –** Archaeologists discovered the **first Harappan site in Rajasthan's Thar Desert**.

**Explanation –**

- Located in **Jaisalmer district**, 60 km from Ramgarh.
- Finds: **red ware pottery, chert blades, terracotta cakes, kiln, Harappan bricks**.
- Pushes Harappan frontier deeper into desert regions.
- Earlier famous site in Rajasthan: **Pilibanga**.

**Question 5.** The sacred Piprahwa Relics of Lord Buddha, returned to India in 2025, were originally

found in which present-day district of Uttar Pradesh?

- (a) Kushinagar
- (b) Siddharthnagar
- (c) Gorakhpur
- (d) Sravasti

**Answer – (b) Siddharthnagar**

**Why in News –** PM Modi announced their **return after 127 years**, following govt. intervention at Sotheby's auction.

**Explanation –**

- Found in **1898** by W. C. Peppé at Piprahwa Stupa (Kapilavastu site).
- Contained bone relics, crystal reliquaries, gold ornaments.
- Inscription confirmed they belonged to **Shakya clan**.
- Repatriated in 2025 under **Antiquities and Art Treasures Act (1972)**.

**Question 6.** After its 2025 expansion, Sundarbans Tiger Reserve became the 2nd largest in India. Which is the largest?

- (a) Kanha Tiger Reserve
- (b) Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve
- (c) Corbett Tiger Reserve
- (d) Periyar Tiger Reserve

**Answer – (b) Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve**

**Why in News –** On **19 August 2025**, Sundarbans was expanded to **3,629.57 sq km**, making it India's 2nd largest tiger reserve.

**Explanation –**

- Sundarbans = **largest mangrove forest** in the world.
- Houses ~101 tigers, adapted to saline & aquatic ecosystem.
- Recognised as **UNESCO World Heritage Site & Biosphere Reserve**.
- Expansion strengthens anti-poaching, monitoring, and NTCA guidelines.

**Question 7.** The Drake Passage, recently in news due to a 7.5 earthquake, connects which two oceans?

- (a) Atlantic and Arctic
- (b) Pacific and Atlantic

- (c) Indian and Pacific
- (d) Southern and Indian

**Answer – (b) Pacific and Atlantic**

**Why in News –** On **21–22 August 2025**, a **7.5 magnitude earthquake** struck the Drake Passage, sparking temporary tsunami fears in Chile.

**Explanation –**

- Drake Passage lies between **Cape Horn (Chile)** and **South Shetland Islands (Antarctica)**.
- Part of **Antarctic Circumpolar Current (ACC)** – world's strongest ocean current.
- Seismically active due to **Antarctic, Scotia & South Sandwich plate interactions**.

**Question 8.** The Gangotri Glacier System feeds which river?

- (a) Yamuna
- (b) Bhagirathi
- (c) Alaknanda
- (d) Mandakini

**Answer – (b) Bhagirathi**

**Why in News –** A 2025 study by IIT Indore, ICIMOD, and US universities found a **10% decline in snowmelt contribution since 1980**.

**Explanation –**

- GGS = **549 sq km**, with Gangotri (140 sq km) as largest glacier.
- Source of **Bhagirathi river → Ganga system**.
- Snowmelt decline threatens **water security** for millions.
- Linked to **climate change** and glacial retreat.

**Question 9.** The GI-tagged Nanjangud Rasabale banana, recently in news, belongs to which state?

- (a) Kerala
- (b) Karnataka
- (c) Tamil Nadu
- (d) Andhra Pradesh

**Answer – (b) Karnataka**

**Why in News –** In **2025**, ICAR announced a study to protect it from **Panama Wilt disease**.

**Explanation –**

- GI tag granted in **2005–06**.
- Known for unique **taste & pulp**.

- Threat emerged after canal irrigation → fungal infection.
- Other GI crops nearby: **Mysuru Betel Leaf, Mysuru Mallige.**

**Question 10.** As per scientific definition, a cloudburst means rainfall of:

- (a) 5 cm in 1 hour over 100 sq km
- (b) 10 cm in 1 hour over <30 sq km
- (c) 20 cm in 3 hours over 50 sq km
- (d) 25 cm in 24 hours over 100 sq km

**Answer – (b)** 10 cm in 1 hour over <30 sq km

**Why in News –** Clarified during the Gangotri Glacier System study (2025), as states often mislabel floods as cloudbursts.

**Explanation –**

- Cloudbursts = **localized extreme rainfall events.**
- Cause flash floods, landslides in Himalayas.
- Require **automatic weather stations** for accurate detection.

**Question 11.** Which State currently has the highest installed solar capacity in India (2025)?

- (a) Gujarat
- (b) Rajasthan
- (c) Maharashtra
- (d) Karnataka

**Answer – (b)** Rajasthan

**Why in News –** India's climb to **#3 globally** highlighted State contributions; **Rajasthan** leads, followed by **Gujarat and Maharashtra.**

**Explanation –** Rajasthan's **high insolation**, vast land availability, and grid-scale parks (e.g., Bhadla) make it the top solar State. Its leadership is pivotal to achieving India's estimated **748 GW solar potential** given its location in a high-insolation belt.

**Question 12.** Identify the correct protection/status combination for saltwater crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) in India:

- (a) IUCN: Endangered; WPA: Schedule II; CITES: Appendix II
- (b) IUCN: Vulnerable; WPA: Schedule I; CITES: Appendix II
- (c) IUCN: Least Concern; WPA: Schedule I; CITES: Appendix I

(d) IUCN: Near Threatened; WPA: Schedule II; CITES: Appendix I

**Answer – (c)** IUCN: Least Concern; WPA: Schedule I; CITES: Appendix I

**Why in News – 2025 survey** reported a population rise (**≈220–242**) in the **Sundarban Biosphere Reserve**—a positive indicator for mangrove ecosystem health.

**Explanation –** Despite a **global IUCN status of Least Concern**, India provides **maximum legal protection (WPA Schedule I)** and **trade is banned (CITES Appendix I)**. Major Indian habitats: **Bhitarkanika (Odisha), Sundarbans (WB), Andaman & Nicobar.**

**Question 13.** 'Dhirio' (Goan bull fighting) has been banned primarily because it contravenes provisions of the:

- (a) Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972
- (b) Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960
- (c) Biological Diversity Act, 2002
- (d) Environment (Protection) Act, 1986

**Answer – (b)** Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960

**Why in News –** In **August 2025**, Goa legislators renewed demands to **legalise 'dhirio'**, despite an existing ban.

**Explanation –** Following litigation (including **People for Animals**) and a fatal incident, the **Bombay High Court at Goa (1996)** held bull fights illegal under the **PCA Act, 1960**. The court directed the State to halt such animal fights. Cultural claims continue to be weighed against **animal welfare law.**

**Question 14.** Consider the following statements on the Fishing Cat (*Prionailurus viverrinus*):

1. IUCN Red List: Vulnerable
  2. Core habitat: wetlands such as floodplains, marshes, and mangroves
  3. 2025 sighting reported from Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan)
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
  - (b) 2 and 3 only
  - (c) 1 and 3 only
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3

**Answer – (d)** 1, 2 and 3

**Why in News** – On **9 August 2025**, a Fishing Cat was **recorded again in Keoladeo**, after being presumed locally extirpated.

**Explanation** – The species is **Vulnerable**, linked tightly to **wetlands** (often apex predator in its niche). Its revival in Keoladeo spotlights India's **wetland conservation** needs. **UP note:** Fishing Cats occur across the **Terai wetlands** (including parts of Uttar Pradesh); protection of **floodplain marshes and ox-bow lakes** in the Ganga basin helps their persistence.

**Question 15.** Which of the following is NOT an advantage of using eDNA in conservation?

- (a) Detects rare/elusive species without direct capture
- (b) Rapid and cost-effective community biodiversity assessment
- (c) Guarantees precise abundance counts without calibration
- (d) Can be collected from water, soil, aerosols, even food items

**Answer** – (c)

**Why in News** – eDNA is being promoted as a **modern, non-invasive** tool complementing field methods.

**Explanation** – eDNA excels at **presence/absence** and **early detection** (including invasives/pathogens). However, **translating DNA reads into precise abundance** requires **careful calibration/validation**; thus it is **not** an automatic guarantee. Its multisource sampling enables **broad coverage** at relatively **lower cost**.

**Question 16.** In August 2025, ten Asian giant tortoises (*Manouria emys*) were reintroduced where?

- (a) Pakhui Tiger Reserve, Arunachal Pradesh
- (b) Zeliang Community Reserve, Peren, Nagaland
- (c) Keibul Lamjao National Park, Manipur
- (d) Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary, Assam

**Answer** – (b) Zeliang Community Reserve, Peren, Nagaland

**Why in News** – On **2 August 2025**, ten captive-bred tortoises from **Nagaland Zoological Park** were released during a **community-led event**.

**Explanation** – The **Asian giant tortoise—largest mainland Asian tortoise, Critically Endangered**—had been nearly wiped out from Nagaland due to hunting and habitat loss. Community reserves

empower locals in **in-situ conservation**.

Ecologically nicknamed the “**small elephant of the forests**,” it disperses seeds, aids forest regeneration, and scavenges organic matter, improving **nutrient cycling**.

**Question 17.** The Rhisotope Project aims to deter rhino horn trafficking by:

- (a) Microchipping horns with GPS
- (b) Dying horns with UV tracers
- (c) Injecting low-dose radioactive isotopes detectable at borders
- (d) Replacing horn with synthetic implants in live rhinos

**Answer** – (c) Injecting low-dose radioactive isotopes

**Why in News** – A South Africa–led program (with **IAEA** support) reported pilot progress in **2025**.

**Explanation** – Low-dose isotopes (safe for rhinos) render horns **detectable** by **Radiation Portal Monitors** already installed at **ports/airports**, vastly improving interception. Trials used **3D-printed horns**, and **Ghent University** safety studies showed **no cellular damage**. The approach **reduces black-market value** and exposes traffickers to **criminal liability**.

**Question 18.** Which statement is correct regarding Blue Carbon in India's climate policy?

- (a) Blue carbon targets are a separate line item in India's NDCs.
- (b) Namami Gange has no activities that can influence carbon sequestration.
- (c) India's NDCs don't list blue carbon separately, but afforestation/wetland work (e.g., FRI-DPR plantations, wetland conservation) indirectly aids sequestration.
- (d) Blue carbon refers to terrestrial forests only.

**Answer** – (c)

**Why in News** – With growing interest in **coastal carbon sinks** (mangroves, seagrass, salt marsh), India's river-restoration actions were reviewed.

**Explanation** – **Blue carbon ecosystems** are **coastal** (mangroves, seagrass, salt marsh). Though **not singled out** in India's **NDCs**, allied programs (e.g., **Namami Gange** afforestation/wetland components) contribute **co-benefits** for **carbon storage, biodiversity, and resilience**.

**Question 19.** Who was elected Vice President of India on 9 September 2025?

- (a) Justice B. Sudershan Reddy (retd.)
- (b) CP Radhakrishnan
- (c) P. C. Mody
- (d) Jagdeep Dhankhar

**Answer – (b) CP Radhakrishnan**

**Why in News** – NDA nominee **CP Radhakrishnan** won with **452 first-preference votes**; INDIA bloc candidate **Justice B. Sudershan Reddy (retd.)** polled **300**; turnout **98.20%**.

**Explanation** – The VP is elected by an **electoral college of MPs** (Art. 66) by **proportional representation via single transferable vote**. The office had fallen vacant after **Jagdeep Dhankhar** resigned (health reasons) on **21 July 2025**. CP Radhakrishnan (Gov. of Maharashtra before nomination; ex-MP from Coimbatore; former BJP TN chief) became the **15th individual (officially 17th VP)**, underscoring NDA strength and a continued Southern leadership footprint at the Union.

**Question 20.** The Supreme Court's 2011 ruling in Nandini Sundar vs State of Chhattisgarh held the Salwa Judum/SPOs arrangement unconstitutional primarily for violating which Articles?

- (a) Articles 19 and 32
- (b) Articles 14 and 21
- (c) Articles 29 and 30
- (d) Articles 23 and 25

**Answer – (b) Articles 14 and 21**

**Why in News** – During the VP campaign, a political debate revived around **Justice B. Sudershan Reddy's** 2011 SC judgment ending **SPOs/Koya Commandos**.

**Explanation** – The Court found arming untrained tribal youth as **SPOs** to fight Maoists **arbitrary** (Art. 14) and **dangerous to life and dignity** (Art. 21). It ordered **disbandment**, citing human-rights violations, forced displacement and excesses associated with **Salwa Judum** (begun 2005).

**Question 21.** 'Mission Sudarshan Chakra', announced on Independence Day 2025, most appropriately relates to:

- (a) Integrated multi-layer security for critical establishments using indigenous tech
- (b) A national river interlinking plan
- (c) A pan-India cyclone-resilience programme for

coasts

(d) A Make-in-India initiative for civilian UAV exports only

**Answer – (a)**

**Why in News** – The PM unveiled a decade-long agenda to shield vital installations.

**Explanation** – Envisages **networked sensors (incl. space-based)**, **air & missile defence layers** (IACCS; synergy with **Project Kusha**), plus **cyber-physical safeguards** and **counter-strike** capabilities—advancing **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** and national deterrence.

**Question 22.** The proposed 130th Constitutional Amendment bill seeks to amend which Article to provide automatic removal of a minister jailed for 30 days for a serious offence (with re-appointment possible after bail)?

- (a) Article 74
- (b) Article 75
- (c) Article 76
- (d) Article 164

**Answer – (b) Article 75**

**Why in News** – A **31-member JPC** has been constituted to examine the Bill.

**Explanation** – The draft adds accountability to the **Union Council of Ministers**: if **no bail** within **30 days**, PM **must remove** the minister (auto-disqualification to function from Day 31). Analogous provisions apply in States mutatis mutandis with **CM** action. Re-appointment may follow after **bail**. The **JPC** (a temporary, subject-specific body) will scrutinize and recommend—**advisory**, not binding.

**Question 23.** Exercise MAITREE-XIV (2025) between India and Thailand is being held at:

- (a) Fort Vachirapakan, Thailand
- (b) Fort Wainwright, USA
- (c) Umroi Joint Training Node, Meghalaya
- (d) Mulino Training Ground, Russia

**Answer – (c) Umroi Joint Training Node, Meghalaya**

**Why in News** – The **14th edition** of MAITREE began on **1–14 Sept 2025** at Umroi, Meghalaya.

**Detailed Explanation** – Instituted in **2006**, MAITREE is a bilateral **Army** exercise to enhance **interoperability** with the Royal Thai Army. The 2025 focus is **company-level counter-terrorist**

operations in semi-urban terrain, aligned with UN Charter Chapter VII (peace enforcement).

The Indian contingent (~120, Madras Regiment) trains on joint planning, cordon-and-search, ROE, ISR integration and HADR coordination—useful for NE theatre readiness.

**Question 24.** The immediate trigger for Nepal's Gen-Z movement in Sept 2025 was:

- (a) Hike in fuel prices
- (b) A sweeping ban on major social media platforms
- (c) Contested MCC provisions
- (d) Provincial boundary dispute

**Answer – (b) A sweeping ban on major social media platforms**

**Why in News –** Protests (8 Sept 2025) escalated; PM K. P. Sharma Oli resigned (9 Sept);

Parliament dissolved; Sushila Karki appointed interim PM (12 Sept)—first woman PM.

**Detailed Explanation –** Demonstrations over civil liberties, corruption, inequality turned violent (72 deaths reported). The interim govt promised reforms ahead of polls (5 Mar 2026). Events matter for India–Nepal ties, border trade, labour mobility, and regional stability.

**Question 25.** The Druzhba oil pipeline primarily carries crude from:

- (a) Baku (Azerbaijan)
- (b) Almet'yevsk (Russia)
- (c) Kirkuk (Iraq)
- (d) Aktau (Kazakhstan)

**Answer – (b) Almet'yevsk (Russia)**

**Why in News –** In Aug 2025, Ukraine struck a pumping station, disrupting flows to Hungary and Slovakia.

**Detailed Explanation –** Druzhba ("Friendship") is ~4,000 km, among the world's longest (~1.2–1.4 mbpd). Northern branch: Russia–Belarus–Poland–Germany; Southern branch: Russia–Ukraine–Slovakia–Czech Republic–Hungary–Croatia. It remains a geopolitical lever in Russia–Europe energy relations.

**Question 26.** Global Peace Index (GPI) 2025 is released by:

- (a) SIPRI
- (b) Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP)
- (c) World Economic Forum
- (d) UNDP

**Answer – (b) Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP)**

**Why in News –** GPI 2025 reported the highest number of state-based conflicts since WWII, with three new conflicts in 2025.

**Detailed Explanation –** GPI uses 23 indicators across Safety & Security, Ongoing Conflict, Militarisation to rank countries. Iceland remains most peaceful; India ranks 115, reflecting internal security and militarisation pressures. The index guides governments on peace drivers vs. militarisation trends.

**Question 27.** As per GPI 2025, the most peaceful country is:

- (a) Norway
- (b) Iceland
- (c) Ireland
- (d) New Zealand

**Answer – (b) Iceland**

**Why in News –** GPI 2025 again placed Iceland at the top.

**Detailed Explanation –** Since 2008, Iceland consistently leads due to very low crime/terrorism, minimal conflict involvement, and low militarisation. Ireland, New Zealand, Austria also score high.

**Question 28.** Bright Star 2025 is a large tri-service multilateral exercise hosted by:

- (a) Qatar (with UK)
- (b) Egypt (with USA)
- (c) UAE (with France)
- (d) Jordan (with NATO)

**Answer – (b) Egypt (with USA)**

**Why in News –** India deployed 700+ personnel to Bright Star 2025 (Aug 28–Sep 10).

**Detailed Explanation –** Begun 1980, held biennially, it's among MENA's largest tri-service drills. India's broad participation boosts interoperability, jointness, and exposure to multinational operating environments.

**Question 29.** SLINEX-25 (Aug 14–18, 2025) between India–Sri Lanka was held at:

- (a) Trincomalee
- (b) Hambantota
- (c) Colombo
- (d) Kankesanthurai

**Answer – (c) Colombo**

**Why in News –** The 12th edition of SLINEX

concluded off **Colombo**.

**Detailed Explanation – Harbour phase** (prof exchanges, best practices, camaraderie) and **sea phase** (gunnery, comms, navigation, **VBSS, RAS**) with **INS Rana, INS Jyoti** and **SLNS Vijayabahu, SLNS Sayura**. Supports **SAGAR/MAHASAGAR** outreach.

**Question 30.** Iran's "Sustainable Power 1404" (Aug 22, 2025) was a:

- (a) Cyber warfare drill in the Mediterranean
- (b) Two-day naval-missile drill in the northern Indian Ocean & Sea of Oman
- (c) Peacekeeping HADR exercise with the EU
- (d) Airlift drill with SCO members

**Answer – (b)**

**Why in News** – Iran conducted its **first major drill** since the **12-day war in June**, amid heightened tensions.

**Detailed Explanation** – The drill showcased **missile & naval capabilities** shortly after "**Casarex 2025**" with Russia (Caspian). Context includes **Israeli strikes on Iranian missile sites** and Iranian **missile/drone retaliation**, underscoring regional deterrence signalling.

**Question 31.** The recent US–Russia "Alaska Summit" (August 2025) ended without agreement on Ukraine. The summit was held at:

- (a) Juneau
- (b) Anchorage
- (c) Moscow
- (d) Washington D.C.

**Answer: (b) Anchorage**

**Explanation:**

- **Why in News:** On **August 15, 2025**, US President Trump and Russian President Putin met at Anchorage, Alaska.
- **Venue:** Joint Base Elmendorf–Richardson, Anchorage.
- **Outcome:** No ceasefire deal; Ukraine conflict continues.
- **Extra fact:** Alaska was purchased by the US from Russia in 1867 for \$7.2 million.

**Question 32.** Which group of countries is known as the E3, that recently threatened to trigger the UN "snapback" sanctions on Iran (August 2025)?

- (a) USA, UK, France
- (b) France, Germany, UK

(c) Russia, China, USA

(d) France, India, Germany

**Answer: (b) France, Germany, UK**

**Explanation:**

- **Why in News:** On **August 15, 2025**, the E3 warned Iran to resume nuclear talks or face UN "snapback" sanctions.
- **E3 = France, Germany, UK.**
- **Snapback Mechanism:** Restores UN sanctions automatically if Iran violates JCPOA commitments.

**Question 33.** The Kirkuk–Banias pipeline, in news recently, was originally built to connect:

- (a) Iraq to Turkey
- (b) Iraq to Syria
- (c) Syria to Lebanon
- (d) Iran to Iraq

**Answer: (b) Iraq to Syria**

**Explanation:**

- **Why in News:** On **August 15, 2025**, Iraq and Syria agreed to study reactivation of the pipeline.
- **Background:** Built in 1952 to carry Iraqi crude oil from **Kirkuk to Banias port (Syria)**.
- **Inactive since 2003:** Damaged during US invasion of Iraq.
- **Importance:** Provides Iraq with an alternative export route besides Turkey.

**Question 34.** Which of the following treaties has India signed?

- (a) NPT (Non-Proliferation Treaty)
- (b) CTBT (Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty)
- (c) TPNW (Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons)
- (d) PTBT (Partial Test Ban Treaty)

**Answer: (d) PTBT (Partial Test Ban Treaty)**

**Explanation:**

- **Why in News:** Russia's INF withdrawal highlighted global nuclear treaties.
- **India's stand:**
  - Not signed NPT, CTBT, or TPNW (considers them discriminatory).

- Signed **PTBT (1963)** prohibiting nuclear tests in atmosphere, underwater, and space.

**Question 35.** The RS-28 Sarmat missile, showcased by Russia in 2025, is also known as:

- (a) White Swan
- (b) Satan 2
- (c) Dark Eagle
- (d) Poseidon

**Answer:** (b) Satan 2

**Explanation:**

- **Why in News:** Amid US–Russia tensions, Russia highlighted its RS-28 Sarmat ICBM.
- **NATO codename:** Satan 2.
- **Features:** 18,000 km range, 10–15 nuclear warheads, MIRV system, bypasses missile shields.
- **Significance:** Part of Russia’s nuclear deterrence strategy.

**Question 36.** Currently, Palestine holds which status at the United Nations?

- (a) Full Member State
- (b) Permanent Observer State
- (c) Non-Member Non-Observer Entity
- (d) Veto-Wielding Member

**Answer:** (b) Permanent Observer State

**Explanation:**

- **Why in News:** Debate over Palestine’s recognition intensified after Canada and UK announcements.
- **Current Status:** Palestine is a “Permanent Observer State,” can debate but cannot vote.
- **Full membership needs:** UNSC recommendation + 2/3 majority in General Assembly.
- **Obstacle:** US veto blocks Palestine’s full membership.

**Question 37.** Recently, APEDA launched BHARATI to promote agri-food exports. What does BHARATI stand for?

- (a) Bharat’s Hub for Agritech, Resilience, Advancement and Incubation for Export Enablement
- (b) Bharat’s Hub for Agricultural Research and Trade Integration

(c) Bharat’s High-tech Agriculture Research and Trade Initiative

(d) Bharat’s Heritage for Agri-food Technology and Innovation

**Answer:** (a) Bharat’s Hub for Agritech, Resilience, Advancement and Incubation for Export Enablement

**Explanation:**

- **Why in News:** APEDA launched **BHARATI** during the Food & Beverages Stakeholders Meeting (Aug 2025).
- **Vision:** Boost agri-food exports to \$50 billion by 2030.
- **Focus:** Support 100 startups in agri-food & agri-tech, provide incubation, mentoring, and global market linkages.

**Question 38.** At its 56th meeting (Sept 2025), the GST Council introduced a new 40% tax slab. This applies to:

- (a) Essential goods
- (b) Agricultural equipment
- (c) Sin goods & luxury products
- (d) Medicines and vaccines

**Answer:** (c) Sin goods & luxury products

**Explanation:**

- **Why in News:** GST Council meeting (3 Sept 2025) revamped tax slabs – 5%, 18%, and **40% for sin goods**.
- **Sin Goods include:** Alcohol, tobacco, gambling, betting services, and high-sugar foods.
- **Rationale:** Discourage harmful consumption, align with global best practices in sin taxation.

**Question 39.** The SMILE Scheme, recently in news, is implemented by which Union Ministry?

- (a) Ministry of Rural Development
- (b) Ministry of Labour & Employment
- (c) Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
- (d) Ministry of Skill Development

**Answer:** (c) Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

**Explanation:**

- **Why in News:** On **21 Aug 2025**, a 15-day Entrepreneurship Development Programme for transgender persons

launched under SMILE at Garima Greh, Delhi.

- **Full Form:** Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise.
- **Components:**
  - Rehabilitation for transgender persons.
  - Support for persons engaged in begging.
- **Importance:** Empowers marginalized groups through training, livelihood, and social inclusion.

**Question 40.** Under the Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (VBRY), first-time private-sector employees become eligible for the one-time incentive if their monthly salary is:

- (a)  $\leq ₹50,000$
- (b)  $\leq ₹75,000$
- (c)  $\leq ₹1,00,000$
- (d) No salary cap

**Answer:** (c)  $\leq ₹1,00,000$

**Explanation:**

- **Why in News:** Announced on **August 17, 2025**; effective **August 15, 2025**; budget nearly **₹1 lakh crore**.
- **Details:** First-time EPFO joiners (private sector) with salary  $\leq ₹1$  lakh get **up to ₹15,000** (two installments at 6 and 12 months; the second post a financial-literacy module). Amount is **DBT to Aadhaar-linked bank account**.
- **Significance:** Nudges formalisation and new hiring via EPFO.

**Question 41.** Which of the following is NOT among the seven foundational principles ("Seven Sutras") of RBI's FREE-AI framework?

- (a) Trust is the Foundation
- (b) People First (human-in-the-loop)
- (c) Boundless Autonomy over Regulation
- (d) Understandable by Design

**Answer:** (c) Boundless Autonomy over Regulation

**Explanation:**

- **Why in News:** RBI committee submitted **FREE-AI** blueprint on **Aug 15, 2025**.
- **Seven Sutras:** Trust, People First, **Innovation over Restraint** (not "boundless

autonomy"), Fairness & Equity, Accountability, Understandable by Design, Safety-Resilience-Sustainability.

- **Aim:** Balance innovation with risk mitigation in finance.

**Question 42.** PRATUSH, recently developed by Indian scientists, is designed to study:

- (a) Gravitational waves
- (b) Cosmic dawn and reionization of the Universe
- (c) Asteroid mining potential
- (d) Martian atmosphere

**Answer:** (b) Cosmic dawn and reionization of the Universe

**Explanation:**

- **Why in News:** Raman Research Institute (RRI), Bengaluru scientists designed **PRATUSH** (Probing ReionizATIOn of the Universe using Signal from Hydrogen).
- **Details:** A tiny single-board computer receiver to detect the **21-cm hydrogen line signal**, proposed for deployment in **lunar orbit** (to avoid Earth radio interference).
- **Significance:** Will provide insights into **first stars, galaxy formation, and early Universe structure**.

**Question 43.** The protein p47, discovered by Indian researchers, acts as:

- (a) Enzyme for digestion
- (b) Mechanical chaperone protecting cells from stress
- (c) Hormone regulator in metabolism
- (d) Immune system receptor

**Answer:** (b) Mechanical chaperone protecting cells from stress

**Explanation:**

- **Why in News:** Researchers at **SNBNCBS, Kolkata** discovered p47's protective role.
- **Function:** Stabilizes proteins under **mechanical strain**, preventing misfolding.
- **Medical Impact:** Opens pathways for therapies in **heart muscle disorders** and **laminopathies** (genetic nuclear-envelope diseases).

**Question 44.** The AIIMS Disha app, launched in 2025, primarily helps with:

- (a) Online OPD booking
- (b) Digital payment of hospital bills
- (c) Indoor navigation at AIIMS campus
- (d) Telemedicine consultations

**Answer:** (c) Indoor navigation at AIIMS campus

**Explanation:**

- **Why in News:** Union Health Minister J. P. Nadda launched **AIIMS Disha app**.
- **Technology:** Uses **Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) beacons** and **AI routing algorithms** for room-level accuracy.
- **Features:** Navigation to OPD rooms, labs, billing counters, pharmacies; offline functionality.
- **Impact:** Reduces confusion and stress for patients and visitors.

**Question 45.** Deuterium in India is extracted from natural waters at:

- (a) Manuguru (Telangana) and Kota (Rajasthan)
- (b) Trombay (Maharashtra) and Kalpakkam (Tamil Nadu)
- (c) Kaiga (Karnataka) and Kakrapar (Gujarat)
- (d) Rourkela (Odisha) and Jamshedpur (Jharkhand)

**Answer:** (a) Manuguru (Telangana) and Kota (Rajasthan)

**Explanation:**

- **Why in News:** Govt report confirmed **deuterium extraction via  $H_2S-H_2O$  bi-thermal chemical exchange**.
- **Locations:**
  - Manuguru (Godavari water).
  - Kota (Rana Pratap Sagar lake water).
- **Importance:** Supplies **heavy water ( $D_2O$ )** → crucial for **nuclear reactors** and future **fusion research**.

**Question 46.** Which statement about heavy water ( $D_2O$ ) is correct?

- (a) It is lighter than ordinary water
- (b) It contains deuterium instead of hydrogen
- (c) It cannot be used in nuclear reactors
- (d) It occurs naturally in abundance (~10%)

**Answer:** (b) It contains deuterium instead of hydrogen

**Explanation:**

- **Why in News:** Deuterium enrichment ensures India's nuclear autonomy.
- **$D_2O$  Facts:**
  - Contains  **$^2H$  (deuterium)** + oxygen.
  - ~11% heavier than normal  $H_2O$ .
  - Natural abundance only ~0.015%.
  - Used as **moderator & coolant in reactors**; tracer in environmental/medical studies.

**Question 47.** NASA's SURYA AI model, developed with IBM, is used for forecasting:

- (a) Earthquakes
- (b) Solar flares & space weather
- (c) Tsunamis
- (d) Volcanic eruptions

**Answer:** (b) Solar flares & space weather

**Explanation:**

- **Why in News:** Launched **SURYA Heliophysics Foundational Model** on Aug 2025.
- **Trained on:** 9 years of **Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO)** data.
- **Predicts:** Solar flares, CMEs, UV output, and space-weather disruptions.
- **Impact:** Protects satellites, aviation, power grids, and astronauts.

**Question 48.** Which sector will benefit most from early solar flare forecasting by SURYA?

- (a) Textile industry
- (b) Satellite communications and aviation
- (c) Dairy farming
- (d) Coal mining

**Answer:** (b) Satellite communications and aviation

**Explanation:**

- **Why in News:** SURYA aims to **shield satellites, GPS, telecom, aviation, and astronauts** from solar storms.
- **Significance:** Enhances **space mission safety**, secures **power grids**, protects **aircraft crews**, and aids **communication reliability**.

**Question 49.** Under the India–Japan LUPEX collaboration, Chandrayaan-5 will be launched by

and include:

- (a) ISRO's LVM3; Japanese lander, Indian rover
- (b) JAXA's H3-24L; Indian lander, Japanese rover
- (c) SpaceX Falcon 9; joint lander-rover
- (d) ISRO's PSLV; Indian lander-rover only

**Answer:** (b)

**Why in News:** PM welcomed the ISRO–JAXA agreement exchange for **Chandrayaan-5 (LUPEX)**.

**Explanation:** The mission targets the **lunar south pole** to prospect **water-ice**; **H3-24L** is JAXA's heavy-lift; ISRO contributes lander & science payloads, JAXA the rover—building on **Chandrayaan-3** success.

**Question 50.** The primary science focus of LUPEX (Chandrayaan-5) is to:

- (a) Map lunar volcanism at Oceanus Procellarum
- (b) Test human habitats at Mare Tranquillitatis
- (c) Explore south-polar resources, esp. water-ice
- (d) Return lunar samples from equatorial regions

**Answer:** (c)

**Why in News:** The bilateral agreement explicitly framed **south-pole resource** exploration.

**Explanation:** Persistent shadowed craters can trap **volatiles (H<sub>2</sub>O)**; confirming/characterising water-ice informs **ISRU** (in-situ resource utilisation) for future crewed missions.

**Question 51.** Under India's Universal Immunization Programme (UIP), Measles-Rubella (MR) vaccine is given at:

- (a) Birth and 6 weeks
- (b) 6 weeks and 9 months
- (c) 9–12 months and 16–24 months
- (d) Only during outbreaks

**Answer:** (c)

**Why in News:** Nepal's milestone spotlighted regional MR strategies; India provides **free MR vaccine** under UIP.

**Explanation:** Two-dose MR schedule (first at **9–12 months**, second at **16–24 months**) aims to cut measles/rubella circulation and prevent **CRS**.

**Question 52.** The intellectual property (IP) of Maharashtra's '**Garuda Drishti**' social-media monitoring platform is owned by:

- (a) Maharashtra Cyber Cell
- (b) Nagpur Police
- (c) CERT-In
- (d) NIA

**Answer:** (b) Nagpur Police

**Explanation:**

- **Why in News:** On **15 Aug 2025**, CM Devendra Fadnavis announced successful implementation of '**Garuda Drishti**'.
- **Details:** Built via **Cyber Hack 2025**, it performs **real-time social-media surveillance** to flag hate speech, fake news and fraudulent behaviour; has screened **30,000+ posts** and enabled removal of **650+** offensive posts. **Nagpur Police** holds the IP; the state is implementing it for proactive cyber-intelligence.

**Question 53.** The National Commission for Women's "Yashoda AI" literacy programme mainly focuses on:

- (a) Urban IT professionals
- (b) Women in rural and semi-urban areas
- (c) Private-school teachers in metros
- (d) Only college students

**Answer:** (b) Women in rural and semi-urban areas

**Explanation:**

- **Why in News:** **9 Aug 2025:** NCW highlighted progress of "**Yashoda AI**" (running since **May 2025**).
- **Details:** Trains women (~**2,500** so far) in **AI literacy, cybersecurity, digital privacy & safe online practices**; beneficiaries include **SHGs, local representatives, ASHA workers, micro-entrepreneurs, students, officials**—advancing **digital inclusion**.

**Question 54.** What was the theme of National Space Day 2025 celebrated on 23 August?

- (a) "Moon to Mars: India's Next Leap"
- (b) "Aryabhata to Gaganyaan: Ancient Wisdom to Infinite Possibilities"
- (c) "Towards a Space Economy"
- (d) "Exploring the Stars, Expanding the Nation"

**Answer:** (b)

**Why in News:** On **23 Aug 2025**, PM Modi addressed the **2nd National Space Day** at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

**Explanation:** The theme, "**From Aryabhata to Gaganyaan**", connected India's ancient astronomical heritage with modern missions. The

day commemorates **Chandrayaan-3's soft landing (23 Aug 2023)** near the Moon's south pole, where the site was named **Shiv Shakti Point**.

**Question 55.** According to 2025 estimates, what is the population of Asiatic lions in Gujarat?

- (a) 674
- (b) 750
- (c) 821
- (d) 891

**Answer:** (d)

**Why in News:** Project Lion progress highlighted at World Lion Day 2025.

**Explanation:** Asiatic lion population rose from **674 (2020) → 891 (2025)**, a **32% increase**, roaming across **~35,000 sq km** in 11 Saurashtra districts.

**Question 56.** National Handloom Day is observed on 7 August to commemorate:

- (a) Gandhi's Champaran Satyagraha
- (b) Adoption of Khadi by Constituent Assembly
- (c) Launch of the Swadeshi Movement (1905)
- (d) India's first Handloom Expo in Chennai

**Answer:** (c)

**Why in News:** On **7 Aug 2025**, India celebrated **11th National Handloom Day** with expos and "Haat on Wheels."

**Explanation:** **7 Aug 1905** marked the **launch of the Swadeshi Movement** in Bengal, which promoted **indigenous handlooms and industries** as resistance to colonial rule. PM Modi declared it National Handloom Day in **2015**.

**Question 57.** Maharashtra declared August 7 as Sustainable Agriculture Day to honour:

- (a) Dr. Verghese Kurien
- (b) Dr. Norman Borlaug
- (c) Dr. M. S. Swaminathan
- (d) Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh

**Answer:** (c)

**Why in News:** Announced in 2025 on the **birth centenary of Bharat Ratna Dr. M. S. Swaminathan**.

**Explanation:** Known as the **architect of India's Green Revolution**, Swaminathan introduced high-yield wheat and rice, ensuring food security. Maharashtra plans **Bio-Happiness Centres** in agri-

universities to promote his vision of an **"Evergreen Revolution."**

**Question 58.** Which organisation honoured Dr. M. S. Swaminathan as the "Father of Economic Ecology"?

- (a) FAO
- (b) UNEP
- (c) UNESCO
- (d) UNDP

**Answer:** (b) UNEP

**Why in News:** Maharashtra's declaration included tributes to Swaminathan's global recognition.

**Explanation:** **UNEP** gave the title for linking **ecology with economic development**. In **2024**, Govt of India conferred on him the **Bharat Ratna**.

**Question 59.** Lord Swraj Paul, who passed away in London in Aug 2025, was the founder of which group?

- (a) Vedanta Group
- (b) Caparo Group
- (c) Aditya Birla Group UK
- (d) Tata Europe Ltd

**Answer:** (b)

**Why in News:** Lord Swraj Paul, Indian-origin industrialist and philanthropist, died on **22 Aug 2025** at age 94.

**Explanation:** Born in **Jalandhar (1931)**, migrated to UK (1966), founded **Caparo Group (1968)**. Served as **Deputy Speaker, UK House of Lords (2008)**, Chancellor of University of Wolverhampton, awarded **Padma Bhushan (1983)**, and remembered as a bridge-builder in **Indo-UK relations**.

**Question 60.** Former RBI Governor Urjit Patel was appointed in Aug 2025 as Executive Director at:

- (a) World Bank
- (b) IMF
- (c) ADB
- (d) AIIB

**Answer:** (b) IMF

**Why in News:** ACC approved Urjit Patel's appointment as **IMF Executive Director** (tenure 2025–2028).

**Explanation:** Patel was the **24th RBI Governor (2016–2018)**, resigned before term end. At IMF, Executive Directors (24 in total) oversee policy

reviews, financing approvals, and economic monitoring.

**Question 61.** Which military leader, called the “Lion of Nowshera”, was recently added to NCERT’s syllabus?

- (a) Field Marshal K. M. Cariappa
- (b) Brigadier Mohammad Usman
- (c) General Arjun Singh
- (d) Major Dhyanchand

**Answer:** (b) Brigadier Mohammad Usman

**Why in News:** MoD & NCERT added chapters on **Sam Manekshaw, Brig. Usman, Major Somnath Sharma**.

**Explanation:** Brig. Usman was martyred in **1947–48 J&K war**, posthumously awarded **Maha Vir Chakra**. His valor symbolises supreme sacrifice; along with **Sam Manekshaw** (1971 war) and **Somnath Sharma** (first PVC awardee).

**Question 62.** Major Somnath Sharma, included in NCERT syllabus (2025), holds which distinction?

- (a) First IAF Chief
- (b) First Param Vir Chakra awardee of India
- (c) First CDS of India
- (d) First Governor of J&K

**Answer:** (b)

**Why in News:** His story added to NCERT textbooks to inspire students.

**Explanation:** Major **Somnath Sharma** was posthumously awarded India’s **first Param Vir Chakra (1947, Battle of Badgam, J&K)** for holding his position despite being mortally wounded—defining bravery.

**Question 63.** On 5 Aug 2025, Amit Shah became India’s longest-serving Union Home Minister, surpassing:

- (a) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- (b) Rajnath Singh
- (c) Lal Krishna Advani
- (d) P. Chidambaram

**Answer:** (c) Lal Krishna Advani

**Why in News:** Amit Shah completed **2,258 days**, crossing Advani’s **2,256 days**.

**Explanation:** His tenure coincided with the **6th anniversary of Article 370 abrogation**. Previous records: Patel (1,218 days), Advani (2,256 days). Shah also led key reforms: abrogation of Article 370, CAA implementation, NIA strengthening.

**Question 64.** The inclusion of chapters on Sam Manekshaw, Usman, and Somnath Sharma in NCERT books primarily aims to:

- (a) Prepare students for military entrance exams
- (b) Familiarize students with India’s military history and instill patriotism
- (c) Promote literature in regional languages
- (d) Highlight only post-independence wars

**Answer:** (b)

**Why in News:** MoD–NCERT collaboration announced in Aug 2025.

**Explanation:** The chapters aim to **inspire patriotism, courage, resilience**, and connect students emotionally with the **National War Memorial (NWM)**, preserving military heritage in education.

**Question 65.** Which Indian NGO won the 2025 Ramon Magsaysay Award, often called “Asia’s Nobel Prize”?

- (a) Pratham
- (b) Akshaya Patra
- (c) Educate Girls
- (d) SEWA

**Answer:** (c) Educate Girls

**Why in News:** On **Aug 2025**, **Educate Girls**, founded by **Safeena Husain (2007)**, became the **first Indian organisation** to win the award.

**Explanation:** The NGO mobilises communities and govt resources to close the gender gap in education, starting in **Rajasthan** and now working in multiple states. Other 2025 awardees include **Shaahina Ali (Maldives)** and **Flaviano Villanueva (Philippines)**. The prize was instituted in **1958**, named after Philippine President **Ramon Magsaysay**.

**Question 66.** Which film won the Golden Lion (Best Film) at Venice Film Festival 2025?

- (a) The Smashing Machine
- (b) La Grazia
- (c) Father Mother Sister Brother
- (d) Below the Clouds

**Answer:** (c) Father Mother Sister Brother

**Why in News:** Declared at the closing of the **82nd Venice Film Festival**.

**Explanation:** Directed by **Jim Jarmusch (USA)**, it took the top prize. Other awards: **Best Actor** –

**Toni Servillo, Best Actress – Xin Zhilei, Best Director (main competition) – Benny Safdie.**

**Question 67.** Which city topped the Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan 2025 in the population >10 lakh category with a perfect score?

- (a) Surat
- (b) Indore
- (c) Agra
- (d) Jabalpur

**Answer:** (b) Indore

**Why in News:** Environment Minister **Bhupender Yadav** presented awards under **NCAP**.

**Explanation:** Indore scored **200/200**, followed by **Jabalpur (199)**, and **Agra & Surat (196)**. Indore and **Udaipur** also earned **Wetland City recognition** under the Ramsar Convention, showcasing sustainability.

**Question 68.** Which Indian women-led SHG won the UNDP Equator Prize 2025?

- (a) Amul SHG, Gujarat
- (b) Kudumbashree, Kerala
- (c) Bibifathima Swa Sahaya Sangha, Karnataka
- (d) SEWA, Delhi

**Answer:** (c) Bibifathima Swa Sahaya Sangha, Karnataka

**Why in News:** On **9 Aug 2025 (Indigenous Peoples' Day)**, Karnataka SHG was named among 10 global winners.

**Explanation:** From **Dharwad district**, supports **5,000+ farmers** across 30 villages with millet farming, seed banks, solar-powered processing. Prize: **\$10,000**. Equator Prize, since **2002**, celebrates **community-led climate solutions**.

**Question 69.** Rajula Srivastava, who won the Maryam Mirzakhani New Frontiers Prize 2025, is associated with which field?

- (a) Medicine
- (b) Physics
- (c) Mathematics
- (d) Literature

**Answer:** (c) Mathematics

**Why in News:** On **9 Aug 2025**, she was awarded the \$50,000 prize.

**Explanation:** Currently a **Hirzebruch Research Instructor** at **Univ. of Bonn & Max Planck Institute**, she was recognised for early-career excellence in mathematics. Prize is part of the

**Breakthrough Prize** initiative, named after Fields Medalist **Maryam Mirzakhani**.

**Question 70.** Which city became the first in India to install solar panels between railway tracks?

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

**Answer:** (c) Varanasi

**Why in News:** On **23 Aug 2025**, Varanasi achieved this milestone at **Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW)**.

**Explanation:**

- **28 panels** (15 kWp capacity) installed over **70 m track length**, generating **~880 units/km/day**.
- Eliminates land acquisition issues; portable & removable design.
- Supports Indian Railways' **Net-Zero emission target (2030)**.

**Question 71.** India's first Drone Forensic Lab was inaugurated in:

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

**Answer:** (b) Lucknow

**Why in News:** Inaugurated at **Uttar Pradesh State Institute of Forensic Science (UPSIFS)** by CM Yogi Adityanath.

**Explanation:**

- Conceptualised by **Milind Raj ("Drone Man of India")**.
- Functions: Tracks drones, analyses payload, flight path, threats, conducts forensic "postmortem."
- Will train UP Police for **anti-drone operations, surveillance, disaster management**.

**Question 72.** Which UP village won the ICRT Responsible Tourism Award 2025?

- (a) Nandgaon
- (b) Bateshwar
- (c) Karikot (Bahraich)
- (d) Kushinagar

**Answer:** (c) Karikot (Bahraich)

**Why in News:** Award by **ICRT India Foundation** (supported by Ministry of Tourism).

**Explanation:**

- Near **Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary**, led by **Tharu tribal community**.
- Promoted **homestays, eco-tourism, traditional crafts, cuisine**.
- Empowered women & youth; model for **UP Rural Tourism Strategy (2025)**.

**Question 73.** The Tharu tribe, central to Karikot's eco-tourism success, primarily inhabits:

- (a) Aravalli Hills
- (b) Terai lowlands near Shivaliks
- (c) Deccan Plateau
- (d) Vindhyan Plateau

**Answer:** (b) Terai lowlands near Shivaliks

**Why in News:** Karikot's award highlighted Tharu tribal heritage.

**Explanation:** Tharus are Scheduled Tribes in **UP, Uttarakhand, Bihar**, with cultural roots linked to **Theravada Buddhism (sthavir → Tharu)**.

**Question 74.** Operation Savera, launched in August 2025 against drug trafficking, mainly targeted:

- (a) Bundelkhand districts
- (b) Saharanpur range districts
- (c) Purvanchal districts
- (d) Central UP districts

**Answer:** (b) Saharanpur range districts

**Why in News:** Directed by CM Yogi & DGP Rajeev Krishna.

**Explanation:**

- Crackdown on **manufacturers, suppliers, peddlers** under **NDPS Act 1985 & PITNDPS Act 1988**.
- Emphasis on **property confiscation, awareness, rehab support**.
- Builds on earlier **Operation Mahakal (Kanpur, Aug 2025)** against land mafia.

**Question 75.** UP's first Green Hydrogen Plant was inaugurated in 2025 at:

- (a) Noida
- (b) Lucknow
- (c) Gorakhpur
- (d) Prayagraj

**Answer:** (c) Gorakhpur

**Why in News:** CM Yogi inaugurated plant at **Khanimpur village, Gorakhpur**.

**Explanation:**

- Setup by **Torrent Gas & Torrent Power**.
- Blends **2% green H<sub>2</sub> with natural gas (CNG/PNG)**.
- Cuts **500 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> annually**.
- India's 2nd such plant; supports **UP Green Hydrogen Policy 2024**.

**Question 76.** UP's Green Hydrogen Policy 2024 aims to build production capacity of:

- (a) 0.5 million tonnes/year by 2026
- (b) 1 million tonnes/year by 2028
- (c) 2 million tonnes/year by 2030
- (d) 5 million tonnes/year by 2035

**Answer:** (b) 1 million tonnes/year by 2028

**Why in News:** The Gorakhpur plant is a pilot step under this policy.

**Explanation:** Policy offers **30–40% capital subsidy** for first 4 projects, ease of doing business for hydrogen/ammonia, and incentives for **H<sub>2</sub>-based manufacturing**, making UP a **future hub**.

**Question 77.** India's first World Boxing Cup (Finals) in Nov 2025 will be hosted at:

- (a) Ekana Sports City, Lucknow
- (b) Vijay Pathik Sports Complex, Greater Noida
- (c) K.D. Singh Babu Stadium, Lucknow
- (d) Meerut Sports Complex, Meerut

**Answer:** (b) Vijay Pathik Sports Complex, Greater Noida

**Why in News:** UP will host India's first **World Boxing Cup (men & women)** from **13–24 Nov 2025**.

**Explanation:** Around **450 boxers from 80+ countries** and **150 officials** are expected. The **World Boxing Congress** also meets on **23 Nov 2025**. The event is under **BFI**—a landmark for Indian boxing after hosting Women's World Championships (Delhi 2018 & 2023).

**Question 78.** Which pair correctly lists UP teachers selected for NTA 2025?

- (a) Anil Kumar (Agra), Shikha Singh (Varanasi)
- (b) Madhurima Tiwari (Mirzapur), Ram Lal Singh Yadav (Bhadohi)
- (c) Renu Sharma (Lucknow), Ajay Singh

(Prayagraj)

(d) Priya Verma (Kanpur), Nitin Tiwari (Jhansi)

**Answer:** (b)

**Why in News:** NTA 2025 honours 45 teachers, presented on Teachers' Day (5 Sept).

**Explanation:** NTA (since 1958) recognises innovative pedagogy, enrolment gains, and reduced dropouts. Awardees receive a certificate, ₹50,000, and a silver medal.

**Question 79.** Teachers' Day (5 Sept) marks whose birth anniversary?

(a) Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

(b) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

(c) Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan

(d) Madan Mohan Malaviya

**Answer:** (c)

**Why in News:** The NTA ceremony coincides annually with 5 Sept.

**Explanation:** Dr. Radhakrishnan (born 1888, Tiruttani) served as India's 1st Vice-President (1952–62) and 2nd President (1962–67); a noted philosopher and former BHU VC. He received the Bharat Ratna (1954).

**Question 80.** The UP Police (UP-112) ran a special Savera Yojana outreach with wellness checks on:

(a) 1 October — International Day of Older Persons

(b) 21 August — World Senior Citizens' Day

(c) 15 June — World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

(d) 2 October — National Senior Citizens' Day

**Answer:** (b)

**Why in News:** On 21 Aug 2025, UP-112 teams contacted thousands of registered seniors.

**Explanation:** Savera Yojana (launched 26 Oct 2019) connects police with citizens, especially the elderly. Seniors can register via UP-112; PRVs and nearby police stations provide assistance. (Note the distinction: 21 Aug vs 1 Oct UN day.)

**Question 81.** The UP Footwear, Leather & Non-Leather Area Development Policy 2025 aims to create approximately:

(a) 5 lakh jobs in 5 years

(b) 10 lakh jobs in 5 years

(c) 22 lakh jobs in 5 years

(d) 30 lakh jobs in 5 years

**Answer:** (c) 22 lakh jobs in 5 years

**Why in News:** The policy seeks to consolidate UP's leadership in leather & footwear exports.

**Explanation:** Measures include technology upgradation, skill centres, CoEs, IPR grants (up to ₹1 crore per unit), and strong incentives (e.g., 25% capital subsidy for parks on ≥50 acres, 100% stamp duty exemption, export transport reimbursement).

**Question 82.** Under the new policy, mega leather parks are proposed in:

(a) Kanpur, Agra, Unnao

(b) Kanpur, Noida, Ghaziabad

(c) Agra, Jhansi, Bareilly

(d) Unnao, Prayagraj, Varanasi

**Answer:** (a) Kanpur, Agra, Unnao

**Why in News:** Dedicated parks with plug-and-play units, ETP/WWTP, and modern infra will anchor clusters.

**Explanation:** UP contributes ~46% of India's leather exports. Agra is dubbed "Footwear Capital of India"; Kanpur is a hub for leather accessories/saddlery. Special incentives target Bundelkhand & Purvanchal too.

**Question 83.** The Union Home Ministry approved renaming Jalalabad (Shahjahanpur) as:

(a) Parashurampuri

(b) Vishwanathpuri

(c) Prayagraj

(d) Deendayal Dham

**Answer:** (a) Parashurampuri

**Why in News:** The MHA approved UP's proposal to rename Jalalabad to Parashurampuri.

**Explanation:** The town is associated with Saint Parashuram and houses an ancient temple. Renaming follows due process—state request, inter-ministerial circulation and NOCs (MoES, IB, Posts, GSI, Railways). Jalalabad's older name dated to c. 1560 CE (after Jalal-ud-din Akbar). UP has earlier renamed Allahabad→Prayagraj, Faizabad→Ayodhya, etc.

**Question 84.** From 11 Aug 2025, which of the following was banned inside Shree Kashi Vishwanath Dham?

(a) Only plastic carry bags

(b) Only PET water bottles

(c) All single-use plastics, plastic water/milk

utensils, and plastic flower baskets  
(d) Metal containers for abhishek

**Answer:** (c)

**Why in News:** The Dham was **declared plastic-free** to protect sanctity and environment.

**Explanation:** Vendors shifted to **bamboo strip baskets**; devotees encouraged to use **steel/metal** containers. The Dham enshrines **Jyotirlinga Vishweshwara**; rebuilt by **Ahilyabai Holkar (1780)**; **Ranjit Singh (1839)** donated gold for two domes.

**Question 85.** ‘Anokhi Duniya’ will open in which UP city famous as the “ceramic capital”?

- (a) Firozabad
- (b) Khurja
- (c) Moradabad
- (d) Chunar

**Answer:** (b) Khurja

**Why in News:** UP is set to inaugurate the **world’s first park** built entirely from **ceramic waste**.

**Explanation:** Developed by **BKDA** on **2 acres** via **PPP (₹5.86 crore)**, reusing **80+ tonnes** of discarded ceramics into **~100 artworks** (28 large installations). Supports **ODOP** and showcases **Khurja** craftsmanship.

**Question 86.** Under the Atal Bihari Vajpayee–Chevening UP Scholarship, the UP Govt’s approximate contribution per scholar is:

- (a) ₹10 lakh
- (b) ₹23 lakh
- (c) ₹35 lakh
- (d) Entire cost borne by FCDO

**Answer:** (b) ₹23 lakh

**Why in News:** The **UP Cabinet (9 Aug 2025)** approved a **joint scholarship** with **UK-FCDO**.

**Explanation:** For **five** meritorious UP students annually (**AY 2025-26 to 2027-28**), covering **tuition, research, living, airfare**. Costs are **shared**—UP contributes **~₹23 lakh** per student; the **FCDO** funds the rest.

**Question 87.** Which new welfare body did the UP government announce on 31 August 2025 for marginalized communities?

- (a) SC/ST Commission
- (b) Welfare Board for Nomadic & Denotified Tribes

- (c) Tribal Affairs Authority
- (d) Backward Classes Board

**Answer:** (b) Welfare Board for Nomadic & Denotified Tribes

**Why in News:** Announced by CM Yogi Adityanath on **Vimukt Jati Diwas**.

**Detailed Answer:** On **31 August 2025 (Vimukt Jati Diwas)**, UP announced a Welfare Board for Denotified Tribes (DNTs) and Nomadic Tribes (NTs). It will focus on housing, land leases, voting rights, and social security benefits. This move recognizes communities historically stigmatized under the **Criminal Tribes Act, 1871** (repealed in 1952 due to efforts of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar).

**Question 88.** The UP Export Promotion Policy 2025–30 aims to achieve what target by 2030?

- (a) Triple exports
- (b) Double exports
- (c) 50% increase in exports
- (d) Achieve \$1 trillion exports

**Answer:** (b) Double exports

**Why in News:** The Cabinet recently approved this policy for 2025–30.

**Detailed Answer:** UP’s **Export Promotion Policy 2025–30** targets doubling exports by 2030. It prioritizes electronics, handicrafts, textiles, engineering, agriculture, leather, and IT services. It supports startups with incentives like ₹1 lakh for digital marketing, 75% subsidy on product certification (up to ₹25 lakh), and ODOP-based global branding.

**Question 89.** Where was India’s first tempered glass manufacturing facility inaugurated in 2025?

- (a) Lucknow
- (b) Noida
- (c) Ghaziabad
- (d) Kanpur

**Answer:** (b) Noida

**Why in News:** Inaugurated by Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.

**Detailed Answer:** India’s first **tempered glass plant for mobiles** was inaugurated in **Noida** through collaboration between **Optimus Electronics (India)** and **Corning Inc. (USA)**. With an investment of ₹70 crore in Phase-1, it will produce 25 million units/year and employ 600+ people. The Phase-2 expansion will add ₹800

crore investment and 4,500+ jobs, reducing import dependency.

**Question 90.** The UP government has announced a memorial of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in which city?

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

**Answer:** (c) Agra

**Why in News:** A major cultural project announced by UP Tourism.

**Detailed Answer:** UP will build a **Shivaji Memorial at Kothi Meena Bazar, Agra**, fully funded by the state government and executed by UPTDC. It will include a museum to honor Shivaji's legacy, promote tourism, and strengthen cultural unity.

**Question 91.** Which Maratha king is known for guerrilla warfare tactics and establishing the Ashtapradhan Council?

- (a) Sambhaji Maharaj
- (b) Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj
- (c) Shahuji Maharaj
- (d) Balaji Vishwanath

**Answer:** (b) Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

**Why in News:** Linked to the Shivaji Memorial announcement in Agra.

**Detailed Answer:** **Shivaji Maharaj (1630–1680)**, founder of the Maratha Empire, is celebrated for his **Ashtapradhan Council**, abolition of Jagirdari, Ryotwari land reforms, and a strong navy. His guerrilla tactics (e.g., Battle of Pratapgad, 1659) became legendary. The memorial in Agra commemorates his legacy.

**Question 92.** The Bijnor Jail memorial 'Smritika', inaugurated in 2023, is dedicated to which freedom fighter?

- (a) Rajendra Lahiri
- (b) Sachindranath Bakshi
- (c) Ashfaqullah Khan
- (d) Chandrashekhar Azad

**Answer:** (b) Sachindranath Bakshi

**Why in News:** Bijnor Jail honored Kakori Hero **Sachindranath Bakshi** through the memorial 'Smritika'.

**Detailed Answer:** Inaugurated on **11 August 2023**, the 'Smritika' memorial includes a statue of

Bakshi and names of 419 freedom fighters once jailed here. Bakshi, born in 1904 at Varanasi, played a crucial role in the **Kakori Train Action (1925)** by purchasing tickets, pulling the chain, and seizing funds to support the Hindustan Republican Army (HRA). He was sentenced to life imprisonment and later authored *Kranti Ke Path Par*.

**Question 93.** In which year did the Kakori Train Action take place?

- (a) 1921
- (b) 1925
- (c) 1927
- (d) 1930

**Answer:** (b) 1925

**Why in News:** Bijnor Jail memorial commemorates Bakshi's role in the Kakori conspiracy.

**Detailed Answer:** The **Kakori Train Action** occurred on **9 August 1925**, planned by HRA leaders including Ashfaqullah Khan, Chandrashekhar Azad, Rajendra Lahiri, and Sachindranath Bakshi. The aim was to loot the British treasury to procure arms for revolution.

**Question 94.** Which Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) in Uttar Pradesh became the first to achieve ISO 9001:2015 certification?

- (a) Lucknow
- (b) Ghaziabad
- (c) Kannauj
- (d) Prayagraj

**Answer:** (c) Kannauj

**Why in News:** Kannauj FSL achieved **ISO 9001:2015 certification** on 8 August 2025.

**Detailed Answer:** This recognition was presented to DGP Rajeev Krishna. The certification validates high-quality forensic standards, upgraded equipment, efficient staff services, and credibility of forensic evidence in courts. UP currently has 12 operational FSLs, with 6 more under development.

**Question 95.** According to MoSPI, Uttar Pradesh recently became India's \_\_\_\_\_ fastest-growing economy.

- (a) First
- (b) Second
- (c) Third
- (d) Fourth

**Answer:** (b) Second

**Why in News:** MoSPI data ranked UP as the **second fastest-growing economy**.

**Detailed Answer:** UP's **GSDP growth rose from 5.5% to 8.9%** in FY 2023–24. Tamil Nadu led with 11.19% growth. UP's GSDP stood at **₹25.48 lakh crore**, contributing 8% to India's GDP. The state targets becoming a **\$1 trillion economy by 2029**.

**Question 96.** In FY 2023–24, which sector in UP showed the maximum rise in contribution to GSDP?

- (a) Agriculture
- (b) Industry
- (c) Services
- (d) Mining

**Answer:** (a) Agriculture

**Why in News:** Sectoral growth data was highlighted by MoSPI.

**Detailed Answer:** Agriculture's contribution in UP increased from **13.7% to 16.8%**, showing resilience and reforms in farming. The secondary sector contributed 23%, and the tertiary sector led with 45%.

**Question 97.** Which IPS officer of the UP cadre was awarded the President's Gallantry Medal for the third time?

- (a) Rajeev Krishna
- (b) Ajay Kumar Sahni
- (c) Prashant Kumar
- (d) Naveen Arora

**Answer:** (b) Ajay Kumar Sahni

**Why in News:** Recognized for courage during a 2020 encounter in Meerut.

**Detailed Answer:** **Ajay Kumar Sahni (2009 batch IPS)** received his **third President's Medal for Gallantry** on Republic Day, 2020. He has led **52 encounters** and is among the rare officers thrice honored for bravery in high-risk operations.

**Question 98.** Which of the following is the correct order of precedence for India's gallantry awards?

- (a) Vir Chakra – Param Vir Chakra – Ashoka Chakra
- (b) Param Vir Chakra – Ashoka Chakra – Maha Vir Chakra
- (c) Ashoka Chakra – Vir Chakra – Shaurya Chakra
- (d) Maha Vir Chakra – Shaurya Chakra – Kirti Chakra

**Answer:** (b) Param Vir Chakra – Ashoka Chakra – Maha Vir Chakra

**Why in News:** Gallantry award system was discussed in relation to Sahni's honor.

**Detailed Answer:** The order of precedence: **1. Param Vir Chakra, 2. Ashoka Chakra, 3. Maha Vir Chakra, 4. Kirti Chakra, 5. Vir Chakra, 6. Shaurya Chakra**. PVC is India's highest wartime honor, while Ashoka Chakra is the highest peacetime gallantry award.

**Question 99.** Which city is being developed as India's first AI City?

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

**Answer:** (c) Lucknow

**Why in News:** UP Govt announced **₹10,732 crore** investment to build an AI City in Lucknow under the **IndiaAI Mission (approved March 2024)**.

**Detailed Answer:** The plan includes an **AI Innovation Center**, funding for **10,000 GPUs** and **multi-modal language models**, plus AI projects in traffic, agriculture, security, and healthcare—positioning UP as a national AI leader.

**Question 100.** National Space Day is observed every year on 23rd August to mark:

- (a) India's first astronaut Rakesh Sharma's mission
- (b) Launch of Aryabhata satellite in 1975
- (c) Success of Chandrayaan-3's lunar landing
- (d) India joining the UN Committee on Outer Space

**Answer:** (c)

**Why in News:** Declared after **Chandrayaan-3's landing**.

**Explanation:** On **23 Aug 2023**, ISRO's **Vikram lander** soft-landed near lunar south pole—India became the **4th country** to land on the Moon and the **1st near the south pole**. Hence 23 August is observed as **National Space Day**.

**Question 101.** What is the total planned investment for Lucknow AI City?

- (a) ₹6,000 crore
- (b) ₹8,500 crore
- (c) ₹10,732 crore
- (d) ₹12,500 crore

**Answer:** (c) ₹10,732 crore

**Why in News:** The investment headline makes the project India's largest tech infra push of its kind.

**Detailed Answer:** The outlay is **~67% higher** than any other tech-infrastructure project in India, backing compute (GPUs), foundational models, and sectoral AI deployments to accelerate the state's digital economy.

**Question 102.** Which training programme will skill 10 lakh people in AI/ML, data analytics, and cybersecurity?

- (a) AI Saksham
- (b) Digi-Shakti
- (c) AI Pragma
- (d) Kaushal+

**Answer:** (c) AI Pragma

**Why in News:** UP announced mass AI skilling under **AI Pragma**.

**Detailed Answer:** Targeting **youth, teachers, gram pradhans, govt employees, and farmers**, AI Pragma is supported by **Microsoft, Intel, Google, and Guvi**, building a broad base of AI literacy and employability across the state.

**Question 103.** Where was India's first AI-based breast cancer screening centre set up in UP?

- (a) Kanpur Dehat
- (b) Fatehpur
- (c) Jhansi
- (d) Shahjahanpur

**Answer:** (b) Fatehpur

**Why in News:** Healthcare is a core pillar of UP's AI deployments.

**Detailed Answer:** The Fatehpur facility uses AI for early screening/triage, aiming to **reduce diagnostic delays** and improve patient outcomes—part of UP's push to embed AI in public health.

**Question 104.** Who became the first woman District Magistrate of Gautam Buddh Nagar?

- (a) Suhas L.Y.
- (b) Manish Kumar Verma
- (c) Medha Roopam
- (d) Ritu Maheshwari

**Answer:** (c) Medha Roopam

**Why in News:** A landmark administrative appointment in the district.

**Detailed Answer:** **Medha Roopam (IAS, 2014**

**batch; AIR-10)** took charge as DM, succeeding **Manish Kumar Verma** (moved to Prayagraj). She is also a **national-level rifle shooter** with multiple golds—signaling both administrative and extracurricular excellence.

**Question 105.** UP's revamped Economic Offences Wing (EOW) integrated which helpline for public complaints?

- (a) 100
- (b) 181
- (c) 112
- (d) 155260

**Answer:** (c) 112

**Why in News:** EOW announced CBI-inspired restructuring with easier citizen access.

**Detailed Answer:** The overhauled EOW enables reporting of Ponzi, stamp, multi-marketing frauds via 112, adds expert training (CBI/ED), public education (8 animated booklets, short film), and 24x7 Case Management Software for real-time tracking.

**Question 106.** The Assam Bioethanol Plant, inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi, uses which as its feedstock?

- (a) Sugarcane
- (b) Paddy straw
- (c) Bamboo
- (d) Maize

**Answer – (c) Bamboo**

**Explanation –**

The Assam Bioethanol Plant, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is India's first 2G (second-generation) bioethanol plant based on **bamboo as the feedstock**. Located in Numaligarh (Assam), the plant is set up by Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL).

The project strengthens India's **Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme**, which targets **20% ethanol blending by 2025**.

**Question 107.** Which city topped the NARI 2025 safety rankings for women?

- (a) Visakhapatnam
- (b) Bhubaneswar
- (c) Kohima
- (d) Aizawl

**Answer:** (c) Kohima

**Why in News:** NARI 2025 highlighted Northeast

states' performance in women's safety.

**Detailed Answer:** Kohima (Nagaland) ranked 1st, followed by Visakhapatnam (2nd) and Bhubaneswar (3rd). Aizawl (4th) and Gangtok (5th) also made it to the top-5, reflecting Northeast India's relatively stronger women's safety record.

**Question 108.** Which ministry launched Adi Vaani, India's first AI-powered tribal language translation platform?

- (a) Ministry of Electronics & IT
- (b) Ministry of Education
- (c) Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- (d) Ministry of Culture

**Answer:** (c) Ministry of Tribal Affairs

**Why in News:** The ministry launched **Adi Vaani (Beta)** in 2025.

**Detailed Answer:** Developed by a consortium led by **IIT Delhi**, Adi Vaani currently supports **Santali, Bhili, Mundari, and Gondi** (with Kui and Garo under development). It helps preserve endangered tribal languages, improve access to education/healthcare, and empower tribal communities digitally.

**Question 109.** Which institute topped the NIRF India Rankings 2025 (Overall + Engineering + SDG categories)?

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

**Answer:** (c) IIT Madras

**Why in News:** Union Education Minister released **NIRF 2025 rankings**.

**Detailed Answer:** **IIT Madras** retained Rank 1 in **Overall** and **Engineering** for the 10th year, and also topped the new **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)** category. IIT Delhi and IIT Bombay followed in 2nd and 3rd places.

**Question 110.** Which institution retained the No.1 rank in Universities category of NIRF 2025?

- (a) JNU, Delhi
- (b) Banaras Hindu University
- (c) IISc Bengaluru
- (d) Delhi University

**Answer:** (c) IISc Bengaluru

**Why in News:** IISc achieved a rare milestone in NIRF.

**Detailed Answer:** The **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru** retained **1st rank in Universities category** for the **10th consecutive year**, affirming its research and innovation leadership.

**Question 111.** What is SAMBHAV launched by the Indian Army?

- (a) Secure satellite network
- (b) Indigenous drone system
- (c) Secure mobile ecosystem
- (d) New AI battle command system

**Answer:** (c) Secure mobile ecosystem

**Why in News:** Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi credited SAMBHAV in **Operation Sindoor**.

**Detailed Answer:** **SAMBHAV (Secure Army Mobile Bharat Version)** is a Make in India project ensuring **end-to-end secure communication**. It is 5G-ready, has multi-layer encryption, and includes **M-Sigma app** as a WhatsApp alternative, enabling safe exchange of data among officers.

**Question 112.** PM Modi inaugurated Mizoram's first railway line in September 2025 connecting which two places?

- (a) Silchar – Aizawl
- (b) Bairabi – Sairang
- (c) Imphal – Aizawl
- (d) Dimapur – Aizawl

**Answer:** (b) Bairabi – Sairang

**Why in News:** Historic inauguration of Mizoram's first railway line.

**Detailed Answer:** The **₹8,070 crore Bairabi–Sairang project** (51 km) includes **45 tunnels, 55 major bridges, 87 minor bridges**, and India's **tallest pier railway bridge** near Sairang (114 m, taller than Qutub Minar). It also flagged off Mizoram's **first Rajdhani Express to Delhi**.

**Question 113.** Where was the first Khelo India Water Sports Festival (2025) held?

- (a) Chilika Lake
- (b) Naini Lake
- (c) Dal Lake
- (d) Loktak Lake

**Answer:** (c) Dal Lake

**Why in News:** The inaugural **Khelo India Water Sports Festival (KIWSF)** was held at **Dal Lake, Srinagar (21–23 August 2025)**.

**Detailed Answer:** Over 500 athletes from 28 states participated in rowing, canoeing, and

kayaking (24 gold medals). Demonstrations included shikara sprints and dragon boat races. Madhya Pradesh topped the medal tally with 10 golds.

**Question 114.** Who won the first gold medal at the Khelo India Water Sports Festival 2025?

- (a) Rajat Chauhan
- (b) Sita Devi
- (c) Mohsin Ali
- (d) Neha Kumari

**Answer:** (c) Mohsin Ali

**Why in News:** Mohsin Ali, a local shikarawalla from J&K, won the first gold.

**Detailed Answer:** He clinched gold in **1000m men's kayaking**, symbolizing local talent development and grassroots participation in water sports in J&K.

**Question 115.** The first famine in West Asia declared by the UN in 2025 was in:

- (a) Yemen
- (b) Syria
- (c) Gaza
- (d) Iraq

**Answer:** (c) Gaza

**Why in News:** UN declared famine in Gaza using IPC standards.

**Detailed Answer:** Nearly **5 lakh people (~20% of Gaza)** face catastrophic hunger. IPC thresholds breached include:  $\geq 20\%$  households deprived,  $> 30\%$  child malnutrition,  $\geq 2$  deaths/10,000/day. This famine, deemed **preventable**, worsens the Israel–Palestine conflict.

**Question 116.** India's first Smart and Intelligent Village is being developed in:

- (a) Raigad, Maharashtra
- (b) Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh
- (c) Satnavari, Nagpur district
- (d) Anand, Gujarat

**Answer:** (c) Satnavari, Nagpur district

**Why in News:** Maharashtra announced India's first such village in June 2025.

**Detailed Answer:** Satnavari will feature **AI-powered farming apps, drones, telemedicine, digital classrooms, IoT water monitoring, smart lighting, and surveillance**. Project supported by **VoICE consortium** of Indian telecom players.

**Question 117.** Under the Online Gaming Bill, 2025, offering banned money games can attract a fine of up to:

- (a) ₹50 lakh
- (b) ₹75 lakh
- (c) ₹1 crore
- (d) ₹2 crore

**Answer:** (c) ₹1 crore

**Why in News:** The Bill sets strict penalties.

**Detailed Answer:** Operators facilitating money games face **3 years imprisonment and/or ₹1 crore fine**, advertisers up to ₹50 lakh, and financial institutions enabling transfers up to ₹1 crore penalty.

**Question 118.** Which initiative launched by NHAI provides scholarships for children of toll plaza employees?

- (a) Shiksha Setu
- (b) Highway Vidya
- (c) Project Aarohan
- (d) Pathshala Pariyojana

**Answer:** (c) Project Aarohan

**Why in News:** Launched on **28 August 2025** by NHAI under Ministry of Road Transport.

**Detailed Answer:** Covers **500 students** (Class 11 to graduation) with **₹12,000/year** scholarships and **50 top PG aspirants** with **₹50,000 each**. Aims to remove financial barriers for toll employees' families and enhance equity in education.

**Question 119.** Kabak Yano from Arunachal Pradesh recently summited which peak, the highest in Europe?

- (a) Mount Blanc
- (b) Mount Everest (Europe side)
- (c) Mount Elbrus
- (d) Mount Ararat

**Answer:** (c) Mount Elbrus

**Why in News:** On **16 August 2025**, Kabak Yano summited Mount Elbrus, Russia.

**Detailed Answer:** At **18,510 ft**, Elbrus is the **highest peak in Europe** and one of the **Seven Summits**. The dormant stratovolcano lies in the Caucasus range. The feat was praised by Arunachal Governor Lt. Gen. K.T. Parnaik (Retd.), highlighting Indian mountaineering prowess.

**Question 120.** Which programme launched in 2025 is described as the world's largest tribal grassroots leadership initiative?

- (a) Janjatiya Pragati Abhiyan
- (b) Tribal Gram Vikas Mission
- (c) Aadi Karmayogi Abhiyan
- (d) Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana

**Answer:** (c) Aadi Karmayogi Abhiyan

**Why in News:** Launched on **19 August 2025** by Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

**Detailed Answer:** Aims to build **2 million tribal leaders** across **1 lakh tribal villages**, covering 20+ million stakeholders. It trains ASHAs, Anganwadi workers, PRI members, and volunteers for responsive governance and better service delivery.

**Question 121.** Which international body endorsed the “Correct the Map” campaign in August 2025?

- (a) United Nations
- (b) European Union
- (c) African Union (AU)
- (d) ASEAN

**Answer:** (c) African Union (AU)

**Why in News:** AU backed the campaign to replace the **Mercator projection** with the **Equal Earth projection**.

**Detailed Answer:** Mercator (16th century) distorts Africa’s size, showing Greenland as equal to Africa though Africa is 14× larger. The **Equal Earth projection (2018)** provides a fairer representation. The move corrects cartographic bias and supports accurate education and global policy.

**Question 122.** The SheLeads II workshop inaugurated in New Delhi (2025) focuses on:

- (a) Corporate leadership
- (b) Women’s political leadership
- (c) Military leadership
- (d) Grassroots social entrepreneurship

**Answer:** (b) Women’s political leadership

**Why in News:** Inaugurated on **9 August 2025** by Union WCD Minister Annpurna Devi.

**Detailed Answer:** Organized by **UN Women India**, SheLeads II builds capacity for women entering politics, especially after the **Women’s Reservation Act, 2023** mandated **33% reservation** in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies. Currently women hold only **14% seats** in Lok Sabha.

**Question 123.** Who inaugurated ‘Agnishodh’ Research Cell at IIT Madras?

- (a) Defence Minister Rajnath Singh
- (b) PM Narendra Modi
- (c) Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi
- (d) President of India

**Answer:** (c) Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi

**Why in News:** Inauguration of Indian Army Research Cell (IARC) named **Agnishodh** at IIT Madras.

**Detailed Answer:** It will connect military modernization with academic R&D. It focuses on **additive manufacturing, cybersecurity, quantum computing, wireless communication, and unmanned aerial systems**, aligned with “**Swadeshikaran Se Sashaktikaran**” vision.

**Question 124.** Which think tank launched the India Electric Mobility Index (IEMI) in August 2025?

- (a) CII
- (b) NASSCOM
- (c) NITI Aayog
- (d) TERI

**Answer:** (c) NITI Aayog

**Why in News:** India’s first tool to benchmark state EV adoption launched on **4 August 2025**.

**Detailed Answer:** IEMI evaluates states/UTs on **16 indicators under 3 themes**: transport electrification, charging infra, and innovation. Leaders: **Delhi, Maharashtra, Chandigarh** overall; Haryana, Karnataka, Ladakh excel in charging infra; Tamil Nadu, Telangana lead in EV innovation.

**Question 125.** The Kopili River (National Waterway-57), operationalised in 2025, is located in which state?

- (a) Meghalaya
- (b) West Bengal
- (c) Assam
- (d) Tripura

**Answer:** (c) Assam

**Why in News:** NW-57 became operational on **2 August 2025** with first cargo run.

**Detailed Answer:** Cargo vessel **MV VV Giri** carried 300 tonnes of cement over 300 km, combining **Kopili (46 km navigable stretch)** and **Brahmaputra (NW-2)**. This revival boosts trade

and inland waterways in Assam, raising operational waterways length to **1,168 km**.

**Question 126.** The Ministry of Petroleum launched which scheme in 2025 to provide safe resting spaces for truck drivers?

- (a) Sadak Suraksha Abhiyan
- (b) Apna Ghar
- (c) Highway Seva Sthal
- (d) Truck Sarthi

**Answer:** (b) Apna Ghar

**Why in News:** Launched by Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas in July 2025.

**Detailed Answer:** As of July 1, **368 Apna Ghar units** with **4,611 beds** set up at fuel outlets along highways. Facilities include **dormitories, dhabas, toilets, bathing areas, self-cooking space, clean water**, reducing fatigue and accidents.

**Question 127.** Which state's 'Erra Matti Dibbalu' red sand dunes have made it to the tentative list of UNESCO's Natural Heritage Site?

- (a) Kerala
- (b) Andhra Pradesh
- (c) Telangana
- (d) Tamil Nadu

**Answer – (b) Andhra Pradesh**

**Explanation –**

- The '**Erra Matti Dibbalu**', meaning *Red Sand Dunes*, are located near **Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh**.
- These sand dunes are **2,000 years old** and spread over nearly **20 sq. km.** area.
- They are considered a **geo-heritage site** by the Geological Survey of India (GSI).
- Due to their **unique geomorphological features**, they were included in the **tentative list of UNESCO's Natural Heritage Sites**.
- They act as natural barriers against coastal erosion and are rich in scientific, aesthetic, and ecological value.

**Question 128.** In the Women's Hockey Asia Cup 2025, India won:

- (a) Gold medal
- (b) Silver medal
- (c) Bronze medal
- (d) No medal

**Answer – (b) Silver medal**

**Explanation –**

India reached the final of the Women's Hockey Asia Cup 2025 but lost **4-1 to China** in the final match.

Thus, India finished as **runners-up**, which means they secured the **silver medal**.

**Question 129.** Which two countries recently claimed sovereignty over the disputed Scarborough Shoal?

- (a) Russia and Ukraine
- (b) Japan and China
- (c) China and Philippines
- (d) Japan and Russia

**Answer – (c) China and Philippines**

**Explanation –**

- The **Scarborough Shoal** (called *Huangyan Dao* by China and *Panatag Shoal* by the Philippines) is a **disputed territory in the South China Sea**, about 220 km west of Luzon (Philippines).
- Both **China and the Philippines** claim sovereignty over this shoal.
- The region is strategically significant because of its proximity to key shipping lanes and rich fishing grounds.
- Tensions have recently escalated as both nations have increased their maritime patrols, leading to diplomatic protests and confrontations.
- This dispute is part of the larger **South China Sea territorial conflict**, which also involves Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, and Taiwan in other areas.

**Question 130.** In September 2025, the International Conference on Gyan Bharatam was held in:

- (a) Varanasi
- (b) Bhopal
- (c) Bodh Gaya
- (d) New Delhi

**Answer – (d) New Delhi**

**Explanation –**

The "International Conference on Reclaiming India's Knowledge Legacy through Manuscript Heritage (Gyan Bharatam)" was organized from 11th to 13th September 2025 at **Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**.

- The event highlighted India's vast manuscript tradition and ancient knowledge systems.
- Scholars, researchers, and policymakers from India and abroad participated.
- It aimed to integrate traditional knowledge with modern research and showcase India's civilizational heritage on a global stage.

**Question 131.** India will host the 5th Coast Guard Global Summit (CGGS) in 2027 in:

- (a) Goa
- (b) Chennai
- (c) Visakhapatnam
- (d) Mumbai

**Answer – (b) Chennai**

**Explanation –**

- The decision to host the 5th Coast Guard Global Summit in **Chennai** in 2027 was taken unanimously during the 4th CGGS held in Rome.
- The summit is set to coincide with the **Golden Jubilee (50th anniversary)** of the Indian Coast Guard.
- Chennai is strategically significant for maritime security and hosts major naval/coast guard infrastructure in southern India, making it a suitable venue.

**Question 132.** The farmers of which three states have been granted license for cultivation of opium poppy for medical and scientific purposes?

- (a) Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh
- (b) Manipur, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha
- (c) Kerala, Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh
- (d) Uttar Pradesh, Manipur and Uttarakhand

**Answer – (a) Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh**

**Explanation –**

- In India, the cultivation of **opium poppy** is strictly regulated under the **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985**.
- Farmers are granted licenses only for **medical and scientific purposes**, primarily for the production of alkaloids like morphine, codeine, and thebaine used in pain relief and medicines.

- At present, licenses are issued only in **three states – Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh**.
- The **Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN), Gwalior** is the regulatory authority that monitors the entire process from cultivation to procurement.
- Recently, discussions on modernizing opium production through **concentrated poppy straw (CPS) technology** have been in news, but licensed cultivation still remains confined to these three states.

**Question 133.** With reference to 'Androth', consider the following statements:

1. It is an anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft
2. The name 'Androth' derived from an island of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer – (a) 1 only**

**Explanation –**

- **Statement 1 – Correct:** *INS Androth* is the second ship of the **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC)** project built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata for the Indian Navy. It is equipped to undertake anti-submarine operations in coastal waters and low-intensity maritime operations.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:** The ship is named after **Androth Island**, which belongs to the **Lakshadweep group of islands**, not the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- The naming of naval ships after Indian islands is part of the Navy's tradition to honor the country's maritime heritage.

**Question 134.** The Union Environment Ministry has approved the capture of eight tigers from the Tadoba-Andhari and Pench reserves for their

translocation to the:

- (a) Sahyadri Tiger Reserve
- (b) Melghat Tiger Reserve
- (c) Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve
- (d) Bor Tiger Reserve

**Answer – (a) Sahyadri Tiger Reserve**

**Explanation –**

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has given approval for translocating eight tigers (three males and five females) from Tadoba-Andhari and Pench Tiger Reserves to **Sahyadri Tiger Reserve** in Maharashtra.
- This effort aims to revive the tiger population and improve genetic diversity in the Sahyadri landscape, which currently has only male tigers and lacks breeding females.
- The translocation is to be carried out under strict veterinary supervision, with phased releases and monitoring to reduce stress and risks to the animals.

**Question 135.** Consider the following about Bridge No. 144 of Bairabi–Sairang railway line:

1. It is 144 metres tall.
2. It is taller than the Qutub Minar.
3. It is the tallest pier railway bridge in India.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer – (d) 1, 2 and 3**

**Explanation –**

- **Height:** Bridge No. 144, located on the **Bairabi–Sairang railway project in Mizoram**, has a pier of **144 metres**.
- **Comparison with Qutub Minar:** The **Qutub Minar** in Delhi is about **73 metres tall**, which means the bridge pier is **almost double its height**.
- **Tallest pier bridge:** This makes it the **tallest pier railway bridge in India**, surpassing previous records held by bridges in Jammu & Kashmir.

- The bridge is a major engineering marvel under the Northeast Frontier Railway, crucial for improving connectivity to Mizoram and linking Sairang (near Aizawl) with the Indian Railways network.

**Question 136.** Which mobile app was launched to help patients, visitors and internal staff find their way more easily within AIIMS hospital?

- (a) AIIMS Saathi
- (b) AIIMS Disha
- (c) AIIMS Mitra
- (d) AIIMS Guide

**Answer – (b) AIIMS Disha**

**Explanation –**

- The **All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi** launched the mobile app “**AIIMS Disha**” to provide **digital navigation support** inside the large hospital campus.
- The app helps **patients, visitors, and staff** to easily locate departments, wards, labs, OPDs, and other facilities.
- It works like an **indoor navigation system** using maps, QR codes, and building-wise guidance.
- This initiative is part of AIIMS’s efforts to improve **patient experience and hospital efficiency**, as navigating the vast AIIMS campus has always been a challenge for first-time visitors.
- The app also supports the government’s vision of **Digital Health Mission** by integrating technology into healthcare accessibility.

**Question 137.** Consider the following statements about Sushila Karki:

1. She was the first woman Chief Justice of Nepal.
2. She is the first woman Prime Minister of Nepal.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer – (c) 1 and 2 both**

**Explanation –**

- Statement 1: Sushila Karki became the **first woman Chief Justice of Nepal** (in 2016).
- Statement 2: In September 2025, following mass protests and political upheaval, she was appointed **interim Prime Minister**, making her **Nepal's first woman to head the government**.

**Question 138.** Recently, Chandrapuram Ponnusamy Radhakrishnan was sworn in as the:

- (a) 13th Vice President of India
- (b) 14th Vice President of India
- (c) 15th Vice President of India
- (d) 16th Vice President of India

**Answer – (c) 15th Vice President of India**

**Explanation –**

Chandrapuram Ponnusamy Radhakrishnan, often referred to as **C. P. Radhakrishnan**, was sworn in as India's **15th Vice President** on 12 September 2025.

He succeeded Jagdeep Dhankhar, who had resigned earlier.

**Question 139.** In India, the vulture population has declined by more than 95% since the 1990s mainly due to:

- (a) Hunting for feathers
- (b) Climate change
- (c) Use of diclofenac
- (d) Expansion of urban landfills

**Answer – (c) Use of diclofenac**

**Explanation –**

- India's vulture population has **crashed by over 95% since the mid-1990s**, one of the sharpest declines ever recorded for a bird species.
- The primary cause is the veterinary drug **diclofenac**, widely used to treat cattle.
- Vultures feeding on carcasses of treated cattle ingest the drug, which causes **kidney failure and visceral gout**, leading to mass deaths.
- This ecological crisis disrupted the natural carcass disposal system, leading to an increase in feral dogs and associated diseases like rabies.

- In response, the **Government of India banned veterinary use of diclofenac in 2006**, promoted safer alternatives like **meloxicam**, and launched the **Vulture Conservation and Breeding Programme** with centres in Pinjore (Haryana), Rajabhatkhawa (West Bengal), and Rani (Assam).

**Question 140.** Which of the following cities were recognized as Wetland Cities under the Ramsar Convention during the 2025 Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan Awards ceremony?

- (a) Indore and Jabalpur
- (b) Indore and Udaipur
- (c) Kodaikanal and Nainital
- (d) Kollam and Ooty

**Answer – (b) Indore and Udaipur**

**Explanation –**

- During the 2025 Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan Awards & Wetland Cities Recognition Ceremony, **Indore** and **Udaipur** were conferred the **Ramsar "Wetland City"** accreditation.
- Udaipur's recognition was widely reported, with sources noting that the city earned the Ramsar accreditation under the "Wetland Cities" scheme during that event.
- The award ceremony combined both **clean air (Swachh Vayu)** recognitions under NCAP and the **Wetland City** recognitions under the Ramsar Convention.

**Question 141.** With reference to DialogueNEXT in India, consider the following statements:

1. It was held in New Delhi.
2. It was held to discuss the future of the world's health.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer – (a) 1 only**

**Explanation –**

- Statement 1 is **correct**: DialogueNEXT India was organized at the **ICAR Convention Center, New Delhi** in September 2025.
- Statement 2 is **incorrect**: The event was not focused on *global health*, but rather on **agricultural innovation, food systems, and food security** under the theme “Take it to the Farmer.”

**Question 142.** To commemorate the birth centenary of which of the following personalities, the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) launched a unique cultural initiative titled “Bistirna Parore: A Musical Voyage from Sadiya to Dhubri”?

- (a) Lachit Borphukan
- (b) Gopinath Bordoloi
- (c) Bhupen Hazarika
- (d) Rabindranath Tagore

**Answer – (c) Bhupen Hazarika**

**Explanation –**

- The **Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)** launched the cultural initiative “**Bistirna Parore: A Musical Voyage from Sadiya to Dhubri**” in **2025** to commemorate the **birth centenary of Dr. Bhupen Hazarika** (1926–2011).
- Bhupen Hazarika, fondly called the “Bard of Brahmaputra,” was a legendary singer, lyricist, composer, and filmmaker from Assam.
- The name “*Bistirna Parore*” comes from one of his most iconic Assamese songs, symbolizing the cultural and emotional connect of the people with the Brahmaputra River.
- The voyage covered the stretch of the **National Waterway-2 (Brahmaputra River)** from **Sadiya (eastern Assam)** to **Dhubri (western Assam)**, showcasing Assam’s cultural richness and promoting river-based connectivity.
- The initiative highlighted how Bhupen Hazarika’s music continues to unite communities across Northeast India and beyond.

**Question 143.** Which state government recently launched the Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar

Yojana, under which one woman from every family in the state will be provided financial assistance to start a business of her choice?

- (a) Madhya Pradesh
- (b) Rajasthan
- (c) Bihar
- (d) Uttar Pradesh

**Answer – (c) Bihar**

**Explanation –**

- The *Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana* was launched by the Bihar government to provide financial assistance to one woman in every family in the state so that she can start an employment or livelihood activity of her choice.
- The scheme was formally launched with a direct bank transfer under the scheme to 75 lakh women in Bihar.

**Question 144.** In September 2025, the newly constructed Royal Bhutan Buddhist Temple was inaugurated at:

- (a) Vaishali
- (b) Bodhgaya
- (c) Varanasi
- (d) Rajgir

**Answer – (d) Rajgir**

**Explanation –**

- The **Royal Bhutan Buddhist Temple** was officially inaugurated on **4 September 2025** in **Rajgir, Bihar**.
- The ceremony was attended by Bhutan’s Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay and India’s Union Minister Kiren Rijiju, highlighting the cultural and religious ties between India and Bhutan.
- Rajgir is one of the ancient Buddhist pilgrimage sites, historically associated with the time of Gautama Buddha, making it a fitting location for such a temple.

**Question 145.** In September 2025, which country banned all the unregistered Social Media sites like Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram?

- (a) Pakistan
- (b) Bangladesh
- (c) Sri Lanka
- (d) Nepal

**Answer – (d) Nepal****Explanation –**

- In **September 2025**, the Government of **Nepal** announced a ban on all **unregistered social media platforms**, including Facebook, WhatsApp, and Instagram.
- The **Nepal Telecommunications Authority (NTA)** was directed to deactivate those platforms that had not registered with the government.
- Reports also highlighted that the decision triggered **widespread protests** across Nepal, as citizens viewed it as an attack on digital freedom.
- Internet governance observers like **Internet Society Pulse** also flagged concerns about restrictions on online freedom and potential impacts on Nepal's digital economy.

**Question 146.** Year 2025 marks the centenary of the:

- (a) Young Bengal Movement
- (b) Paramhansa Mandalis
- (c) Self-Respect Movement
- (d) Shree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam (SNDP) Movement

**Answer – (c) Self-Respect Movement****Explanation –**

- The **Self-Respect Movement** was launched in **1925** by E. V. Ramasamy ("Periyar") in Tamil Nadu to challenge caste hierarchies, promote rationalism, and assert social equality.
- Therefore, **2025** is the **centenary year (100 years)** of that movement.
- None of the other options—Young Bengal Movement, Paramhansa Mandalis, or SNDP Movement—are reported to have been founded in 1925.

**Question 147.** US President Donald Trump recently signed an executive order to rename the Department of Defense (DoD) as the:

- (a) Department of World Defense
- (b) Department of International Security
- (c) Department of War
- (d) Department of Peace

**Answer – (c) Department of War****Explanation –**

- On **6 September 2025**, U.S. President **Donald Trump** signed an executive order directing that the **Department of Defense (DoD)** be rebranded as the **Department of War**.
- The move restores the name the agency originally held until **1947**, before it was changed to DoD under the National Security Act amendments of 1949.
- According to the order, the renaming aims to "**project strength and resolve**," with Trump stating that "*Department of War conveys readiness and victory, unlike Department of Defense which emphasizes only defensive capabilities.*"
- The order designates **Pete Hegseth** (current Secretary of Defense) as the **Secretary of War**, with instructions to push for legislative approval to make the change permanent.
- The Pentagon's official website was also updated to **war.gov**, signaling the start of the transition.
- Supporters describe this as "restoring warrior ethos," while critics argue that it glorifies conflict rather than preventing wars.

**Question 148.** SARAS Aajeevika Mela-2025 was organised by:

- (a) Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- (b) Union Ministry of Culture
- (c) Union Ministry of Education
- (d) Union Ministry of Rural Development

**Answer – (d) Union Ministry of Rural Development****Explanation –**

- The **SARAS Aajeevika Mela** is a flagship event of the **Union Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)**, organised under the **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)**.
- It provides a national platform for **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)** from across India to showcase and sell their handicrafts,

handlooms, natural food products, and other rural innovations.

- The mela promotes **women empowerment, rural entrepreneurship, and sustainable livelihoods**.
- The 2025 edition continued the tradition of enabling direct market linkages for SHGs, thereby enhancing rural incomes and boosting the “**Vocal for Local**” initiative.

**Question 149.** India’s first vulture conservation portal was launched in:

- (a) Assam
- (b) Karnataka
- (c) Jharkhand
- (d) Uttarakhand

**Answer – (a) Assam**

**Explanation –**

- India’s first vulture conservation portal, named **The Vulture Network**, was launched in **Assam**.
- The portal was developed through a collaboration between **We Foundation India** and **Gauhati University’s Department of Zoology**.
- It is a cloud-based portal intended to serve as a **knowledge and awareness platform** for vultures of India, focusing especially on threats like carcass poisoning and harmful veterinary drugs.

**Question 150.** The Ramon Magsaysay Award is given for:

- (a) Contributions to global peacekeeping
- (b) Greatness of spirit and transformative leadership in Asia
- (c) Achievements in nuclear science
- (d) Innovation in technology startups

**Answer: (b)**

**Why in News:** The 2025 edition included India’s **Educate Girls** as a winner.

**Explanation:** Since **1958**, over **300 awardees** have been honoured for transformative leadership in Asia. It is considered the **highest Asian award**, akin to the Nobel in prestige.