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Test Booklet Series

TEST BOOKLET

C

GENERAL STUDIES (P) 2026 – Test – 6326

Time Allowed: Two Hours

Maximum Marks: 200

INSTRUCTIONS

1. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE EXAMINATION, YOU SHOULD CHECK THAT THIS BOOKLET DOES **NOT** HAVE ANY UNPRINTED OR TURN OR MISSING PAGES OR ITEMS, ETC. IF SO, GET IT REPLACED BY A COMPLETE TEST BOOKLET.
2. ENCODE CLEARLY THE TEST BOOKLET SERIES **A, B, C OR D** AS THE CASE MAY BE IN THE APPROPRIATE PLACE IN THE ANSWER SHEET.
3. You have to enter your Roll Number on the Test Booklet in the Box provided alongside. **Do NOT** write anything else on the Test Booklet.
4. This Test Booklet contains **100** items (Questions). Each item is printed in **English**. Each item comprises four responses (answers). You will select the response which you want to mark on the Answer Sheet. In case you feel that there is more than one correct response with you consider the best. In any case, choose **ONLY ONE** response for each item.
5. You have to mark all your responses **ONLY** on the separate Answer Sheet provided. See direction in the answers sheet.
6. All items carry equal marks. Attempt all items. Your total marks will depend only on the number of **correct responses** marked by you in the answer sheet. For **every incorrect** response **1/3rd of the allotted marks** will be deducted.
7. Before you proceed to mark in the Answer sheet the response to various items in the Test booklet, you have to fill in some particulars in the answer sheets as per instruction sent to you with your Admission Certificate.
8. After you have completed filling in all responses on the answer sheet and the examination has concluded, you should hand over to Invigilator only the answer sheet. You are permitted to take away with you the Test Booklet.
9. Sheet for rough work are appended in the Test Booklet at the end.

DO NOT OPEN THIS BOOKLET UNTIL YOU ARE ASKED TO DO SO

- 1.** Which of the following statements is *not* correct about racial groups of India?
- There is no race in India which is completely pure.
 - The Mediterranean and the Nordic races constitute the tribal population.
 - People of Mongoloid racial ancestry are mainly found in North-Eastern India.
 - The Proto-Australoid is also known as the Pre-Dravidian race.
- 2.** 'This crop grows well in tropical and sub-tropical climates endowed with fertile well-drained soil. It requires warm and moist frost free climate all through the year. Regular pruning is required for its high yield.' Which of the following crop is described in the above passage?
- Coffee
 - Tea
 - Cotton
 - Jute
- 3.** Consider the following statements:
- | <i>Crop</i> | <i>Largest Producer</i> |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Cotton | : Brazil |
| 2. Rice | : India |
| 3. Wheat | : China |
- How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?
- Only one
 - Only two
 - All three
 - None
- 4.** Consider the following urban settlement types:
- City
 - Town
 - Megalopolis
 - Conurbation
- Arrange the above in the ascending order of size.
- 1-2-3-4
 - 4-3-2-1
 - 2-1-4-3
 - 2-1-3-4
- 5.** Consider the following statements with respect to tribal population of India:
- Nagaland has the highest number of Scheduled Tribes population in India.
 - As per census 2011, over two-thirds of the tribal population is working in the primary sector.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
- 6.** Consider the following statements:
- In Transhumance, herders migrate between two areas where they establish permanent villages.
 - Marginal grasslands are not suitable for livestock rearing because of limited resources.
 - Livestock systems, including grazing land and land used to grow feed crops, occupy approximately 30% of the Earth's ice-free terrestrial surface area.
- Which of the statements given above is/are *not* correct?
- 2 only
 - 2 and 3 only
 - 3 only
 - 1 and 3 only
- 7.** Consider the following pairs:
- | <i>Integrated Steel Plant</i> | <i>Located on River Bank</i> |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Rourkela | Damodar |
| 2. Durgapur | Subarnarekha |
| 3. Bhilai | Sheonath |
- Which of the pairs given above are *not* correctly matched?
- 1 and 2 only
 - 2 and 3 only
 - 1 and 3 only
 - 1, 2 and 3

8. With reference to Rabi crops in India, consider the following statements:
- They are sown after the monsoon rains, typically between October and December.
 - The major Rabi crops include wheat, barley, mustard, and Linseed.
 - They require high temperature and high humidity for germination and growth.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 and 2 only
 - 2 and 3 only
 - 1 only
 - 1, 2 and 3
9. Lake Victoria was recently in the news following reports of massive fish die-offs. It is bordered by which of the following countries?
- Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania
 - Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi
 - Uganda, Cameroon, Zambia
 - Kenya, Uganda, Democratic Republic of the Congo
10. Consider the following:
- China
 - India
 - Mexico
 - Russia
 - Ukraine
- Arrange the above according to the descending order of the largest number of emigrants.
- 2-3-4-1-5
 - 1-2-5-4-3
 - 2-1-5-4-3
 - 2-1-3-5-4
11. With reference to the Sex ratio (as per 2011 Census), consider the following statements:
- Sex-ratio in India as per 2011 Census is 960 females per 1000 males.
 - Only 5 states of India have a sex ratio above the national average.
 - India's urban sex-ratio is higher than rural sex-ratio.
- How many of the statements given above are correct?
- Only one
 - Only two
 - All three
 - None
12. What is the SAKSHAM system, sometimes mentioned in news related to the Indian Army?
- India's indigenous anti-missile defence system
 - A counter-drone system developed for real-time battlefield awareness
 - India's cyber security framework for the armed forces
 - A surveillance satellite network for border monitoring
13. Consider the following statements regarding the racial groups of India:
- Gonds and Oraons of Central India speak languages belonging to the Dravidian Language family.
 - The Onge and Sentinelese of the Andaman Islands are part of Proto-Australoid group.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2

14. Consider the following oilseed crops:

1. Niger
2. Linseed
3. Castor
4. Safflower

How many of the above are generally used for the production of edible oil?

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

15. Consider the following statements:

1. China is the largest producer of zinc.
2. Chile is the largest producer of copper.
3. Russia is the largest producer of manganese.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

16. Consider the following pairs:

Geographical Site in the News	Location
--------------------------------------	-----------------

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Namchik-Namphuk | : Arunachal Pradesh |
| 2. Campi Flegrei Volcano | : Greece |
| 3. Coco Islands | : Myanmar |

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

17. Consider the following pairs:

Crop	Suitable conditions to cultivate
-------------	---

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 1. Rice | : High temperature and high humidity |
| 2. Wheat | : Cool growing season and bright sunshine during ripening stage |
| 3. Maize | : Temperature in the range of 21 ⁰ c - 27 ⁰ c and old alluvial soil |

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

18. Arrange the following LNG terminals in India from north to south:

1. Mundra
2. Kochi
3. Ennore
4. Hazira

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 4 – 1 – 3 – 2
- (b) 1 – 4 – 3 – 2
- (c) 1 – 4 – 2 – 3
- (d) 4 – 3 – 1 – 2

19. They are one of the few remaining uncontacted and nomadic forest-dwelling tribes living in voluntary isolation within the dense tropical forests of the Amazon basin in southeastern Peru. Traditionally hunter-gatherers, they depend on wild fruits, fish, and small game, avoiding sustained contact with the outside world.

Which of the following tribes is being described in the passage above?

- (a) Apatani
- (b) Mashco-Piro
- (c) Maasai
- (d) Uros

- 20.** Which of the following countries are the largest exporters of uranium in the world?
- United States and Canada
 - Canada and Kazakhstan
 - Kazakhstan and Australia
 - Australia and Russia
- 21.** Consider the following minerals:
- Hematite
 - Magnetite
 - Rutile
 - Ilmenite
- How many of the above are Oxide minerals?
- Only one
 - Only two
 - Only three
 - All four
- 22.** Consider the following pairs:
- | Thermal Power Station | State |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. VindhyaChal Thermal Power Station | : Gujarat |
| 2. Sasan Ultra Mega Power Plant | : Madhya Pradesh |
| 3. Rihand Thermal Power Station | : Uttar Pradesh |
- How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?
- Only one
 - Only two
 - All three
 - None
- 23.** Consider the following pairs:
- | Hydroelectric Project in News | Region |
|--|-------------------|
| 1. Kiru Hydroelectric Project | Karnataka |
| 2. Naying Hydro Power | Assam |
| 3. Subansiri Upper Hydroelectric Project | Arunachal Pradesh |
- How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?
- Only one
 - Only two
 - All three
 - None
- 24.** Consider the following pairs:
- | Major iron ore producing region | Country |
|--|----------------|
| 1. Kuzbas | : Russia |
| 2. Pilbara | : Australia |
| 3. Orinoco valley | : Venezuela |
| 4. Mesabi | : Mexico |
- How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?
- Only one
 - Only two
 - Only three
 - All four
- 25.** Ports which are used as collection centres where the goods are brought from different countries for export are known as:
- Ferry ports
 - Entrepot ports
 - Out ports
 - Ports of calls
- 26.** Which one of the following is the correct description of the "Frontier 50 Initiative" launched by NITI Aayog recently?
- It is an initiative to support 50 Aspirational Districts/Blocks to deploy frontier technologies and accelerate service delivery.
 - It is a project to establish 50 digital universities and innovation labs.
 - It is an initiative to establish 50 industrial clusters in metro cities, focused on export-oriented manufacturing.
 - It is a project to establish 50 Mega Food Parks across India.

- 27.** Which of the following countries are part of the Pacific Island Countries group?
- Solomon Islands
 - Samoa
 - Tuvalu
 - Papua New Guinea
- Select the correct answer using the code given below.
- 1 and 2 only
 - 1, 2 and 3
 - 2, 3 and 4
 - 1, 2, 3 and 4
- 28.** Recently, the Indian Army has awarded a contract for the development and supply of 'Anant Shastra'. It is a
- Air defence system
 - Torpedo
 - Mobile missile launcher
 - Tanks
- 29.** "It is one of the major oilseeds predominantly grown in the northern belt of India but can also be grown in a wide range of agro-climatic conditions. It is a rabi crop. The oil content in it is around 40%. It has a pungent flavour and is often used as a spice in the varied Indian cuisine"
- Which of the following crops is being described above?
- Flaxseed
 - Sesame Seed
 - Mustard
 - Groundnut
- 30.** Recently, the Defence Minister inaugurated India's first overseas defence manufacturing plant. In which country was this plant set-up?
- Mauritius
 - Maldives
 - Morocco
 - Chad
- 31.** In the context of human geography, *Sherms* and *Wurlies* are:
- local winds providing relief from extreme weather conditions.
 - tea varieties cultivated across the world.
 - milk yielding buffalo varieties.
 - places of shelters made by tribes.
- 32.** Consider the following statements:
- Gold occurs as a placer deposit in alluvial plains.
 - Gypsum is formed as a result of evaporation in arid regions.
 - Bauxite is formed as a result of residual mass weathering.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- 1 and 2 only
 - 2 and 3 only
 - 1 and 3 only
 - 1, 2 and 3
- 33.** Consider the following:
- Rotation of the tillable field
 - Cultivation of crops such as maize and yam
 - Large land size
 - Labor-intensive farm of agriculture
- How many of the above are characteristics of Primitive Subsistence Farming?
- Only one
 - Only two
 - Only three
 - All four
- 34.** Consider the following diamond mines:
- Jwaneng
 - Aikhal
 - Udachny
 - Ekati
- How many of the above diamond mines are located in Asia?
- Only one
 - Only two
 - Only three
 - All four

- 35.** Consider the following statements with respect to Polymetallic nodules:
1. Manganese is the major constituent of Polymetallic nodules.
 2. Nodule formation requires very high rate of sedimentation.
 3. The Central Indian Ocean Basin is known for the presence of polymetallic nodules.
- How many of the above statements are correct?
- (a) Only one
 - (b) Only two
 - (c) All three
 - (d) None
- 36.** 'Vikram3201' recently seen in the news is a/an
- (a) India's first indigenous rocket launcher
 - (b) India's first fully indigenous 32-bit microprocessor
 - (c) India's first cryptocurrency
 - (d) India's first mission to Arctic
- 37.** Consider the following statements:
 Statement-I: World Food Day is celebrated in the month of October every year.
 Statement-II: The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization was founded on the same day in 1945.
 Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?
 - (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
 - (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
 - (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
 - (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct
- 38.** Areas having more than 1000 person per square kilometer is termed as areas of very high population density. Which among the following State/UTs of India is having very high population density?
1. West Bengal
 2. Delhi
 3. Odisha
 4. Lakshadweep
 5. Andaman and Nicobar
- Select the correct answer using the code given below.
- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only
 - (b) 1, 2 and 5 only
 - (c) 1, 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 2, 3 and 5 only
- 39.** Consider the following statements:
1. Rainfall is required during tobacco crop maturity.
 2. Tobacco requires a frost-free period of 100 to 130 days from date of transplanting to maturity.
 3. The Tobacco Board is a statutory body headquartered in Guntur.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 2 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1 and 2 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
- 40.** As per the 2011 census, which of the following is the correct sequence of the given religious groups in the decreasing order of their composition?
- (a) Muslims-Christians-Sikhs-Buddhists
 - (b) Muslims- Christians -Buddhists-Sikhs
 - (c) Sikhs-Muslims-Buddhists- Christians
 - (d) Muslims-Sikhs-Christians-Buddhists

41. Consider the following statements regarding the 62nd National Chess Championship, 2025:

1. The tournament was held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
2. The championship was won by Grandmaster P Iniyan of Tamil Nadu.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

42. Consider the following statements:

1. Madhya Pradesh has the largest population of Scheduled Tribes in India.
2. The Khond (Kondh) tribe constitutes the largest tribal community in India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

43. Consider the following pairs:

Settlement	Description
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1. Triangular : developed where the two rivers merged
2. Terraced : developed in plain area
3. Circular : formed around the lake or rivers

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

44. Consider the following pairs:

Dam	River
1. Nagarjuna Sagar Dam :	Kaveri
2. Sardar Sarovar Dam :	Narmada
3. Baglihar :	Indus

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

45. Consider the following statements regarding Footloose industries:

Statement-I: They can be located in various places.

Statement-II: These tend to have minimal environmental impact and are not significant polluters.

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

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

46. Consider the following pairs:

Town	Types
1. Jharia	: Mining town
2. Ambala	: Garrison town
3. Coimbatore	: Industrial town

How many of the given pairs are **not** correctly matched?

- (a) One pair only
- (b) Two pairs only
- (c) All three pairs
- (d) None of the pairs

- 47.** Consider the following statements:
- Statement I: The eastern coast of India is more suitable for natural port development compared to the western coast.
- Statement II: The eastern coast of India is primarily an example of an emergent coast, formed mainly by depositional processes.
- Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?
- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
 - Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
 - Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
 - Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct
- 48.** Sirhind Canal and Sharda Canal are situated in the states of
- Punjab and Uttar Pradesh respectively
 - Punjab and Madhya Pradesh respectively
 - Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh respectively
 - Haryana and Uttarakhand respectively
- 49.** Which one of the following periods is represented as the period of slow urban growth in India?
- 1881-1931
 - 1931-1961
 - 1901-1931
 - 1961-2011

- 50.** Consider the following pairs:
- | <i>Grouping</i> | <i>Country</i> |
|------------------------|----------------|
| (part of the grouping) | |
| 1. Nordic Region | : Sweden |
| 2. Med 9 Group | : Greece |
| 3. Caucasus Region | : Armenia |
- How many of the above pairs are collectively matched?
- Only one
 - Only two
 - All three
 - None
- 51.** Which of the following best describes the geographical nature of Sir Creek?
- A landlocked freshwater lake in the Gujarat-Sindh border region.
 - A narrow, deep gorge separating two tectonic plates.
 - A tidal estuary in a marshy delta region.
 - A man-made canal connecting the Indus River to the Arabian Sea.
- 52.** Consider the following pairs:
- | <i>Tunnel</i> | <i>State / UT</i> |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Tunnel | |
| Atal Tunnel | : Himachal Pradesh |
| Sela Tunnel | : Jammu & Kashmir |
| Z-Morh Tunnel | : Arunachal Pradesh |
- How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?
- Only one pair
 - Only two pairs
 - Only three pairs
 - All four pairs

53. The terms 'barnyard', 'kodo', 'proso' are often seen in the news. What are they?
- high yielding rice varieties
 - millet species
 - insect pests of cotton
 - eco friendly farming practices

54. Consider the following statements with respect to literacy rate in India (2011 census):

- At the national level, male-female literacy gap is more than 20%.
- Among all the U.Ts, Chandigarh has a higher male literacy rate.
- Literacy rate of Scheduled Tribes (STs) is below the overall literacy rate at all India level.

How many statements given above are correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

55. With reference to 'Exercise Samudra Shakti-2025', consider the following statements:

- This was a joint naval exercise between India and Sri Lanka.
- It was held in Visakhapatnam, India.
- The objective was to enhance interoperability and mutual cooperation between the two navies.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

56. Consider the following pairs:

Renewable Energy	Leading Producer
-------------------------	-------------------------

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| 1. Geothermal : | India |
| 2. Wind : | Germany |
| 3. Tidal : | South Korea |

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3
- 3 only

57. Consider the following statements with reference to the 'Women and Men in India 2024' Report :

- According to the report, the sex ratio in urban areas has surpassed that of rural areas.
- While Bihar has the largest gap in gender literacy rate, Kerala has the smallest.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

58. Consider the following rows:

City	Region	Characteristic
1. Lagos	West Africa	One of the world's fastest-growing megacities
2. Sao Paulo	North America	Major port city on the Atlantic coast
3. Cairo	North Africa	Situated on a river delta

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

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

- 59.** Which of the following regions is known for the world's largest continuous urban settlement belt (Megalopolis) in terms of population?
- (a) Tokyo–Osaka–Nagoya (Japan)
 - (b) London–Liverpool–Manchester
 - (c) Ruhr–Rhine–Rotterdam (Europe)
 - (d) Mumbai–Pune–Ahmedabad (India)
- 60.** Consider the following statements with respect to tribal population of India:
1. Odisha has the largest population of scheduled tribes in India.
 2. As per the Census 2011, the tribal population is more than 15 % of the total population of India.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
- 61.** Recently, the world's first 'Virtual Museum of Stolen Cultural Objects' was launched by:
- (a) World Intellectual Property Organization
 - (b) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
 - (c) World Customs Organization
 - (d) International Council of Museums
- 62.** Consider the following pairs:
- | National | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Waterway | Stretch |
| (NW) | |
| 1. NW-1 | : Allahabad – Haldia |
| 2. NW-2 | : Sadiya – Dhubri |
| 3. NW-3 | : Kakinada – Puducherry |
- How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?
- (a) Only one
 - (b) Only two
 - (c) All three
 - (d) None
- 63.** "Sett Method" and "Ratooning" are methods of propagation of which of the following crops?
- (a) Wheat
 - (b) Rice
 - (c) Sugarcane
 - (d) Cotton
- 64.** Match the following 2025 Nobel Prizes with their key contributions:
- | Prize | Key Contribution |
|---------------------------|--|
| Category | |
| 1. Physics | : Discovery of macroscopic quantum mechanical tunnelling |
| 2. Chemistry | : Development of metal–organic frameworks (MOFs) |
| 3. Physiology or Medicine | : Discovery of microRNA and its role in post-transcriptional gene regulation |
- How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?
- (a) Only one
 - (b) Only two
 - (c) All three
 - (d) None

65. With reference to India's projects on connectivity, consider the following statements :

1. The Kokrajhar-Gelephu rail project aims to connect Assam in India with Gelephu region in Nepal.
2. The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transport Project seeks to connect India's North-East with Myanmar.
3. The International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) is a multi-modal transport network connecting India with Russia and Europe.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

66. The Hazira-Vijaipur-Jagdishpur (HVJ) Natural Gas Pipeline passes through how many of the following states?

1. Gujarat
2. Maharashtra
3. Madhya Pradesh
4. Uttar Pradesh
5. Chhattisgarh

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

67. With reference to the sectors of the Indian economy, consider the following pairs :

Economic Activity	Sector
1. Mineral exploration	: Tertiary
2. Oil refining	: Secondary
3. Sericulture	: Primary
4. Weaving cloth	: Tertiary

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

68. Consider the following states :

1. Meghalaya
2. Manipur
3. Bihar

How many States have achieved a replacement level of fertility (Total Fertility Rate TFR 2.1) ?

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

69. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The Ministry of Earth Sciences has classified all types of limestone as major minerals.

Statement-II: The reclassification is expected to create a more favorable environment for private investment in the exploration and extraction of limestone.

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

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct but Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

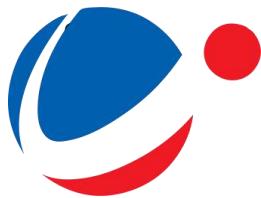
- 70.** Arrange the following language family groups in the decreasing order of their percentage speakers in India:
1. Austric
 2. Dravidian
 3. Sino-Tibetan
 4. Indo-European
- Select the correct answer using the code given below.
- (a) 1-4-2-3
 - (b) 4-2-1-3
 - (c) 1-2-3-4
 - (d) 4-2-3-1
- 71.** The Carajas, Kiruna, and Krivoy Rog mines are famous for the extraction of which of the following minerals?
- (a) Iron ore
 - (b) coal
 - (c) bauxite
 - (d) gold
- 72.** Consider the following Horticulture crop:
1. Banana
 2. Apple
 3. Papaya
 4. Mango
- In which of the above crops India is the largest producer in the world?
- (a) 1, 3 and 4 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 2 and 4 only
 - (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- 73.** Consider the following regions of the world:
1. Western China
 2. East Asia
 3. Southern India
 4. North-Eastern U.S.A.
- Which of the above are among the world's most densely populated regions?
- (a) 2 and 4 only
 - (b) 1 and 3 only
 - (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
 - (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- 74.** Consider the following sites:
1. Visakhapatnam
 2. Mangaluru
 3. Padur
- How many of the above are current sites of India's Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPRs)?
- (a) Only one
 - (b) Only two
 - (c) All three
 - (d) None
- 75.** Consider the following pairs:
- | <i>City</i> | <i>Country</i> |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. Maputo | Mozambique |
| 2. Chopan-ata | Kyrgyzstan |
| 3. Tbilisi | Georgia |
- How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?
- (a) Only one
 - (b) Only two
 - (c) All three
 - (d) None
- 76.** In terms of rice production, arrange the following states in decreasing order:
1. Punjab
 2. Uttar Pradesh
 3. West Bengal
 4. Telangana
- Select the correct answer using the code given below.
- (a) 2-4-1-3
 - (b) 4-1-2-3
 - (c) 4-2-3-1
 - (d) 2-1-4-3

- 77.** Consider the following:
- Gangetic plain
 - Krishna-Godavari Basin
 - Damodar
 - Arakan Basin
- How many of the following regions of India are known for shale gas resources?
- Only one
 - Only two
 - Only three
 - All four
- 78.** ‘Aus’, ‘Aman’ and ‘Boro’ are terms used to denote which of the following?
- These are varieties of fortified pulses developed to overcome nutritional deficiencies in children.
 - These are high yielding varieties of wheat used in green revolution.
 - They are names of local winds in north eastern region during pre monsoon period.
 - These are crops of rice grown by farmers in West Bengal.
- 79.** Consider the following with respect to rural settlements in India:
- Y-shaped settlements emerge at the places where two roads converge on the third one and houses are built along roads.
 - Radial pattern develops at a place where a number of roads and streets coming from different directions converge at a site.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
- 80.** Which of the following statements is correct about the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)?
- They are mainly concentrated in Andaman Nicobar Islands and north-Eastern India.
 - Uttar Pradesh has no tribes under PVTG category.
 - Population density is one of the criteria for identification of PVTGs.
 - They were created as a separate category by Dhebar Commission.
- 81.** Consider the following pairs:
- | Region often mentioned | Location in news |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Thitu Island | : South China Sea |
| 2. Madagascar | : Indian Ocean |
| 3. Barbados | : Pacific Ocean |
- How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?
- Only one
 - Only two
 - All three
 - None
- 82.** The term ‘CAFE norms’, sometimes seen in the news, refers to
- Standards for food safety in highway eateries
 - Regulations that set corporate average fuel efficiency/CO₂ limits for vehicle manufacturers
 - Guidelines for emission control in thermal power plants
 - Rules for energy labelling of household appliances

83. Consider the following statements:
- Recently, Cyclone Shakti intensified over the Arabian Sea region.
 - Cyclone ‘Shakti’ was named by Sri Lanka under the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
84. Which of the following pairs is *not* correct with respect to important dams around the globe and respective rivers on which they are built?
- Three Gorges dam: Yangtze river
 - Hoover dam: Colorado river
 - Kariba dam: Nile river
 - Hirakud dam: Mahanadi river
85. How many of the following activities are covered under the Green Credit program?
- Tree Plantation
 - Water Management
 - Sustainable Agriculture
 - Waste Management
 - Mangrove Conservation and Restoration
- Select the correct answer using the code given below.
- Only two
 - Only three
 - Only four
 - All five
86. Arrange the following energy sources in India based on their contribution to total installed energy generation capacity, from highest to lowest:
- Coal > Solar > Hydropower > Wind
 - Solar > Natural Gas > Small Hydropower > Wind
 - Wind > Small Hydropower > Natural > Gas biomass
 - Coal > Solar > Wind > Hydropower
87. Which of the following best describes the core mandate of the recently launched PM-SETU scheme?
- Sanctioning new funds for the establishment of skill development centers exclusively for women
 - Modernizing government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) to match contemporary industrial standards.
 - Providing financial support to struggling small-scale industries
 - Enrolling students from financially weaker backgrounds into foreign technical universities.
88. Consider the following statements:
- More than two-thirds of the total cropped area is devoted to the cultivation of food crops
 - The area under rice cultivation is greater than the area under wheat cultivation.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2

- 89.** Consider the following statements with respect to child sex ratio:
1. The child sex ratio is defined as the number of females per 1000 males in the age group 0–4 years.
 2. The child sex ratio slightly improved between 1991 and 2011.
 3. As per the census 2011, among the Indian states Arunachal Pradesh has the highest child sex ratio.
- How many of the statements given above are correct?
- (a) Only one
 - (b) Only two
 - (c) All three
 - (d) None
- 90.** Consider the following pairs:
- | Tribe | Region |
|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. Kirghiz | Central Asia |
| 2. Bushmen | Kalahari Desert |
| 3. Bedouin | Arabian Desert |
- How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?
- (a) Only one
 - (b) Only two
 - (c) All three
 - (d) None
- 91.** What does the term “Algaculture,” sometimes seen in the news, refer to?
- (a) A traditional marine fishing practice involving the rearing of mollusks and crustaceans in coastal lagoons.
 - (b) The breeding of microorganisms such as bacteria and fungi for use in antibiotic production.
 - (c) The commercial cultivation of algae for use in food, biofuels, pharmaceuticals, and carbon capture applications.
 - (d) The process of restoring degraded coral reefs through transplantation of coral polyps.
- 92.** In this rural settlement pattern villages grow at a sharp bend of a meandering river or a lake and the main concentration of houses is along the roads. In India, such settlements are found around the Chilka lake and at the bank of Burhi Gandak in Bihar.
- The above mentioned passage refers to which one of the following rural settlements pattern?
- (a) Arrow
 - (b) T-Shape
 - (c) Checkerboard
 - (d) Nebular
- 93.** Recently, the Ministry of AYUSH launched the SPARK 4.0 initiative with the primary objective to:
- (a) Enhance research aptitude among undergraduate Ayurveda students
 - (b) Establish additional Ayurveda-based healthcare institutions across the country
 - (c) Promote large-scale commercial export of Ayurvedic medicines
 - (d) Promote Ayurveda-based luxury wellness tourism
- 94.** Consider the following statements with respect to Population density in India as per Census 2011:
1. Density of Population is defined as the number of people per square kilometer.
 2. As per census 2011, Bihar is the most densely populated state of India.
 3. As per census 2011, Arunachal Pradesh is the least densely populated state in India.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 1, 2 and 3
 - (c) 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 2 only

- 95.** Consider the following statements:
Statement :The period from 1901-1921 is referred to as a period of stagnant phase of population growth in India.
Statement :Inefficient distribution system of food and other basic necessities were largely responsible for a high birth and death rates in 1901-1921 period.
Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?
(a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation for Statement I.
(b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II is not the correct explanation for Statement I.
(c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
(d) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.
- 96.** Arrange the following lakes from south to north:
1. Chandra Taal Lake
2. Pichola Lake
3. Ashtamudi lake
4. Bhojtal Lake
Select the correct answer using the code given below.
(a) 1-2-3-4
(b) 3-4-2-1
(c) 4-1-2-3
(d) 3-2-1-4
- 97.** Which among the following Census of India became the first census that systematically tracked internal migration by collecting data on people's last place of residence, providing crucial insights into India's population movement patterns?
(a) Census of 2011
(b) Census of 1971
(c) Census of 1981
(d) Census of 2001
- 98.** Arrange the following land in decreasing order of land use in India:
1. Forests
2. Cultivation land
3. Permanent Pastures and Grazing Lands
4. Barren and Unculturable Land
Select the correct answer using the code given below.
(a) 2-1-3-4
(b) 3-4-2-1
(c) 2-1-4-3
(d) 3-2-1-4
- 99.** Consider the following states:
1. West Bengal
2. Himachal Pradesh
3. Tripura
4. Mizoram
How many of the above states do *not* have Census towns?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four
- 100.** Which of the following are examples of Iron ore?
1. Haematite
2. Siderite
3. Limonite
4. Bauxite
Select the correct answer using the code given below.
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four



ANSWERS & EXPLANATIONS GENERAL STUDIES (P) TEST – 6326 (2026)

Q 1.B

- Indian population is constituted of major races of the world. The ancestors of the majority of present population have migrated to India from surrounding territories across the Himalayas. All the races in India, over the past centuries, have got mixed up with one another due to intermarriages. **As such, now there is no race in India which is completely pure.**
- The present population of the Indian subcontinent can be divided into five racial groups- the Negritos, Western Brachycephals, the Proto-Australoids, the Mongoloids, and the Mediterraneans. The Negritos were the first of the racial groups that came to India.
- **The Proto-Austroloid is also known as the Pre-Dravidian race.** Dr. Guha says that the tribal population of central India is fairly dominated by this racial element. The Santhals, the Mundas, the Juangas, the Soaras, the Kondhs are some of the many tribes belonging to this racial type.
- The Mediterranean race is one of the dominated race in India. Mediterranean is divided into three types. They are (a) Palaeo-Mediterranean (b) Mediterranean, (c) Oriental.
 - The Palaeo-Mediterranean: This racial type is represented by the Tamil and Telugu Brahmins of the South.
 - The Mediterranean: People of this racial type are believed to be the builders of the Indus valley civilization.
 - Oriental: Oriental type is very much similar to the Mediterranean type.
- People of Nordic racial origin came to India from the North and South-East Asia spread all over Northern India during the 2nd millennium B.C. This race is mainly found in North India in a mixed form with the Mediterranean race. The people of this stock are believed to have greatly enriched Indian culture.
- **People of Mongoloid racial ancestry are mainly found in North-Eastern India.**
- The three races such as the Negrito, the Proto-Austroloid and the Mongoloid constitute the tribal population. **The other three, namely the Mediterranean, the Western Brachycephals and the Nordic races constitute the general population of India.**
- **People of Mongoloid racial ancestry are mainly found in North-Eastern India. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The three races such as the Negrito, the Proto-Austroloid and the Mongoloid constitute the tribal population. The other three, namely the Mediterranean, the Western Brachycephals and the Nordic races constitute the general population of India.

Q 2.B

- **Tea cultivation** is an example of plantation agriculture. The tea plant grows well in **tropical and sub-tropical climates endowed with deep and fertile well-drained soil, rich in humus and organic matter. Tea bushes require warm and moist frost-free climate all through the year.** Frequent showers evenly distributed over the year ensure continuous growth of tender leaves. Tea is a labour-intensive industry. It requires abundant, cheap and skilled labour. Tea is processed within the tea garden to restore its freshness.
- **Pruning** is needed for tea cultivation to maintain a manageable height for harvesting, **stimulate new growth of tender leaves**, and remove dead or unhealthy wood, which ultimately **increases yield and improves bush health.**
- **Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.**

Q 3.B

- **Cotton:** Cotton is one of the main raw materials for cotton textile industry. Cotton grows well in drier parts of the black cotton soil of the Deccan plateau. It requires high temperature, light rainfall or irrigation, 210 frost-free days and bright sun-shine for its growth. It is a kharif crop and requires 6 to 8 months to mature. **India is second largest producer of cotton after China. In 2024/2025, China produced 32 million bales (27%), India 24 million (20%), and Brazil 17 million (14%) of global cotton production.** Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.
- **Rice:** It is a kharif crop which requires high temperature, (above 25°C) and high humidity with annual rainfall above 100 cm. In the areas of less rainfall, it grows with the help of irrigation. **India is the largest producer** of rice, with a projected production of 150 million metric tons for the 2024/2025 season. **China is the second-largest producer, followed by Bangladesh, Indonesia, and Vietnam.** Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.
- **Wheat:** This rabi crop requires a cool growing season and a bright sunshine at the time of ripening. It requires 50 to 75 cm of annual rainfall evenly-distributed over the growing season. **China is the largest producer (17%) of world production) of wheat followed by EU(15%), (14%), and Russia(10%).** Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.

Q 4.C

- Depending on the size and the services available and functions rendered, urban centres are designated as town, city, million city, conurbation, megalopolis.
- **The concept of ‘town’ can best be understood with reference to ‘village’.** Population size is not the only criterion. Functional contrasts between towns and villages may not always be clearcut, but specific functions such as, manufacturing, retail and wholesale trade, and professional services exist in towns.
- A city may be regarded as a leading town, that has outstripped its local or regional rivals. In the words of Lewis Mumford, “ the city is in fact the physical form of the highest and most complex type of associative life”. **Cities are much larger than towns and have a greater number of economic functions.** They tend to have transport terminals, major financial institutions and regional administrative offices. When the population crosses the one million mark it is designated as a million city
- **The term conurbation was coined by Patrick Geddes in 1915 and applied to a large area of urban development that resulted from the merging of originally separate towns or cities.** Greater London, Manchester, Chicago and Tokyo are examples.
- **Conurbation is a Greek word meaning “great city”, which was popularised by Jean Gottman (1957).** A conurbation is a large urban area formed by the merger of several towns and cities, while a megalopolis is a "super-metropolitan" region where multiple conurbations merge into a larger, continuous urban expanse. **In essence, a megalopolis is a larger and more complex system that often contains several conurbations within it, representing a higher stage of urban development.**
- The urban landscape stretching from Boston in the north to south of Washington in the U.S.A. is the best known example of a megalopolis. **Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.**

Q 5.B

- According to the 2011 Census, 104 million tribal people in India are largely concentrated in ten states and in the North-East. **Almost 90% of the tribal population of the country lives in rural areas.** There are 90 districts or 809 blocks with more than 50% tribal population and they account for nearly 45% of the Scheduled Tribe (ST) population in the country.
- As per Census, **2011 over two-thirds of the tribal population is working in the primary sector (as against 43% of the non-tribal population), and is heavily dependent on agriculture either as cultivators or as agricultural labourers.** The tribals people are increasingly moving from being cultivators to agricultural labourers. A comparison between Census, 2001 and 2011 shows that the proportion of cultivators reduced by more than 10%, while the proportion of agricultural labourers increased by 9% among the ST population. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of Scheduled Tribe (ST) population in India but the lowest life expectancy among nine Indian states that make up half of the country’s population. It has over 15.3 million Scheduled Tribe (ST) individuals, which constitutes about 21% of the state’s total population.** Hence, statement 1 is not correct

S.No	States	Total Population	Tribal Population	Percentage of Tribal Population
11	Himachal Pradesh	6865	392	5.71
12	Jammu and Kashmir	12541	1493	11.9
13	Jharkhand	32968	8645	26.21
14	Karnataka	61095	4249	6.95
15	Madhya Pradesh	72627	15317	21.09
16	Maharashtra	112374	10510	9.35
17	Manipur	2570	903	35.14
18	Meghalaya	2967	2556	86.15
19	Nagaland	1979	1711	86.46
20	West Bengal	91276	5297	5.8

Q 6.A

- **Pastoralism** is a type of animal husbandry in which animals are domesticated and released onto extensive vegetated outdoor fields (pastures) for grazing by nomadic people who roamed around with their herds during the historical era. The animals involved in pastoralism are **cattle, camels, goats, reindeer, horses, yaks, and sheep, etc.** These animals are commonly referred to as **livestock**.
- **Transhumance** is a different type of herding. Transhumance herders follow a seasonal rhythm, traveling to cooler highlands in the summer and at OPL warmer lowlands in the winter. **These herders, unlike nomads, migrate between two areas where they establish permanent villages. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Livestock systems**, including grazing land and land used to grow feed crops, **occupy nearly 30 percent of Earth's ice-free surface area**. This sector is creating employability to roughly 1.3 billion people worldwide, organised in long market chains. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Factors affecting Livestock production:**
 - **Climate:** Meteorological factors like atmospheric temperature and rainfall patterns have a significant impact on the availability of pasture and food resources throughout the year, as well as disease and parasite outbreaks in animal populations. Most important key aspects of livestock production, such as water availability, animal output, reproduction and health are affected by temperature.
 - **Topography:** Regions of the world where livestock farming occurs are relatively flat and rolling plains, which are ideal for grassland development and livestock ranching. Examples are Savannas and Steppes, etc.
 - **Natural Flora:** **Grasslands and desert shrub lands are commonly used for livestock rearing.** The grass types may vary from region to region. **Marginal grasslands**, such as desert environs adjacent to Steppes and grassland patches on the boundaries of forests adjacent to Steppes, are also **used for ranching. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

Q 7.A

- The Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) is located in Sundargarh district, Odisha. It is situated near the confluence of the rivers Brahmani and Sankha. The Damodar river flows through Jharkhand and West Bengal, far from Rourkela. **Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
- The Durgapur Steel Plant is located in Paschim Bardhaman district, West Bengal. It is situated on the bank of the Damodar River. The Subarnarekha River flows through Jharkhand, West Bengal, and Odisha, but Durgapur is on the Damodar. **Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
- The Bhilai Steel Plant is located in the Durg district of Chhattisgarh. It is situated on the bank of the Sheonath River (a major tributary of the Mahanadi). The steel plant relies on the Sheonath River for its water needs. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**

Q 8.A

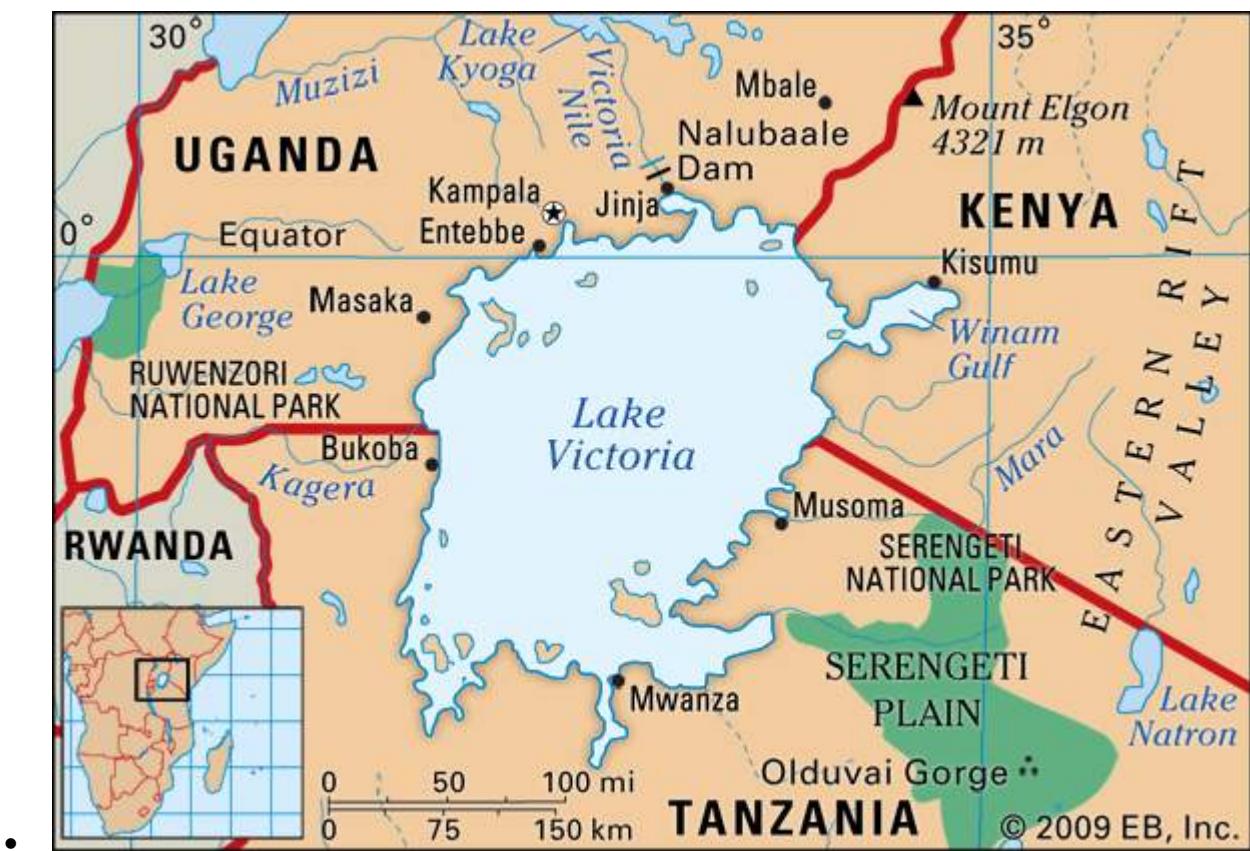
- The term 'Rabi' is derived from the Arabic word for "spring", which is also known as winter crops in India. Rabi season marks the transition from the cold, dormant winter months to the awakening of life and vitality in nature. They are grown in October or November. The crops are then harvested in spring. These

crops require frequent irrigation because they are grown in dry areas. Wheat, gram, and barley are some of the rabi crops grown in India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- Examples of rabi crops include wheat, barley, and oats (cereals); gram, lentils, and peas (pulses); and mustard, linseed, and sunflower (oilseeds). These crops are sown in the winter season, around October to December, and are harvested in the spring, typically from April to June. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- They require adequate moisture and sunlight for germination and growth, with harvesting typically occurring in the spring. Rabi cultivation helps to balance crop cycles, resulting in year-round agricultural productivity and sustainability. Rabi crops require cool temperatures and dry weather, not high temperatures and high humidity. High temperature and high humidity are required for Kharif crops, such as rice, which are grown during the monsoon season. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Q 9.A

- The main body of Lake Victoria, the largest lake in Africa by area, is geographically shared by three East African countries, often referred to as the riparian states.
- The countries that share a border with the lake are:
- Tanzania (possesses the largest portion of the lake's area)
- Uganda
- Kenya
- **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**
- Rwanda, Burundi: These countries are part of the Lake Victoria basin (as sources for major rivers feeding the lake, like the Kagera River), but the lake's water does not touch their national borders.
- Zambia: Zambia is geographically far to the south and has no border with Lake Victoria.
- Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC): The DRC is not a riparian state of Lake Victoria, though it does border other African Great Lakes, such as Lake Tanganyika.
- The Recent News Context: Massive Fish Die-Offs
 - Reports of massive fish die-offs in Lake Victoria, including the highly valued Nile Perch, are frequently in the news. These events are often caused by environmental factors that lead to hypoxia (low oxygen levels) in the water.
- **Key contributing factors include:**
 - Pollution: Runoff of nutrient-rich agricultural and industrial waste, which triggers massive algal blooms. When these algae die and decompose, the process consumes vast amounts of dissolved oxygen.
 - Warming Temperatures: Climate change raises the lake's surface temperature, making it harder for oxygenated surface water to mix with and refresh the deeper water layers.
 - Overfishing: The stress on fish populations from overfishing can exacerbate the effects of environmental changes.

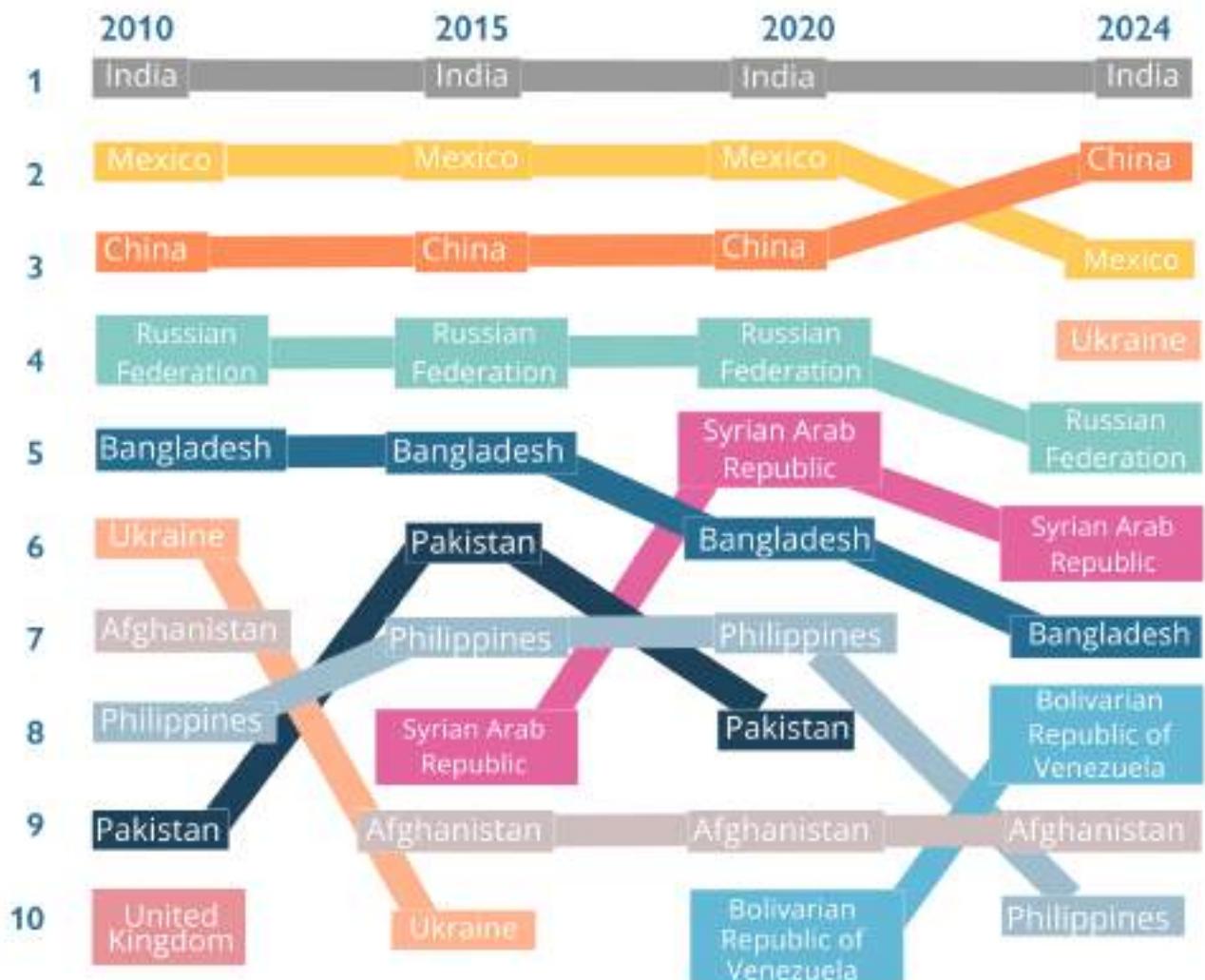


Q 10.D

- A United Nations report has identified India as having the world's largest diaspora, with over 18.5 million Indians living abroad as of 2024. The vast diaspora underscores India's profound cultural and economic connections across continents, while playing a pivotal role in shaping global migration trends.
- The global migrant population continues to rise, with the United Nations estimating 304 million international migrants worldwide in 2024, a significant increase from 275 million in 2020. The growth reflects ongoing global shifts driven by economic opportunity, conflict, climate change, and education. Indians account for 6% of all international migrants globally.
- In 2024, India remained the top country of origin for international migrants, followed by China (11.7 million), Mexico (11.6 million), Ukraine (9.8 million), and the Russian Federation (9.1 million). Ukraine saw the sharpest rise, with its emigrant population increasing by 124% between mid-2020 and mid-2024 – the highest percentage jump among the top 10 origin countries, according to UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), 2025 data. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.
- Ukraine entered the top five following a 124 per cent increase in the number of emigrants from mid-2020 to mid-2024, the largest percentage increase among the top 10 countries of origin in that period.



Top 10 countries of origin of international migrants, 2010 - 2024



Source: UN DESA, 2025.

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www.migrationdataportal.org

- Due to the large migration of Indians to West Asia, they now represent almost 40% of all immigrants in the UAE and make up about one-third of the country's total population.
- India's large diaspora is distributed across the United Arab Emirates (3.25 million), the United States of America (3.17 million), Saudi Arabia (1.95 million) and Canada (1.02 million), says a report by Data For India - a public platform that analyses both Indian government and multilateral agencies' data.

Q 11.D

- **Sex ratio, defined as the number of females per thousand males** is an important social indicator to measure the extent of prevailing equality between males and females in a society at a given point of time. It was 972 at the beginning of the twentieth century and thereafter showed continuous decline until 1941. As per the Census, sex ratio has increased from 933 females per thousand males in 2001 to 943 females per thousand males in 2011. Overall sex ratio at the national level has increased by 7 points to reach 940 at Census 2011 as against 933 in Census 2001. This is the highest sex ratio recorded since Census 1971 and a shade lower than 1961. Increase in sex ratio is observed in 29 States/UTs. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

State/UT-wise details of sex ratio

Sl No.	State/UTs	2001	2011
	India	933	943
1	Jammu & Kashmir	992	889
2	Himachal Pradesh	968	973
3	Punjab	876	893
4	Chandigarh	777	818
5	Uttarakhand	962	963
6	Haryana	861	879
7	Delhi	821	868
8	Rajasthan	921	928
9	Uttar Pradesh	898	912
10	Bihar	919	918
11	Sikkim	875	890
12	Arunachal Pradesh	893	938
13	Nagaland	900	951
14	Manipur	978	992
15	Mizoram	935	976
16	Tripura	948	960
17	Meghalaya	972	989
18	Assam	935	958
19	West Bengal	934	950
20	Jharkhand	941	949
21	Odisha	972	979
22	Chhattisgarh	989	991
23	Madhya Pradesh	919	931
24	Gujarat	920	919
25	Daman & Diu	710	618
26	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	812	774
27	Maharashtra	922	929
28	Andhra Pradesh	978	993
29	Karnataka	965	973
30	Goa	961	973
31	Lakshadweep	948	941
32	Kerala	1059	1084
33	Tamil Nadu	987	996
34	Puducherry	1001	1037
35	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	846	876

- Almost 16 states of India have a sex ratio above the national average. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- India's rural sex-ratio was 949 females per 1,000 males in 2011, which was higher than the urban sex-ratio of 929, according to the 2011 Census of India. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
- Three major States (J&K, Bihar & Gujarat) have shown decline in sex ratio as compared to Census 2001.
- Kerala with 1084 has the highest sex ratio followed by Puducherry with 1038, Daman & Diu has the lowest sex ratio of 618.

Q 12.B

- SAKSHAM** stands for **Situational Awareness for Kinetic Soft and Hard Kill Assets Management**. Its primary function is to serve as a high-end Command and Control system that forms the backbone of the Indian Army's Counter-Unmanned Aerial System (CUAS) Grid.
- It is designed to detect, track, identify, and neutralise hostile drones and Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) in real-time within the newly defined Tactical Battlefield Space (TBS) (which includes low-altitude airspace, or the Air Littoral, up to 3,000 meters above ground)
- It is a modular, AI-driven system developed in collaboration with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL). It integrates data from various sensors and weapons (both soft-kill like jammers, and hard-kill like kinetic interceptors) to provide a unified, real-time picture of aerial activity for commanders.
- Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.**

Q 13.C

- All the tribes of southern India as well as the Gonds and Oraons of central India, speak languages belonging to the Dravidian language family. The Gondi language spoken by the Gonds who spread from Uttar Pradesh to Andhra Pradesh and from Maharashtra to Orissa belong to this language family. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The Andaman Islands is an archipelago of the Indian Union comprised of around 300 islands. Located in the Bay of Bengal, the islands are home to a group of tribes known as 'Negritos' due to their dark skin

color. There are four existing Andamanese tribes: the Great Andamanese, the Onge, the Jarawa, and the Sentinelese. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

- Tribes and racial groups:

- **Proto-Australoid:** The tribes of middle India, like the Mundas, the Oraons, the Hos, the Gonds, the Khonds, etc. belong to the Proto-Australoid stock. This group is characterized by dark skin color, short to medium stature, low forehead, sunken nose, dark complexion and curly hair.
- **Mongoloid:** The tribes of north-eastern India and the Himalayan region belong to this group. They have the typical features of straight hair, flat nose, prominent cheek bones and almond shaped eyes with the epicanthic fold present and yellowish skin colour. They have medium stature, high head and medium nose.
- **Dravidian:** The tribes of South India like the Kadars, the Irulas and the Paniyans.
- **Negrito:** The Great Andamanese, Onges, and Sentinelese belong to the Negrito. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Q 14.B

- **Oilseed crops** are plants grown specifically for their oil content, which is extracted for both edible and industrial uses. The diverse agro-ecological conditions in India are favorable for growing nine annual oilseed crops viz. groundnut, rapeseed-mustard, soybean, sunflower, safflower, sesame, niger, linseed and castor.
- Among the nine annual oilseed crops, **groundnut, rapeseed-mustard, soybean, sunflower, sesame, Niger and safflower are used for edible purpose and castor and linseed are the non-edible vegetable oil.** Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

Q 15.A

- **Zinc is the 23rd most abundant element in the earth's crust.** Sphalerite, zinc sulfide, is and has been the principal ore mineral in the world. Refining zinc is done by froth flotation of its ore, roasting, and electrowinning. **China is the world's leading zinc producer,** producing more than double the next leading producer, Peru. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- **Copper (Cu)** is an extremely useful industrial metal that is ductile (capable of being drawn into wire), malleable (capable of being hammered and molded) and an excellent conductor of electricity (only silver is better). Copper is found in many minerals that occur in deposits large enough to mine. These include: **azurite, malachite, chalcocite, chalcopyrite and bornite.** Most copper comes from chalcopyrite. **The world's leading producer of copper is Chile,** followed by the Congo, Peru, China and the US. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- **Manganese** is a gray-white metal with a pinkish tinge, and is very brittle, but hard. Manganese easily reacts with water and air. On Earth, manganese is never found as a free metal, but it is found in a number of minerals. **The most important of these minerals is pyrolusite.** The world's largest producer of manganese in the world is **South Africa,** followed by Gabon, Australia. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

Q 16.B

- The Namchik-Namphuk coalfield in Arunachal Pradesh was a major development story in early October 2025 because it marked the inauguration of the state's first commercial coal mining operation. This event represents a significant step in utilizing the state's mineral resources for economic development, although it also comes with environmental and logistical challenges in the remote region. Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.
- **The massive, and active, caldera of Campi Flegrei near the populous city of Naples, Italy,** generated scientific headlines after an AI model detected a clear geological 'ring fault' structure. This finding is crucial for understanding the volcano's plumbing system and potential hazards, as the existence of such a fault could be linked to current seismic activity and ground uplift, which are signs of increased pressure beneath the caldera. Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.
- **The Coco Islands, a small archipelago belonging to Myanmar in the Bay of Bengal, were discussed in a diplomatic context.** Recently, strategic assurances were given to India regarding the absence of any foreign military presence, specifically addressing persistent concerns about Chinese intelligence or naval facilities being established dangerously close to India's Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.

Q 17.C

- **Rice:** It is a kharif crop which requires **high temperature, (above 25°C) and high humidity with annual rainfall above 100 cm.** In the areas of less rainfall, it grows with the help of irrigation. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- **Wheat:** It requires a **cool growing season and a bright sunshine at the time of ripening.** It requires 50 to 75 cm of annual rainfall evenly distributed over the growing season. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched,**
- **Maize:** It is a crop which is used both as food and fodder. It is a Kharif crop that **requires temperature between 21°C to 27°C and grows well in old alluvial soil.** In some states like Bihar maize is grown in rabi season also. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**

Q 18.B

- **Mundra LNG Terminal (Gujarat)**
 - Located on the northwestern coast of Gujarat.
 - Lies near latitude 22.8°N, making it the northernmost LNG terminal among the four.
- **Hazira LNG Terminal (Gujarat)**
 - Situated near Surat on the southern part of Gujarat's coast.
 - Located around 21.1°N latitude, slightly south of Mundra.
 - Operated by Shell Energy India and TotalEnergies.
 - It plays a major role in supplying gas to western and northern India, including industrial clusters in Gujarat and Maharashtra.
- **Ennore LNG Terminal (Tamil Nadu)**
 - Located near Chennai, on the eastern coast of India.
 - Lies approximately at 13.2°N latitude.
 - It is India's first LNG terminal on the east coast, operated by Indian Oil Corporation (IOC).
 - Designed to supply regasified LNG to southern states like Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh.
- **Kochi LNG Terminal (Kerala)**
 - Situated on the southwestern coast of Kerala, near Kochi city.
 - Located around 9.9°N latitude, making it the southernmost LNG terminal among the four.
 - Operated by Petronet LNG Ltd.
 - Supplies LNG to consumers in Kerala, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu via the Kochi–Mangalore–Bengaluru pipeline.
 - It also serves as a strategic LNG import point for southern India.
- **Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.**

INDIA
Location of LNG Terminals



Q 19.B

- Uncontacted Tribes of the Amazon
 - Uncontacted tribes are indigenous communities that live without sustained contact with the global population. **The Mashco-Piro tribe** of Peru is one such group living in voluntary isolation in the Amazon rainforest, primarily within the Madre de Dios region.
- Habitat and Lifestyle
 - The Mashco-Piro are nomadic hunter-gatherers, relying on forest produce and small fauna.
 - They inhabit the remote tropical forests along riverbanks, occasionally sighted by villagers when their territory is disturbed.
 - Their mobility and avoidance of outsiders help them preserve autonomy and cultural identity.
- Contemporary Concerns
 - They face increasing threats from illegal logging, gold mining, and deforestation, which encroach upon their traditional lands.
 - Contact with outsiders poses risks of disease transmission, as they lack immunity to modern pathogens.

- Peru's government has declared their area as part of an Indigenous Reserve, but enforcement remains weak.
- **Global Significance**
 - The Mashco-Piro symbolize the tension between developmental expansion and indigenous rights, highlighting the need for balancing environmental conservation with humanitarian protection.
- **Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.**

Q 20.B

- **Natural Uranium Exports by Country**
- Countries that exported natural uranium during 2024 are as follows.
 - Kazakhstan: US\$4.5 billion (48.8% of natural uranium exports)**
 - Canada: \$3.3 billion (35.6%)**
 - United States: \$963.2 million (10.4%)**
 - Niger: \$239.5 million (2.6%)
 - Ukraine: \$78.3 million (0.8%)
 - South Africa: \$58.6 million (0.63%)
 - France: \$58.3 million (0.63%)
 - Russian Federation: \$44.8 million (0.5%)
 - Germany: \$4.4 million (0.05%)
 - Netherlands: \$2.4 million (0.03%)
 - United Kingdom: \$188,000 (0.002%)
 - Indonesia: \$164,000 (0.002%)
 - Switzerland: \$56,000 (0.0006%)
 - Israel: \$44,000 (0.0005%)
 - Belgium: \$5,000 (0.0001%)
- **Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.**

Q 21.D

- **Mineral as a naturally occurring inorganic solid crystalline substance having specific chemical composition.** Minerals can be classified based on their chemical composition and crystal structure.
 - Native Elements:** This includes the category of pure metals. Nearly 40 chemical elements occur in nature as relatively pure minerals and in a native state. **Carbon (C), sulphur (S) and copper (Cu) are often found in a native state.**
 - Silicates:** Silicates form the largest group of minerals on Earth's crust. Most rocks are composed of 95% silicates. Silicates are composed largely of silicon and oxygen along with the addition of ions such as Al, Mg, Fe, and Ca. Important rock-forming silicates are feldspars, quartz, olivine, pyroxene, amphibole, garnets, and micas.
 - Oxides:** This group ranges from dull ores like bauxite to gems like rubies and sapphires. The most widespread minerals of this group are oxides of silicon, aluminum, iron, manganese, and titanium. Common oxides include **hematite, magnetite (Fe_3O_4), chromite (iron chromium oxide), ilmenite (iron titanium oxide), and rutile (titanium dioxide).** **Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**
 - Sulfides:** Sulfides are made up of compounds of sulfur, usually with a metal. Many metal ores belong to this group like the pyrite (FeS), copper (CuS), lead (PbS) (Fig. 4.1d), zinc (ZnS), galena (PbS), etc.

Q 22.B

Major Thermal Power Plants in India

- Major Thermal Power Plants in India are mainly coal-based and play a crucial role in India's energy landscape. The major thermal power plants in India include Vindhyachal Thermal Power Plant (TPP), Mundra TPP, Sasan TPP, Tiroda TPP, Rihand TPP, etc. The major thermal power plants in India are discussed in detail below:
- Vindhyachal Thermal Power Station: It is India's largest thermal plant, located in Madhya Pradesh's Singrauli district. Constructed in 1982, it has a 4,760MW capacity and uses coal from the Nigahi mine. **Hence, Pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
- Mundra Thermal Power Station: It is India's second-largest, is located in Gujarat's Kutch district and has a capacity of 4,620MW. Operated by Adani Power, it comprises nine units and is primarily powered by imported Indonesian coal.

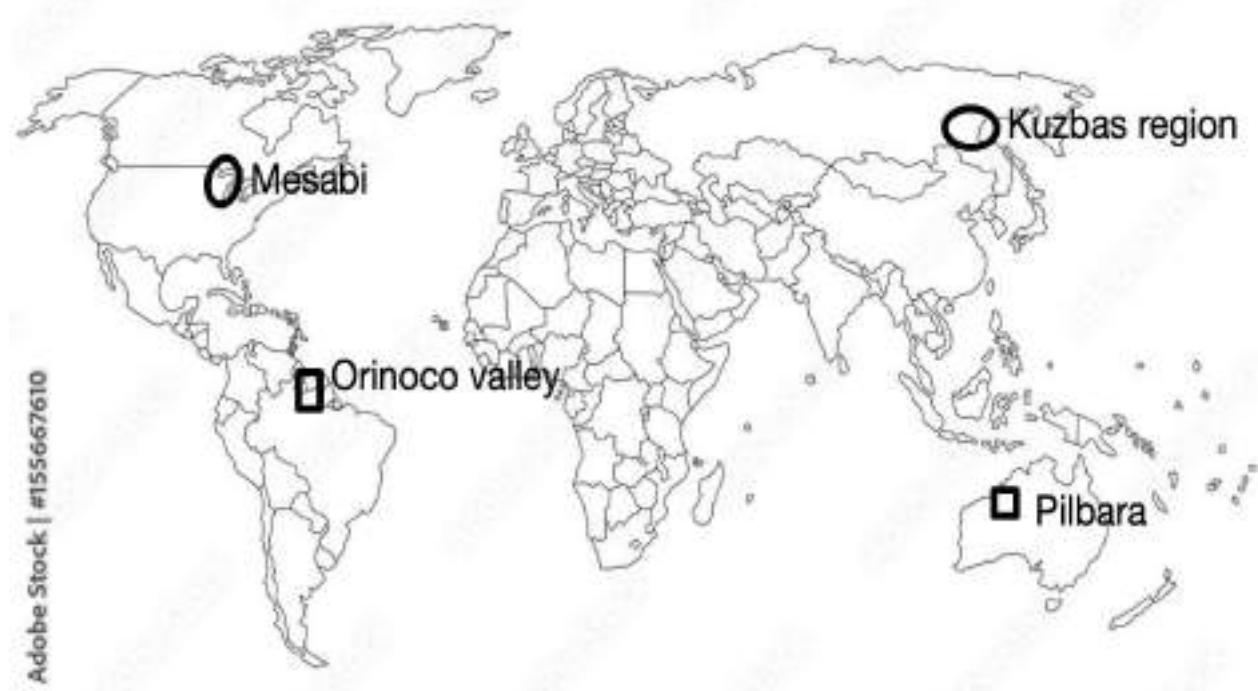
- Sasan Ultra Mega Power Plant: The Sasan Ultra Mega Power Plant in Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh, is among India's largest, with a 3,960MW capacity. Owned by Reliance Power, it features six 660MW units fueled by coal from the Moher and Moher-Amlohri mines. **Hence, Pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- Tiroda Thermal Power Plant: The Tiroda thermal power plant in Maharashtra, India, is a 3,300MW coal-based facility owned by Adani Power Maharashtra. It operates five 660MW units and uses supercritical technology to source water from the Wainganga River. The plant has advanced pollution control systems.
- Rihand Thermal Power Station: The Rihand Thermal Power Station in Rihandnagar, Sonebhadra, Uttar Pradesh, has a 3,000MW capacity and six units, each generating 500MW, commissioned between 1988 and 2013. Coal is sourced from Madhya Pradesh's mines, and water is drawn from the Rihand Reservoir. **Hence, Pair 3 is correctly matched.**

Q 23.A

- **Kiru Hydroelectric Project:** This is a 624 MW run-of-river project currently under construction. It is located on the Chenab River in the Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir. **Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
- **Naying Hydro Power:** This is a proposed 1,000 MW hydropower project. It is planned on the Siyom (Yomgo) River in the Shi-Yomi district of Arunachal Pradesh, not Assam. **Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
- **Subansiri Upper Hydroelectric Project:** This is a proposed 1,800 MW run-of-river project. It is planned on the Subansiri River in the Upper Subansiri district of Arunachal Pradesh. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**

Q 24.C

- Distribution of Iron ore across the world Iron ore is widely distributed around the world. China is the world's largest producer of iron ore.
- **Russia:** It has one of the largest proven reserves of iron ore. Important iron-producing regions of Russia are the Ural region, **Kuzbas region in Siberia, Angara and Krasnoyarsk.** **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- **Europe:** Sweden is an important region where good quality iron ore is found. Major areas of iron-ore mining in Sweden include **Kiruna, Gällivare and Dannmora.** Another important region is Lorraine in France.
- **North America:** The major iron ore mining areas are the Lake Superior region including **Mesabi (United States), Vermillion, Marquette, Cuyana, Manomimi and Gogebic;** Alabama state including the Birmingham and Red Mountain region of South Appalachians; and in Canada including the Wright, Sept Isles and Schefferville regions. **Hence, pair 4 is not correctly matched.**
- **South America:** Brazil is known for its one of the largest reserves of iron ore in the world. Other important regions of iron ore mining are **Orinoco Valley of Venezuela and La Serena area of Chile.** **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**
- **Australia:** Pilbara region, Mt. Goldsworthy, Mt. Tom Price, Mt. Newman, Tailoring peak, Kalanooka region, Queensland, New South Wales and Tasmania are important iron ore bearing areas of Australia. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- **Asia:** China has large iron ore reserves in Shenyang region of Manchuria; Muhar and Tahyeh region of Xinjiang valley. The Philippines has also good quality iron ore deposits in Mindanao.



Q 25.B

- **Entrepot Ports:** These are collection centres where the goods are brought from different countries for export. Singapore is an entrepot for Asia, Rotterdam for Europe, and Copenhagen for the Baltic region. **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**
- **Packet Station or ferry ports:** These are exclusively concerned with the transportation of passengers and mail across water bodies covering short distances. These stations occur in pairs located in such a way that they face each other across the water body, e.g. Dover in England and Calais in France across the English Channel.
- **Out Ports:** These are deep water ports built away from the actual ports. These serve the parent ports by receiving those ships which are unable to approach them due to their large size. For example, Athens and its out port Piraeus in Greece.
- **Ports of Call:** These are the ports which originally developed as calling points on main sea routes where ships used to anchor for refuelling, watering and taking food items. Later on, they developed into commercial ports. For example: Aden, Honolulu and Singapore.

Q 26.A

- The Frontier 50 Initiative is a flagship program launched by NITI Aayog under its Frontier Tech Hub.
- **The initiative focuses on providing support to 50 Aspirational Districts/Blocks (selected from the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) and Aspirational Block Programme (ABP)).**
- The primary objective is to enable these districts and blocks to select and deploy frontier technologies (such as AI, drones, IoT, and blockchain) from the NITI Frontier Tech Repository.
- The deployment aims to accelerate the saturation of services (e.g., in health, education, and agriculture) and boost inclusive development in these underdeveloped regions, contributing to the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047.
- **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**

Q 27.D

- The Pacific Island Countries (PICs):
 - The Pacific Island Countries (PICs) are a cluster of small island states in the tropical Pacific between Asia, Australia and the Americas. The PIC Network is composed of 14 Article 5 countries: Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, **Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.** **. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**
- Explanation:

- **Solomon Islands** — a Melanesian island state in the South Pacific; member of the Pacific Islands grouping and of the Pacific Islands Forum.
- **Samoa** — an independent Polynesian island nation in the central South Pacific; conventionally included in the Pacific Island Countries.
- **Tuvalu** — a tiny Polynesian country of low-lying atolls in the central Pacific; part of the PIC cluster and notable for climate-vulnerability discussions.
- **Papua New Guinea** — the largest of the Pacific islands (northern half of New Guinea island); geopolitically and geographically classed as a Pacific Island Country.
- All four share the defining feature of the PICs: location in the tropical Pacific and inclusion in regional groupings (e.g., Pacific Islands Forum / Pacific Community).



Q 28.A

- **Context: Indian Army has awarded a contract to Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for development and supply of the ‘Anant Shashtra’ air defence system.**
- **About Anant Shashtra**
 - It is an indigenous Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM) system.
 - Developed by: DRDO in collaboration with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL).
 - Capabilities: Highly mobile and agile with a range of around 30 km.
 - Integration: Works alongside MR-SAM, Akash, Spyder, and Sudarshan S-400 systems.
 - Deployment: To be stationed along the western and northern borders once approved.
- **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**

Q 29.C

- **Option (c) is the correct answer.**
- **Mustard:**
 - It is predominantly grown in **the northern belt of India**, its production has made rapid progress in the last decade. **It is a Rabi crop.**
 - The biggest advantage is that they can be grown in a wide range of agro-climatic conditions. In India, rapeseed and mustard are grouped together. Amongst the nine major oilseeds cultivated in India, they come second, only after groundnut. The harvest usually takes place in March or April.
 - The oil content in rapeseed and mustard is between **36 and 42 %**. Indian mustard has a **pungent flavour** and is often used as a spice in the varied Indian cuisine.
- **Flaxseed:**
 - Flax is a herbaceous annual.
 - The plant is adaptable to a variety of soils and climates but grows best in well-drained sandy loam and in temperate climates.
 - In most areas planting of the same land with flax is limited to once in six years to avoid soil exhaustion.
 - Cool moist growing seasons produce the most-desirable fibre.

- Regular flaxseed oil contains between 57% and 71% polyunsaturated fats (alpha-linolenic acid, linoleic acid).
- **Sesame Seed** - Sesame is a flowering plant naturalized in tropical regions around the world and is cultivated for its edible seeds.
 - Sesame varieties have adapted to many soil types but thrive best on well-drained, fertile soils of medium texture and neutral pH. However, these have a low tolerance for soils with high salt and water-logged conditions.
 - Commercial sesame crops require 90 to 120 frost-free days. Warm conditions above 23 °C favour growth and yields.
- **Soybean**
 - It is a leguminous species native to East Asia, widely grown for its edible bean. It needs about 15 to 32 °C for germination but for rapid growth the crop needs a higher temperature.
 - The crop requires about 60-65 cm annual rainfall drought at flowering or just before flowering results in flower and pod drops, while rains during maturity impair the grain quality of soybean. The best soil type is sandy loam having good organic matter content.
 - Two cropping seasons of soybean Kharif and spring.
 - In case of Kharif season most common time of sowing is the onset of monsoon or last week of June to the first week of July while spring sowing is done between 15th of February and 15th of March

Q 30.C

- **Context:** Recently, the Defence Minister inaugurated India's first overseas defence manufacturing plant in Morocco.
- **The facility will produce the indigenously developed Wheeled Armoured Platform (WhAP) 8x8, jointly designed by Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) and DRDO.**
- **Significance:**
 - It is the first overseas defence facility by an Indian private company; largest defence manufacturing plant in Morocco.
 - The facility supports India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat and represents India's Make in India, Make with Friends, Make for the World strategy.
 - It strengthens India-Morocco strategic partnership, local capacity, and contributes to regional security.
 - Morocco's strategic location as a gateway to Africa and Europe enhances export potential and bilateral defence cooperation.
 - Facility Purpose: Production of Wheeled Armoured Platform (WhAP) 8x8, jointly designed by TASL and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
 - The WhAP is an indigenously developed modular combat vehicle offering advanced protection, mobility, and versatility.
 - It can be configured as an infantry fighting vehicle, reconnaissance vehicle, command post, mortar carrier, or ambulance, with options for remote weapon stations and anti-tank missiles.
- **Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.**

Q 31.D

- **Sherms is a place dug hollow beneath a thorn tree, surrounded by bushes.** Bushmen tribes travel in small family groups and live together in Sherms.
- **Wurlies are simple shelters made of branches and tufts and grass.** Bindibu or Aborigines tribes also travel in family groups and live in Wurlies.

Q 32.D

- In sedimentary rocks a number of minerals occur in beds or layers. They have been formed as a result of deposition, accumulation and concentration in horizontal strata. Coal and some forms of iron ore have been concentrated as a result of long periods under great heat and pressure.
- Another group of sedimentary minerals include **gypsum, potash salt and sodium salt**. **They are formed as a result of evaporation especially in arid regions. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Another mode of formation involves the decomposition of surface rocks, and the removal of soluble constituents, leaving a residual mass of weathered material containing ores. **Bauxite is formed this way. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Certain minerals may occur as alluvial deposits in sands of valley floors and the base of hills. These deposits are called "**placer deposits**" and generally contain minerals, which are not corroded by

water. **Gold**, silver, tin and platinum are most important among such minerals. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

Q 33.C

- **Primitive/Original Subsistence Farming:** This form of agriculture is quite similar to the shifting cultivation of an ecological or near-ecological type. It is mainly practiced for the purpose of self-consumption by the farmer's families, rather than for marketing of the surplus produce.
- **Salient features:**
 - Typical Name: This form of agriculture also known as '**slash and burn agriculture**'. Before making the patch of a forest suitable for tilling, fire method is used to clear the forest. This practice of clearing a patch of forest or natural vegetation can still be spotted in the slopes of Himalayas in India and elsewhere.
 - **Small Land Size:** Such prepared cultivable patch of forest land is of smaller size, often varying between 0.5 hectare to 1 hectare. Apart from being small in size, the cultivable fields are not distributed evenly and are located in many secluded patches, often interspersed with forest cover.
 - **Farming Methods:** Practice of this type is characterised by rudimentary methods, with the help of primitive tools. It is **highly labour-intensive form of agriculture**.
 - **Principal Crops:** **Main crops are maize, millet, rice, beans, banana, tapioca, cassava or manioc and yam**, etc. These crops are grown at regular intervals, so as to provide the food for the entire year by delaying the harvesting season.
 - **Rotation:** One of the distinct features is '**rotation of tillable field, unlike 'rotation of crops'** in some other agricultural systems of the world. Agricultural fields are left for fallowing (when no crops are sown to recoup the soil fertility).
 - **Migratory Agriculture:** On account of these features, it has been termed as 'migratory agriculture'. It is known to provide livelihood support to the aboriginal tribal groups, who inhabit the tropical rainforest biomes of the world.
- **Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.**

Q 34.B

- **Diamond** is a naturally occurring mineral composed of pure carbon, known for being the hardest substance on Earth, which makes it valuable both as a **gemstone and for industrial uses**. Diamond distribution is concentrated in specific geological areas, primarily in the oldest parts of continents known as cratons, where kimberlite pipes are found.
 - **Aikhal** is one of the world's largest mines located in **Yakutia, Russia**. It has numerous deposits, including Zaria Pipe, Aikhal Pipe, Jubilee Pipe, and Komsomolskaya Pipe. Together, they contain an estimated reserve of more than 175 million carats of diamonds.
 - **The Jwaneng mine** is near Gaborone, **Botswana**. It has an estimated reserve of more than 166 million carats of diamonds. Further, it is considered being one of the world's richest mines in terms of value.
 - **The Udachny mine**, located in the **Yakutia region of Russia**, is the world's third-largest mine in terms of reserve size. It comprises the Ziarnista pipe, Udachny pipe, and the Verkhne-Munskoe pipe. Together, these deposits contain over 164 million carats of diamonds.
 - **Ekati** is located in the Lac De Gras region of **Canada**, is the country's first open-pit diamond mine. It is estimated to contain more than 106 million carats of diamond reserves.
- **Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.**

Q 35.B

- **Polymetallic nodules**, also called manganese nodules, are rock concretions formed of concentric layers of iron and manganese hydroxides around a core. **They are composed mainly of Mn, Fe, silicates and hydroxides**. The trace metal contents such as Ni, Cu, Co and Mn and rare earth elements are attracting interest to mine these deposits to meet the growing demand for these metals. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Several processes may act together or successively during nodule formation. Common factors include:
 - **Nodule formation requires a low rate of sedimentation** or some process for removing sediment before it accumulates. This enables concretions to grow before they are buried, when they would be cut off from the conditions that allow them to develop. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - Plankton contribution – dead plankton supply trace metals like Cu and Ni.
 - Hydrothermal sources – manganese is leached from basalt by hot vent fluids.

- Microbial activity – microorganisms aid concretion and growth.
- Polymetallic nodules cover vast areas of the ocean floor. They are more abundant in areas off the west coast of Mexico in the Pacific (known as the Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone), **the Central Indian Ocean Basin**, and the Peru basin. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Q 36.B

- **Recently, India's first 32-bit processor - Vikram3201 was presented to the PM at Semicon India 2025.**
- The Vikram3201 is India's first fully indigenous 32-bit microprocessor designed specifically for space applications. It serves as a significant upgrade from the previously used 16-bit processors, marking a major milestone in India's self-reliance in space technology.
- The Vikram3201 was designed and developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). Specifically, the design was carried out by Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) in collaboration with Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL), Chandigarh. Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) is a defense public sector undertaking and was not the primary developer of this space-grade microprocessor.
- The primary function of the Vikram3201 is to serve as the onboard microprocessor for navigation, guidance, and mission management in Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) rockets and satellites. This chip is specifically designed and built to withstand the extreme conditions of space travel.
- **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

Q 37.A

- World Food Day is celebrated annually on October 16 by over 150 countries worldwide. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations was established on October 16, 1945, in Quebec City, Canada.
- World Food Day was established by the member countries of the FAO at the 20th General Conference in 1979.
- The day was specifically chosen to commemorate the founding date (October 16, 1945) of the organization responsible for leading international efforts to defeat hunger and improve nutrition worldwide. **Hence, Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I**

Q 38.A

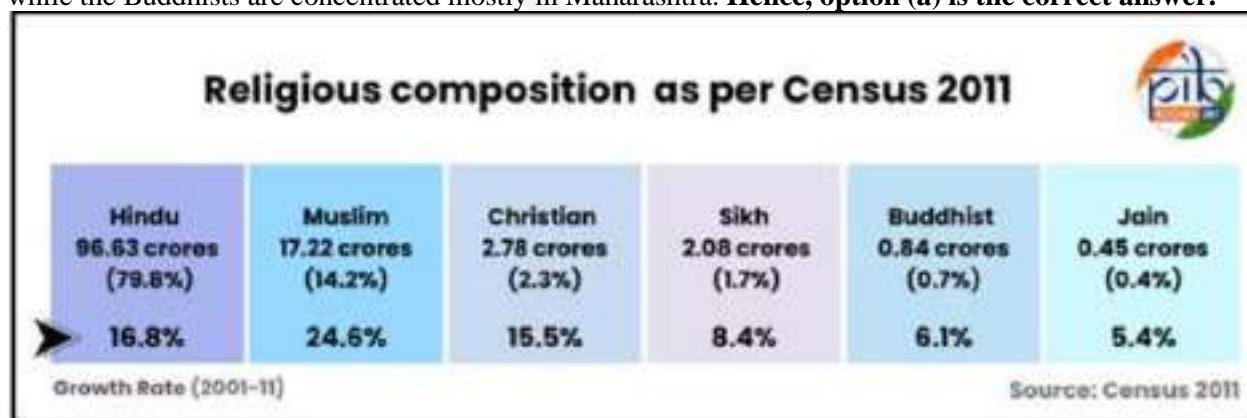
- **Areas of Very High Density:** Areas having more than 1000 persons per sq km are termed as areas of very high population density. **West Bengal (1029), Bihar (1102), Lakshadweep (2013), Daman & Diu (2169) Puducherry (2548), Chandigarh (9252)** and Delhi (11,297) have very high density of population due to different factors operating in different areas. Like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar is located in the fertile plain of Ganga and supports very high population density.
- West Bengal is located in the Ganga delta which is one of the most fertile areas of the world, producing 3-4 crops of rice in a year. In addition, India's biggest industrial cluster is located in the Hugli basin. These factors combine together to make West Bengal the second most densely populated state of India. Among the union territories, Delhi has experienced one of the fastest population growths as a result of which its population density has increased considerably. This growth is primarily due to large scale migration of people from the surrounding areas. People migrate to Delhi in large numbers in search of livelihood, and better amenities of life.
- **Areas of Moderate Density:** **This class includes those areas which are having 251 to 500 persons per sq km.** The average for whole of India (382 persons per sq km) also falls in this class. **Odisha (269), Gujarat (308), Andhra Pradesh including Telangana (308), Karnataka (319), Tripura (350), Maharashtra (365), Goa (394), Assam (397), and Jharkhand (414)** are included in this category. These areas are wide apart from one another and there are different reasons for moderate density of population in different areas. For example, Assam has tea estates whereas Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, Karnataka and Jharkhand have agricultural and mineral resources. Maharashtra is highly urbanised and industrialised state. The neighbouring state of Gujarat also has urban and industrial growth, although at a scale smaller than that of Maharashtra. Among the north-eastern states, Tripura has sufficient level land which supports moderate population density. **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**

Q 39.B

- Though tobacco is tropical in origin, it is grown throughout the world. Cultivated tobacco (*N. tabacum*) requires a **frost-free period of 100 to 130 days from date of transplanting to maturity in the field. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- In India, tobacco is grown when the mean temperature is 20° to 27°C. When grown as rainfed crop, it requires at least about 500 mm of well distributed rainfall during crop growing season. It is not usually grown where rainfall exceeds 1200 mm during the season. **Rainfall is undesirable during crop maturity, as gums and resins on the leaf get washed. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Recognizing the need to regulate production, promote overseas marketing and control recurring instances of imbalances in supply and demand, which lead to market problems, the Government of India under the **Tobacco Board Act of 1975**, established the Tobacco Board, in place of the Tobacco Export Promotion Council. **The Board came into existence from 1-1-1976 and opened its head quarters at Guntur in Andhra Pradesh, India. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Q 40.A

- Religion is one of the most dominant forces affecting the cultural and political life of the most of Indians.
- Hindus** are distributed as a major group in many states (ranging from 70 - 90 per cent and above) except the districts of states along IndoBangladesh border, Indo-Pak border, Jammu & Kashmir, Hill States of North-East and in scattered areas of Deccan Plateau and Ganga Plain.
- Muslims**, the largest religious minority, are concentrated in Jammu & Kashmir, certain districts of West Bengal and Kerala, many districts of Uttar Pradesh , in and around Delhi and in Lakshadweep. They form majority in Kashmir valley and Lakshadweep.
- The Christian population** is distributed mostly in rural areas of the country. The main concentration is observed along the Western coast around Goa, Kerala and also in the hill states of Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Chotanagpur area and Hills of Manipur.
- Sikhs** are mostly concentrated in relatively small area of the country, particularly in the states of Punjab, Haryana and Delhi.
- Jains and Buddhists**, the smallest religious groups in India have their concentration only in selected areas of the country. Jains have major concentration in the urban areas of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra, while the Buddhists are concentrated mostly in Maharashtra. **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**



Q 41.B

- The **National Premier Chess Championship** is the annual national chess championship of India. It was established in 1955 by the Andhra State Chess Association as a biannual event, but since 1971 it has been played yearly.
- The first edition was held in Eluru, Andhra Pradesh from 15 May to 28 May 1955 and was jointly won by Ramchandra Sapre and Dharbha Venkayya with 9/12 points.
- The 62nd National Chess Championship (2025) was conducted at Vignan's University, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh from 21 September to 1 October 2025. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Grandmaster P Iniyan, representing Tamil Nadu, scored 9 points out of 11 rounds and emerged as the winner of the 62nd National Chess Championship. He remained unbeaten, securing first place. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Q 42.A

- Madhya Pradesh has the highest absolute population of Scheduled Tribes in India (Census 2011).
- The largest tribe in India is the Bhil, according to the 2011 Census. They make up about 38% of the country's total scheduled tribal population and are primarily located in the states of Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh.
- **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**

Q 43.C

- **Triangular Pattern:** This pattern is the result of hindrance occurring on three sides. This hindrance may be physical or cultural or both. The growth of settlement is restricted on three sides by such hindrances and the settlement assumes a triangular pattern. **Such a pattern usually develops at the confluence of two rivers or two roads.** The lateral expansion of dwellings at the confluence is restricted by the rivers and Triangular shape of the dwelling emerges. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- **Circular Pattern:** Circular pattern develops around a pond, a lake or a crater. People prefer to construct their houses close to pond or lake because of easy accessibility of water. Sometimes a pattern may develop around a temple or a mosque. Villages having circular pattern are found in the upper part of the Ganga-Yamuna Doab, trans-Yamuna region, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Maharashtra and Gujarat." **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**
- **Terraced Pattern.:Villages having terraced pattern are mostly found on the hill slopes.** These slopes are cut and converted into terraces for cultivation. Farmers construct their houses along the terraces and terraced pattern comes into being. Houses in these settlements can be close to each other or they be distant apart. They are constructed at different heights depending on the slope of land. **They are usually constructed near a spring or some stream. Such villages may be seen along the hill slopes in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Western Ghats.** **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**

Q 44.A

- The Nagarjuna Sagar Dam is a large masonry dam on the Krishna River, located on the border of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Completed in 1967, it is one of the world's largest such dams, providing irrigation and hydroelectric power to both states. The dam creates a large reservoir and is also a popular tourist spot, with nearby attractions including ancient Buddhist ruins at Nagarjunakonda. **Hence, Pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
- The Sardar Sarovar Dam is a large concrete gravity dam on the Narmada River in Gujarat, India, named after Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. It is part of the Narmada Valley Project, aims to provide irrigation, power, and drinking water to Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan, and has been a source of significant environmental and social controversy due to displacement of populations. **Hence, Pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- Baglihar refers to the Baglihar Dam and Hydroelectric Power Project, a run-of-the-river project on the Chenab River in the Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir, India. Located near Baglihar road, it is a significant source of power generation for the region. The project, which began in 2008, involves a concrete gravity dam that is 143 meters tall and creates a reservoir. **Hence, Pair 3 is not correctly matched.**

Q 45.B

- **Footloose Industries:** Footloose industries refer to industries that can be located in a wide variety of places because they do not depend on specific raw materials, heavy infrastructure, or bulky resources. Unlike traditional industries such as steel, cement, or textiles, which are location-bound due to their need for proximity to raw materials, footloose industries have flexibility in their placement. These industries typically involve small components, modern technologies, and often produce high-value goods or services.
- Features of Footloose Industries:
 - Flexibility in Location: Footloose industries are not tied to specific geographic locations. They do not rely on raw materials that are bulky or perishable, allowing them to choose sites based on other factors such as skilled labor availability or transportation infrastructure.
 - > **Industries such as electronics manufacturing or IT services fall into this category because they use components that can be sourced from multiple locations globally, giving them great flexibility.** Hence, Statement I is correct.

- Production Scale and Labor Requirements:
 - While traditional industries like automotive manufacturing or steel plants employ large labor forces and produce goods in vast quantities, footloose industries usually have smaller production scales and are less labor-intensive. They often rely on technology and skilled labor rather than large, unskilled workforces.
- Environmental Impact:
 - **Many footloose industries, especially those in the technology or electronics sectors, are known for their relatively low environmental impact. Unlike industries such as mining or heavy manufacturing that generate significant pollution, footloose industries tend to operate in non-polluting environments. Their environmental footprint is smaller, making them more sustainable. Hence, Statement II is correct but does not correctly explain the first statement precisely. Thus, option (b) is the correct answer.**

Q 46.D

- Some towns and cities specialise in certain functions and they are known for some specific activities, products or services. However, each town performs a number of functions. On the basis of dominant or specialised functions, Indian cities and towns can be broadly classified as follows:
- **Mining Towns:** Many towns have developed due to mining and are known as mining towns. For example, **Jharia**, Raniganj, Singrauli, etc. have developed due to coal mining. Digboi, and **Ankleshwar due to oil drilling and Khetri due to copper mining. Jharia is an important mining town in India, most famous for being home to the country's largest coalfield, which is rich in coking coal vital for the steel industry. Hence, pair one is correctly matched.**
- **Garrison Cantonment towns:** Garrison or cantonment towns are settlements that formed around a permanent military base to support and house troops. These towns emerged as garrison towns such as **Ambala, Jalandhar, Mhow, Babina, Udhampur, etc.**
- **Commercial towns :**Towns and cities specialising in trade and commerce are kept in this class. **Kolkata, Saharanpur, Satna, etc. are some examples. Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- **Industrial towns** Industries constitute prime motive force of these cities such as **Mumbai, Salem, Coimbatore, Modinagar, Jamshedpur, Hugli, Bhilai, etc. Coimbatore is considered a major industrial town due to its strong manufacturing base, particularly in textiles, pumps, and automotive components. It is known as the "Manchester of South India". Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**
- **Administrative towns and cities** Towns supporting administrative headquarters of higher order are administrative towns, such as Chandigarh, New Delhi, Bhopal, Shillong, Guwahati, Imphal, Srinagar, Gandhinagar, Jaipur Chennai, etc.

Q 47.D

- **The western coast of India (Konkan and Malabar coasts) is actually more suitable for natural port development than the eastern coast.** It is a submergent coast, with numerous natural harbours and estuaries (e.g., Mumbai, Mormugao, Cochin).
- In contrast, the Eastern Coast is an emergent coast with a wide continental shelf and low gradient. It is subject to heavy sedimentation and the formation of deltas by major rivers (Ganga, Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna, Kaveri), which results in shallow waters and silting issues. This makes the Eastern Coast less suitable for natural port development, often requiring significant, continuous dredging to maintain deep drafts. **Hence, statement I is not correct.**
- **The eastern coast of India is an emergent coast, formed mainly by depositional processes of east-flowing rivers.** This leads to the formation of deltas (Godavari, Mahanadi, Cauvery) and lagoons (Chilika, Pulicat) rather than deep natural harbours.
- This geological history makes it an emergent coast, characterized by:
 - A relatively straight coastline.
 - The formation of extensive deltas.
 - A wide continental shelf.
 - A gentle slope towards the sea.
- **Hence, statement II is correct.**

Q 48.A

- The Sharda Canal is in Uttar Pradesh, and the Sirhind Canal is in Punjab. The Sirhind Canal carries water from the Sutlej River to irrigate vast areas of Punjab and Haryana, while the Sharda Canal is the longest canal in Uttar Pradesh and irrigates large parts of that state.
- **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**

Q 49.A

- Based on census data, India's urban growth can be divided into three periods: slow growth (before 1931), medium growth (1931-1961), and rapid growth (1961-2011).
- **Period of Slow Urban Growth (before 1931): From 1881 to 1931, India experienced a period of low urban growth, with the urban population increasing from 9.3% in 1881 to 11.99% in 1931.** This slow growth rate was influenced by various factors, including natural disasters like drought, floods, famines, and epidemics, which resulted in high mortality rates and hindered urban development. **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**
- **Period of Medium Growth Rate (1931-1961):** During this period, the urban population and its percentage of the total population increased significantly, from 33.46 million (11.99%) in 1931 to 78.94 million (17.97%) in 1961. This growth was influenced by industrial development, the establishment of new towns after India's independence, World War II, and the partition of India.
- **Period of Rapid Growth (1961-2011):** During the period of 50 years from 1961 to 2011, India witnessed rapid growth in urbanisation and urban centres. The urban population saw more than four-fold increase from 78.94 million in 1961 to 377.11 million in 2011 and the percentage of urban population also shot up from 17.67 in 1961 to 31.16 in 2011.

Q 50.C

- Nordic Region — Sweden
 - The Nordic region comprises Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. Sweden is a core Nordic state and exemplifies the region's shared institutional, social and policy traits (welfare models, high-tech industry, Arctic interest).
 - **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- Med 9 Group — Greece
 - The Med 9 (Mediterranean Nine) is a coalition of southern EU states bordering the Mediterranean (examples: Italy, Spain, France, Portugal, Greece, Cyprus, Malta, Croatia, Slovenia). Greece is a founding/typical member of this southern-Mediterranean grouping.
 - **Hence pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- Caucasus Region — Armenia
 - The South Caucasus (commonly called the Caucasus in policy usage) comprises Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. Armenia is therefore rightly cited as a representative member of the Caucasus.
 - **Hence pair 3 is also correctly matched.**

Q 51.C

- Sir Creek is not a lake; it is a saltwater inlet that opens to the Arabian Sea and is thus affected by tides. **Hence, option (a) is incorrect.**
- A gorge is a deep, narrow valley with steep sides. Sir Creek is a relatively shallow, low-lying coastal feature formed by the action of tides and river sediment, not tectonic activity. **Hence, option (b) is incorrect.**
- Sir Creek is a 96-km long **tidal estuary (a partly enclosed coastal body of brackish water with one or more rivers or streams flowing into it, and with a free connection to the open sea).** It is located in a marshy, deltaic region between the Kutch region of Gujarat (India) and the Sindh province (Pakistan). Its water level constantly fluctuates with the ocean tides. **Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.**
- Sir Creek is a natural water body and is one of the many creeks in the marshy Indus River delta region, but it is not a man-made canal. **Hence, option (d) is incorrect.**
- Navigability: India's claim for the boundary to follow the mid-channel line is based on the Thalweg Doctrine, which applies to navigable rivers. India argues that since the creek is navigable, at least during high tide, the Thalweg principle should apply.
- Boundary Principle: Pakistan's historical claim is based on the boundary following the eastern bank, a principle usually applied to static land boundaries. India refutes this because a tidal, navigable water body should be subject to international law governing water boundaries, like the Thalweg principle.



Q 52.A

- The Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Tunnel (often called the Chenani–Nashri Tunnel) is on NH-44 in Jammu & Kashmir (Udhampur district), not Ladakh. **Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
- The Atal Tunnel (under Rohtang Pass) connects Manali to Lahaul–Spiti and is in Himachal Pradesh. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- The Sela Tunnel bypasses Sela Pass to provide all-weather access to Tawang and is located in Arunachal Pradesh, not Jammu & Kashmir. **Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.**
- Z-Morh Tunnel: The Z-Morh Tunnel is near Sonamarg/Gagangir on the Srinagar–Leh route and lies in Jammu & Kashmir, not Arunachal Pradesh. **Hence, pair 4 is not correctly matched..**

Q 53.B

- Millets encompass a diverse group of small-grained dryland cereals. **Millet species include pearl, proso, foxtail, barnyard, little, kodo, browntop, finger and guinea millets, as well as black and white fonio, sorghum, teff and Job's tears**, and many other diverse and local species. **Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.**
- Millets, as whole grains, have a higher nutritional content compared to refined cereals, including wheat, rice or corn. Millets can be good sources of minerals, dietary fibre, vitamins and protein, depending on the species, variety and growing conditions. They have a lower glycaemic index than other grains so could be a good option for people with high-blood sugar. Millets are also gluten-free and a cost-effective source of iron. As whole grains, each variety of millets provide different amounts and types of fibre.

Q 54.A

- For the purpose of census 2011, a person aged seven and above, who can both read and write with understanding in any language, is treated as literate. A person, who can only read but cannot write, is not literate.
- The results of 2011 census reveal that there has been an increase in literacy in the country. The literacy rate in the country is 74.04 per cent, 82.14 for males and 65.46 for females. **As per Census 2011, At national level, male-female literacy gap between male-female is around 16.3%. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Kerala retained its position by being on top with a 93.91 per cent literacy rate, closely followed by Lakshadweep (92.28 per cent) and Mizoram (91.58 per cent). Bihar with a literacy rate of 63.82 per cent ranks last in the country preceded by Arunachal Pradesh (66.95 per cent) and Rajasthan (67.06 per cent).
- **Among all the U.Ts Lakshadweep has the highest male literacy rate (95.6%). Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **According to Census 2011, the literacy rate for Scheduled Tribes (STs) in India is 58.95%. This is lower than the overall national literacy rate of 72.04%. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Q 55.B

- Exercise 'Samudra Shakti' is a bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and the Indonesian Navy (IN-IDN). It is not between India and Sri Lanka. (The India-Sri Lanka naval exercise is typically called SLINEX). **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The 5th edition of Exercise 'Samudra Shakti – 2025' was hosted by the Indian Navy at Visakhapatnam, India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The stated objective of the exercise is to "enhance interoperability, strengthen mutual understanding, and share best practices between the two navies," highlighting their shared commitment to stability in the Indo-Pacific region. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Q 56.D

- **China continues to be the driving force behind wind power expansion**, accounting for nearly 66% of global capacity additions last year. Major wind farms in regions like Inner Mongolia and Xinjiang rank among the largest in the world. By 2030, China aims to triple its number of utility-scale wind and solar farms, backed by significant government investments across a broad range of renewable energy initiatives. China is the leading producer of wind energy, followed by the United States and Germany. Other major producers include India, the United Kingdom, and Brazil, each with significant and growing installed capacity. **Hence, Pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
- The leading geothermal energy-producing countries are the United States, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Türkiye. **The United States holds the top spot for installed capacity, followed by Indonesia**, while the Philippines and Türkiye round out the top four. Other major producers include New Zealand, Kenya, Mexico, Italy, Iceland, and Japan. **Hence, Pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
- The leading countries in tidal energy production are South Korea, France, and the United Kingdom, which house some of the world's largest tidal power stations. Other countries with significant potential and growing development in this sector include Canada and China. **Hence, Pair 3 is correctly matched.**
 - The largest is the Sihwa Lake Tidal Power Station in South Korea, at 254 megawatts of electricity-generation capacity.

Q 57.A

- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) of the Government of India released the publication "Women and Men in India 2024". The 26th edition of this report provides gender-disaggregated data on various indicators across key sectors like health, education, employment, and decision-making.
- Key Highlights from Report:
 - **Sex Ratio at Birth:** Between 2014-16 and 2018-20, sex ratio in urban areas (910) has surpassed that of rural areas (907). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - **Health:** Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) declined from 122 in 2015-17 to 97 in 2018-20.
 - **Education:** Literacy rates in India reached 84.7% for males and 70.3% for females in 2017 with Kerala having the smallest gender literacy gap, while Rajasthan having the highest. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - **Economic Participation:** Female Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) increased significantly from 23.3% in 2017-18 to 41.7% in 2023-24.
 - **Financial Inclusion:** Women own 39.2% of all bank accounts and contribute to 39.7% of total deposits.
 - **Leadership roles:** Women held 28.7% share in board of directors in FY25, up from 26.7% in FY20.
 - **Political Participation:** Female voter turnout varied over the years, reaching 67.2% in 2019 but slightly declining to 65.8% in 2024.
 - **Violence against Women:** Nearly one-third (31.9%) of married women aged 18-49 in India experience spousal violence, with the highest rates in Karnataka (48.4%), Bihar (42.5%) and Manipur (41.6%).

Q 58.B

- Lagos – West Africa – Fast-growing megacity
 - Lagos, Nigeria's commercial hub, is one of the largest and fastest-growing megacities globally, with rapid urbanization and infrastructure challenges.
 - **Hence, row 1 is correctly matched.**
- São Paulo

- São Paulo is not a port city; it is located inland, while its nearest port is Santos on the Atlantic coast. However, it remains the financial and industrial capital of Brazil. **Thus it is in South America and not North America.**
 - Hence, row 2 is not correctly matched.**
- Cairo – North Africa – River delta
 - Cairo is located near the apex of the Nile Delta, making it one of the oldest riverine urban centers in North Africa.
 - Hence, row 3 is correctly matched.**

Q 59.A

- Understanding “Megalopolis”:
 - A megalopolis refers to a large, continuous urban region formed by the merging of multiple metropolitan areas — socially, economically, and infrastructurally interconnected.
 - It can be defined either by population concentration or by physical continuity of built-up areas.
 - The population-based megalopolis focuses on where the largest number of people live within a continuous urban spread.
- 2. Tokyo–Osaka–Nagoya (Japan): The Largest Population-Based Megalopolis
 - The Tokyo–Osaka–Nagoya corridor, often called the Tokaido Megalopolis, is the world's largest continuous urban settlement belt when measured by population and spatial continuity.**
 - It stretches from Tokyo and Yokohama in the east through Nagoya, and down to Osaka and Kyoto in the west, forming a densely populated urban-industrial belt.
 - The Greater Tokyo Area alone has a population of about 37.7 million (as per recent World Bank and UN data) — the largest urban area on Earth.
 - Including adjoining metropolitan regions like Nagoya and Osaka, the corridor's total population exceeds 120 million, accounting for over 60% of Japan's population in a continuous built-up zone.
 - Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**

Region	Description	Approx. Population	Remarks
Tokaido Corridor	Continuous, high-density urban region	~120 million	Largest globally by population & continuity
BosWash Corridor	First conceptual megalopolis (Jean Gottmann, 1961)	~80 million	Largest in area, not population
Industrial corridor (Germany-Netherlands)	~40 million		Major industrial megalopolis
Emerging corridor in Western India	~50 million (projected)		Developing, not yet continuous

Q 60.D

- Unity in diversity is one of the most spectacular features of the population of India. India has the second-largest tribal population in the world. As per the Census 2011, the tribal population constitutes about 8.9% of the total population in India. 89.97% of them live in rural areas and 10.03% in urban areas. The decadal population growth of the tribal's from Census 2001 to 2011 has been 23.66% against the 17.69% of the entire population. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Broadly the STs inhabit two distinct geographical area – the Central India and the North- Eastern Area. More than half of the Scheduled Tribe population is concentrated in Central India, i.e., Madhya Pradesh (14.69%), Chhattisgarh (7.5%), Jharkhand (8.29%), Andhra Pradesh (5.7%), Maharashtra (10.08%), Orissa (9.2%), Gujarat (8.55%) and Rajasthan (8.86%). The other distinct area is the North East (Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh). **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- More than two-third of the ST population is concentrated only in the seven States of the country, viz. Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh. There is no ST population in 3 States (Delhi NCR, Punjab and Haryana) and 2 UTs (Puducherry and Chandigarh).**

Q 61.B

- The Virtual Museum of Stolen Cultural Objects was officially launched by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The primary goal of this innovative digital platform is indeed to raise global awareness about the illicit trafficking of cultural property and to digitally reconnect communities with their lost heritage, thereby supporting its eventual recovery and

restitution. The project was developed in collaboration with INTERPOL and is financially supported by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

- The launch took place at the World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development - MONDIACULT 2025, in Barcelona, Spain. **Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.**
- The museum is a global initiative that features stolen or missing cultural objects from around the world.
- It currently displays hundreds of missing objects submitted by various Member States from multiple regions, including Europe, North America, Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, Arab countries, and Asia and the Pacific (which includes South Asia).
- For example, it features sculptures from India (a South Asian country), but also artifacts from Romania (Europe), Cameroon (Africa), and Libya (Arab States), confirming its global scope.

Q 62.B

- Inland water transport (IWT) refers to the movement of people and goods on navigable waterways like rivers, canals, lakes, and other inland bodies of water.
- **Status of Inland waterways in India**
 - Navigable Waterways: India has about 14,500 km of navigable waterways which comprise of rivers, canals, backwaters creeks, etc.
 - About 133.03 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) of cargo is being moved annually by Inland Water Transport (IWT).
 - Comparison with Other Countries: In India, only 3.5% of trade happens through waterways, compared to 47% in China, 40% in Europe, and 35% in Bangladesh.
- **National Waterway-1 (Allahabad – Haldia)**
 - NW-1 is the longest National Waterway in India, running along the Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system, connecting Prayagraj (formerly Allahabad) in Uttar Pradesh to Haldia in West Bengal. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- **National Waterway-2 (Sadiya – Dhubri)**
 - NW-2 runs along the Brahmaputra River in Assam, connecting Sadiya and Dhubri. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- **National Waterway-3 (Kakinada – Puducherry)**
 - NW-3 is the West Coast Canal system in Kerala, the navigable stretch runs Kottapuram (near Kodungallur) – Kollam (including Champakara and Udyogmandal canals), not Kakinada–Puducherry. **Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.**
- The stretch Kakinada – Puducherry along with specific stretches of the Godavari and Krishna rivers is designated as NW-4.

National Waterways

Total length : 4,503 km

Total states served : 15



Q 63.C

- Sugarcane is a labour intensive crop. The crop is kept weed-free and irrigated frequently if there are no timely rain. Most of the crop is planted just before the hot season, a little earlier in the southern and eastern parts. Sugarcane is planted through following methods:
- Sett Method: New canes are usually planted by taking cuttings from old plants. These cuttings, known as setts, quickly become established and after a few days buds sprout to form new stalks. Four to five stalks grow from cutting. The sugarcane takes anything from 8 months to a year to mature.
- Ratooning: In this method, during the first harvest, the sugarcane is cut leaving a little bit of the stalk in the soil with the roots. The stalk soon puts out new shoots or ratoons. The second or any other successive crop obtained from the roots of the leftover crop is called Ratoon.
- Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**

Q 64.B

- The 2025 Nobel Prize in Physics was awarded to John Clarke, Michel H. Devoret and John M. Martinis "for the **discovery of macroscopic quantum mechanical tunnelling and energy quantisation in an electric circuit.**" This breakthrough underpins quantum computing technologies such as superconducting qubits (used by companies like Google & IBM). **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- The 2025 Nobel Prize in Chemistry was awarded for the development of Metal-Organic Frameworks (MOFs).
- The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awarded the 2025 Nobel Prize in Chemistry to Susumu Kitagawa, Richard Robson, and Omar M. Yaghi for their work on the development of Metal-Organic Frameworks (MOFs).
- MOFs are a revolutionary class of porous, crystalline materials used for applications like gas capture CO₂, gas storage, and harvesting water from desert air. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**

- The 2025 Medicine Nobel was awarded for **discoveries related to immune tolerance and regulatory T-cells, specifically mechanisms that prevent the immune system from attacking the body's own tissues** (important for autoimmune diseases, organ transplants, and immunotherapy).
- 2025 Medicine was awarded to Mary E. Brunkow, Fred Ramsdell and Shimon Sakaguchi for discoveries concerning peripheral immune tolerance (regulatory T cells, FOXP3), not microRNA.
- The microRNA discovery was recognised in 2024 (Ambros and Ruvkun). **Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.**

Q 65.B

- The Kokrajhar (Assam)-Gelephu rail project is one of the cross-border railway links being established between India and Bhutan. **The Kokrajhar district in Assam, India, will be connected to Gelephu in Bhutan's Sarpang region.** This project will give Bhutan its first-ever railway connectivity. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**



- The Kaladan Multimodal Project is a joint India-Myanmar initiative to create an alternative sea-river-road transport corridor connecting India's northeastern states with the Bay of Bengal via Myanmar.** It includes a 158 km waterway on the Kaladan river from Sittwe port to Paletwa in Myanmar, and a 109 km road from Paletwa to the India-Myanmar border at Zorinpui in Mizoram. The project is intended to provide a strategic and economic link for Northeast India, reducing dependence on the narrow Siliguri Corridor. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

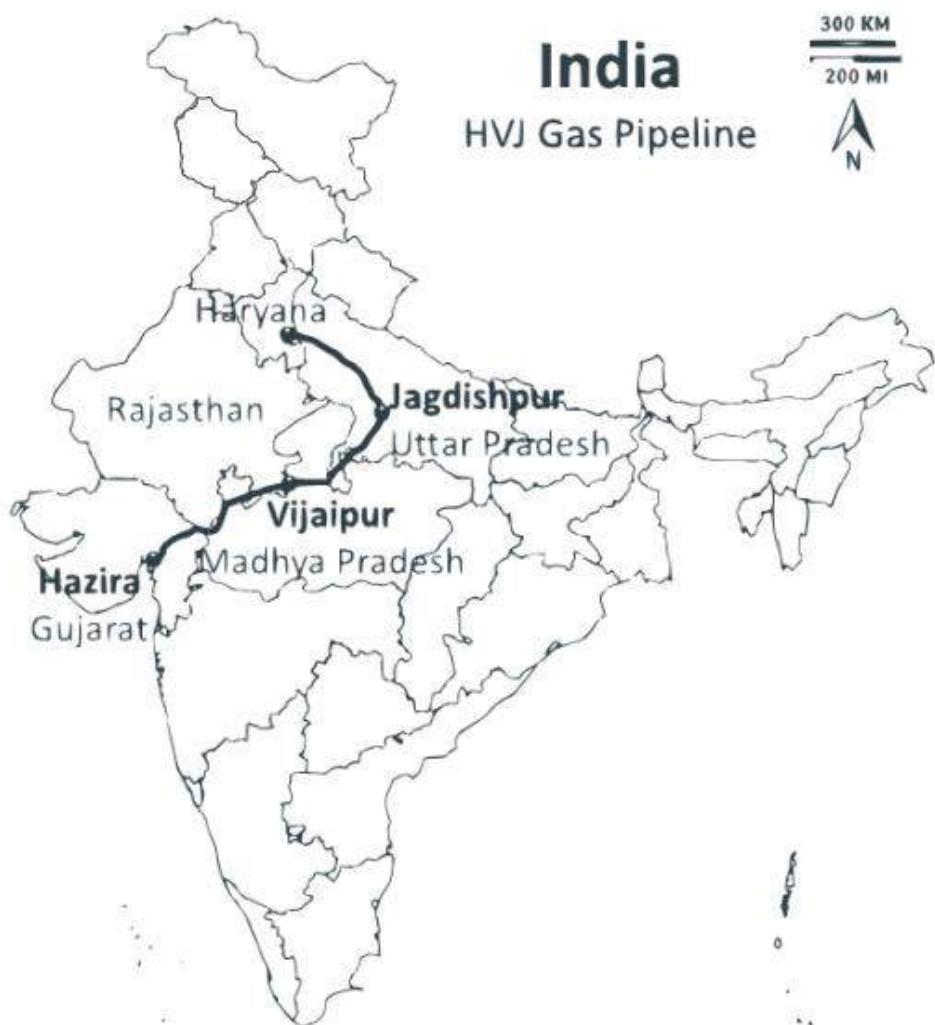


- The International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) is a 7,200-km multi-modal (ship, rail, and road) transport network.** It was established by India, Iran, and Russia to connect the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf (starting from Mumbai, India) to the Caspian Sea via Iran, and onward to St. Petersburg, Russia, and Northern Europe. The route aims to reduce transit time and cost compared to the traditional route via the Suez Canal. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**



Q 66.B

- The Hazira-Vijaipur-Jagdishpur (HVJ) gas pipeline, India's first cross-country gas pipeline, began in 1986 and spans 1,750 kilometers. Managed by GAIL (India) Limited, it supplies natural gas to fertilizer plants in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat.
- The HVJ Pipeline starts from Hazira (Gujarat) and passes through Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, terminating at Jagdishpur. It does not pass through Maharashtra or Chhattisgarh. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.
- Factors for Localization:**
 - Raw Material Proximity: The HBJ pipeline provides essential natural gas for urea production. Example: IFFCO's Hazira plant benefits from this pipeline.
 - Cost Efficiency: Direct pipeline transport reduces costs compared to LNG shipping. Example: KRIBHCO's Shajahanpur plant utilizes this advantage.
 - Infrastructure Access: The pipeline's route offers access to power, transport, and water.



Q 67.B

- Primary sector involves the extraction/production of natural resources (agriculture, fishing, mining, animal husbandry, sericulture etc.).
- Secondary sector involves the manufacturing and processing (refining, textile manufacture, construction, heavy industry etc.).
- Tertiary sector involves the services (transport, banking, insurance, consultancy, trade).
- **Mineral exploration**
 - Mineral exploration is normally associated with the primary sector because it relates to prospecting and preparation for extraction of mineral resources (part of the mining complex). **Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
- Oil refining
 - **Oil refining is an industrial processing activity (turning crude into petrol, diesel, petrochemicals), so it belongs to the secondary sector. Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- Sericulture
 - Sericulture, the practice of rearing silkworms, is an agricultural/animal-husbandry activity that is clearly a primary activity. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**
- Weaving cloth
 - Weaving is a manufacturing activity (textile production), it belongs to the secondary sector, not tertiary. **Hence, pair 4 is not correctly matched.**

Q 68.D

- **As many as 31 out of 36 states in India have attained a replacement fertility level of 2.1**, which is the average number of children per woman required to sustain a steady population size, according to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- **Five states, including Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, and Manipur are the remaining states where fertility rates exceed the desired replacement level.** more than 65 per cent of India's population falls in the reproductive age group. **Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**

States/UTs above replacement level fertility		
S. No.	States/UTs	TFR
1	Bihar	3.0
2	Jharkhand	2.3
3	Manipur	2.2
4	Meghalaya	2.9
5	Uttar Pradesh	2.4

(Source: National Family Health Survey (NFHS 5, 2019-21)

S. No.	States/UTs	TFR
	India	2.0
States/UTs below replacement level fertility		
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1.3
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1.7
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.8
4.	Assam	1.9
5.	Chandigarh	1.4
6.	Chhattisgarh	1.8
7.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	1.8
8.	Delhi	1.6
9.	Goa	1.3
10.	Gujarat	1.9
11.	Haryana	1.9
12.	Himachal Pradesh	1.7
13.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.4
14.	Karnataka	1.7
15.	Kerala	1.8
16.	Ladakh	1.3
17.	Lakshadweep	1.4
18.	Madhya Pradesh	2.0
19.	Maharashtra	1.7
20.	Mizoram	1.9
21.	Nagaland	1.7
22.	Odisha	1.8
23.	Puducherry	1.5
24.	Punjab	1.6
25.	Rajasthan	2.0
26.	Sikkim	1.1
27.	Tamil Nadu	1.8
28.	Telangana	1.8
29.	Tripura	1.7
30.	Uttarakhand	1.9
31.	West Bengal	1.6

Q 69.D

- The classification of minerals in India is primarily governed by the Ministry of Mines, not the Ministry of Earth Sciences. The Ministry of Mines did issue a gazette notification classifying all types of limestone entirely as a major mineral, removing the previous dual classification based on end-use. **Hence, statement I is not correct.**
- The primary objective of the reclassification was to promote ease of doing business and simplify the regulatory framework. Previously, limestone was a 'minor mineral' (governed by State rules) when used for lime manufacturing in building materials, and a 'major mineral' (governed by Central rules) for all other industrial uses (cement, steel, etc.).
- The uniform classification as a Major Mineral under the Central government's Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act), removes these end-use restrictions. This allows leaseholders to sell or utilise limestone for any purpose, which is expected to boost industrial production, increase the availability of limestone for the cement industry, and thus create a more favorable environment for private investment, growth, and employment. **Hence, statement II is correct.**

Q 70.B

- India is a land of linguistic diversity. In the context of modern India, there are about 22 scheduled languages and a number of non-scheduled languages. Among the **scheduled languages, the speakers of**

Hindi have the highest percentage. The smallest language groups are Kashmiri and Sanskrit speakers.

- The speakers of major Indian languages belong to four language families, which have their sub-families and branches or groups. These are:
 - Austro-Asiatic
 - Indo-European
 - Dravidian
 - Sino-Tibetan

Family	Sub-Family	Branch/Group	Speech Areas
Austro-Asiatic (Nishada) 1.38%	Austro-Asiatic	Mon-Khmer Munda	Meghalaya, Nicobar Islands West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra Outside India
	Austro-Nesian		
Dravidian (Dravida) 20%		South-Dravidian	Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala Andhra Pradesh, M.P., Odisha, Maharashtra
		Central Dravidian	Bihar, Odisha, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh
		North Dravidian	
Sino-Tibetan (Kirata) 0.85%	Tibeto-Myanmar	Tibeto-Himalayan	Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim
		North Assam	Arunachal Pradesh Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Meghalaya
	Siamese-Chinese	Assam-Myanmar	
Indo-European (Aryan) 73%	Indo-Aryan	Iranian	Outside India
		Dardic	Jammu & Kashmir
		Indo-Aryan	Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, U.P., Rajasthan, Haryana, M.P., Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal, Assam, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa.

- Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**
- Indo-European:** This is the most important of all the families of languages and is spoken by a little less than three-fourths of the Indian population.
- Dravidian Languages:** Dravidian languages are older than the Aryan languages. According to an estimate, Dravidians entered India much before the Aryans. Other estimates indicate that they are the original inhabitants of the country, who were driven away towards the south by the Aryans at a later stage. Today, the Dravidian languages form a well-knit family by themselves and unlike the Aryan, Austro and the Sino-Tibetan speeches they have no relations outside the Indian subcontinent.

Q 71.A

- Iron ore** is the source of primary iron for the world's iron and steel industries. It is therefore essential for the production of steel, which in turn is essential to maintain a strong industrial base.
- The iron ore is found in following four types:
 - Magnetite:** It is the most important and best kind of iron ore. It contains about 72 percent metallic iron in it. It is black in colour.
 - Hematite:** It is also an important source. It contains about 60-70 percent metallic iron in it. It is red and brown in colour. Limonite: It contains about 30 to 40 percent metallic iron in it. It is mostly yellow in colour. It is a low-grade iron ore.
 - Siderite:** It has more impurities. It contains about 48 percent metallic iron content in it. It is brown in colour. It contains a mixture of iron and carbon. It is a low-grade iron ore.
- Australia is the world's largest producer of iron ore.**
 - Russia:** It has one of the largest proven reserves of iron ore. Important iron-producing regions of Russia are the Ural region, Kuzkas region in Siberia, Angara and Krasnoyarsk.
 - Ukraine:** Good quality ore with high iron content is found in **Krivoy Rog region of Southern Ukraine**, Kursk Magnetic Anomaly (KMA) and Kerch peninsula.

- **Europe:** Sweden is an important region where good quality iron ore is found. Major areas of iron-ore mining in **Sweden include Kiruna**, Gallivare and Danmora.
- **North America:** The major iron ore mining areas are the Lake Superior region including **Mesabi**, Vermillion, Marquette, Cuyana, Manomimi and Gogebic.
- **South America:** Brazil is known for its one of the largest reserves of iron ore in the world. **The Carajás Mine**, the largest iron ore mine in the world, is located in **Brazil**. Other important regions of iron ore mining are Orinoco Valley of Venezuela and La Serena area of Chile.
- **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**

Q 72.A

- As per the 2nd advance estimates for 2022-23, the total horticulture production is estimated to be 351.92 Million Tonne, surpassing the total foodgrain production of 329.69 Million Tonne during the year. At present, India is the second largest producer of vegetables and fruits in the world. Country ranks first in the production of number of crops like Banana, Lime & Lemon, Papaya, Okra.
- The Horticulture production in the country has been steadily increasing over the years due to the proactive policies and initiatives of the Government of India and the State Governments and the improved crop production technologies and management practices.
- India is the world's largest producer of mangoes, accounting for approximately 40-50% of global production. The country's production is substantial, with recent figures showing an annual output of around 26 million metric tons. Other major producers include Indonesia and China, which are the next-largest producers after India.
- China is the world's largest apple producer, accounting for nearly half of the global supply. Other top producers include Turkey, the United States, Poland, and India. **Hence, point 2 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**

Q 73.A

- Patterns of Global Population Distribution
 - Population distribution refers to how people are spread over the Earth's surface. Nearly 90% of the world's population lives on just 10% of the land area, forming dense clusters in regions with favorable geographical conditions such as fertile plains, river valleys, and coastal belts. These patterns reveal zones of high, medium, and low population density based on physical and socio-economic factors.
- Global Density Patterns
 - Highly Populated Regions
 - > The densely populated areas are those with over 200 persons per sq. km. NCERT clearly lists the following as the world's major population cores:
 - > **North-Eastern part of the U.S.A.**,
 - > North-Western part of Europe, and
 - > South, South-East, and **East Asia**.
 - > These regions combine fertile soils, suitable climates, and historical development of agriculture and industry, sustaining dense human settlements for centuries.
 - Moderately Populated Regions
 - > Areas with 11 to 50 persons per sq. km are considered medium-density regions. **These include Western China and Southern India. Hence, options 1 and 3 are not correct.**
 - > These regions support population through localized agriculture or resource-based economies but lack the extensive fertile plains or industrial concentration seen in high-density regions.

Q 74.C

- India has established underground crude oil storage facilities as part of its energy security strategy to address supply disruptions. The program is managed by Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPL).
- The program is being executed in two phases:
 - Phase I (Completed): Phase I involved the construction of underground rock caverns at three locations on the east and west coasts of India. All these sites are currently operational:
 - > Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh): Located on the East Coast.
 - > Mangaluru (Karnataka): Located on the West Coast.
 - > Padur (Karnataka): Located on the West Coast.
- Phase II includes two additional commercial-cum-strategic facilities:

- Chandikhol (Odisha): East Coast.
- Padur (Karnataka): Expansion of the existing facility on the West Coast.
- **Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.**

Q 75.C

- 1. Maputo — Mozambique
 - Maputo is the capital and largest city of Mozambique, located on the Indian Ocean coast in southeastern Africa. It functions as the political, cultural, and economic center of the country.
 - **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- 2. Chopan-Ata — Kyrgyzstan
 - Chopan-Ata (also spelled Cholpon-Ata) is a resort and cultural town located on the northern shore of Lake Issyk-Kul in Kyrgyzstan. It is known for its ancient petroglyphs and holds significance as a historical Silk Road stop.
 - **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- 3. Tbilisi — Georgia
 - Tbilisi is the capital of Georgia, located on the banks of the Kura River. It has historically served as a key cultural and trade hub between Europe and Asia.
 - **Hence, pair 3 is also correctly matched.**

Q 76.C

- Rice is a kharif crop that requires a temperature above 25C, high humidity and above 100 cm of annual rainfall. It is a staple food in Indian households and India is the world's second-largest producer after China and largest exporter globally. Unpolished rice is rich in Vitamins A, B and Calcium and polished rice lacks these nutrients.
- Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal are the top three rice-producing states in India. Telangana is the largest producer, followed by Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, with other major producing states including Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Bihar.

Table 1.18: Production of Important Crops in three Largest Producing States in 2023-24

(Production in Million Tonnes)

Crops/Groups of Crops	States	Production	Per cent Share of Production to All India	Cumulative per cent Share of Production
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
I. Foodgrains				
Rice	Telangana	16.87	12.24	12.24
	Uttar Pradesh	15.99	11.60	23.84
	West Bengal	15.69	11.31	35.22

- **Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.**

Q 77.D

- Shale Gas can emerge as an important new source of energy in the country. India has several Shale formations which seem to hold Shale Gas and oil. The Shale Gas formations are spread over several sedimentary basins such as Cambay, Gondwana, Krishna-Godavari and Cauvery on-land. The Government has issued "Policy Guidelines for Exploration and Exploitation of Shale Gas and Oil by National Oil Companies under Nomination regime" on 14th October, 2013. Under this Policy, the right to exploration and exploitation of Shale Gas & Oil will lie with the NOCs holding Petroleum Exploration License (PEL)/Petroleum Mining Lease (PML) granted under the nomination regime.
- It is estimated that a number of **sedimentary basins (Gangetic plain, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh & other coastal areas) in India, including the hydrocarbon bearing ones – Cambay, Assam-Arakan, & Damodar – have large shale deposits.** Various agencies have made different estimates of shale gas and oil in the Indian sedimentary basins.

Prospective basins for phase 1 shale oil and gas exploration



- Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

Q 78.D

- Rice is a staple food for the overwhelming majority of the population in India. Though it is considered to be a crop of tropical humid areas, it has about 3,000 varieties which are grown in different agro-climatic regions. These are successfully grown from sea level to about 2,000 m altitude and from humid areas in eastern India to dry but irrigated areas of Punjab, Haryana, western U.P., and northern Rajasthan. In southern states and West Bengal, the climatic conditions allow the cultivation of two or three crops of rice in an agricultural year. In West Bengal farmers grow three crops of rice called 'aus', 'aman' and 'boro'. But in Himalayas and northwestern parts of the country, it is grown as a kharif crop during southwest Monsoon season.
- Hence option (d) is the correct answer.

Q 79.C

- **Types of the settlement are determined by the extent of the built-up area and inter-houses.** There are various factors and conditions responsible for having different types of rural settlements in India. These include: (i) physical features – nature of terrain, altitude, climate and availability of water (ii) cultural and ethenic factors – social structure, caste and religion (iii) security factors – defence against thefts and robberies.
- **T-shaped, Y-shaped, Cross-shaped or cruciform settlements:** T-shaped settlements develop at tri-junctions of the roads while **Y-shaped settlements** emerge at the places where two roads converge on the third one and houses are built along roads. Cruciform settlements develop on the cross-roads and houses extend in four direction. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Radial Pattern:** Radial pattern develops at a nodal place where number of roads and streets or foot-paths coming from different directions converge at a site. Conversely the roads, streets and foot-paths radiate from a nodal place to different directions and give rise to radial pattern. Houses are built along the transport routes and a radial pattern comes into being. Obviously the central or the nodal part is a vital point in the evolution of the settlement and is occupied by the landlord or village head or

some religious place. Some socio-cultural buildings may also come at this place. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Q 80.D

- PVTGs are more vulnerable among the tribal groups. Due to this factor, more developed and assertive tribal groups take a major chunk of the tribal development funds, because of which PVTGs need more funds directed for their development. In this context, in 1975, the Government of India initiated to identify the most vulnerable tribal groups as a separate category called PVTGs and declared 52 such groups, while in 1993 an additional 23 groups were added to the category, making it a total of 75 PVTGs out of 705 Scheduled Tribes, **spread over 17 states and one Union Territory (UT), in the country (2011 census).**
 - **In Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, Buxas and Rajis tribes comes under PVTGs.**
- **In 1973, the Dhebar Commission** created Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) as a separate category, who are less developed among the tribal groups. In 2006, the Government of India renamed the PTGs as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). **Hence option (d) is the correct answer.**
- Government of India follows the following criteria for identification of PVTGs.
 - Pre-agricultural level of technology
 - Low level of literacy
 - Economic backwardness
 - A declining or stagnant population.

Q 81.B

- **Recent context:** In October 2025, a confrontation occurred near Thitu Island, where a Philippine vessel was rammed and water-canoned by a Chinese coast-guard ship.
- This island is part of the disputed Spratly Islands in the South China Sea, making it strategically significant.
- Thitu Island (also known as Pag-asa Island) is part of the Spratly Islands, a group of islands, reefs, and cays located in the western part of the South China Sea. It is an area of significant territorial dispute, making it frequently mentioned in the news. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**



- **Recent context:** In October 2025, Madagascar's military took over after protests, leading to the country's suspension from the African Union.
- The Guardian
- The island nation features in geopolitics of the Indian Ocean, e.g., a French President visited in April 2025 focusing on Indian Ocean diplomacy
- Madagascar is the world's fourth-largest island and is an island country located off the southeastern coast of Africa in the Indian Ocean. Anti-government Gen Z protests in Madagascar have led to the fall of the government. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**



- **Recent Context:** Barbados hosted the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) 68th Annual Conference and its General Assembly in October 2025.
- Barbados is the easternmost island of the Lesser Antilles in the Caribbean region. It is situated in the Atlantic Ocean, not the Pacific Ocean. **Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.**



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Q 82.B

- **Context: Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) revised draft CAFE-3 and CAFE-4 norms.**
- **Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (CAFE) norms**
 - The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) issued revised draft Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (CAFE) norms for CAFE-3 (April 2027–March 2032) and CAFE-4 (April 2032–March 2037) on September 25, 2025, setting target CO₂ emission limits of 91.7 g/km and 70 g/km, respectively, aligned with the World Harmonised Light Vehicle Test Procedure (WLTP).
 - New norms have been introduced offering special relief for small cars for the first time and offering incentives for flex-fuel and strong hybrid vehicles.
 - These were first notified by the Government in 2017, under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001
 - Aim: To mitigate fuel consumption by lowering CO₂ emissions and to reduce oil dependency and air pollution.
 - Applicability: Passenger cars with seating capacity not exceeding 9 persons including the driver and gross vehicle weight not exceeding 3,500 kg.
 - These norms shall come into force from 1st April 2027 until 31st March 2032.
- **Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.**

Q 83.C

- The cyclonic storm 'Shakti' formed over the Arabian Sea in October 2025. It intensified into a Severe Cyclonic Storm, prompting alerts for coastal regions of Gujarat and Maharashtra. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The naming system is managed by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Panel on Tropical Cyclones. Cyclone Shakti, which formed over the Arabian Sea in October 2025, was named by Sri Lanka according to the naming convention for the North Indian Ocean. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Q 84.C

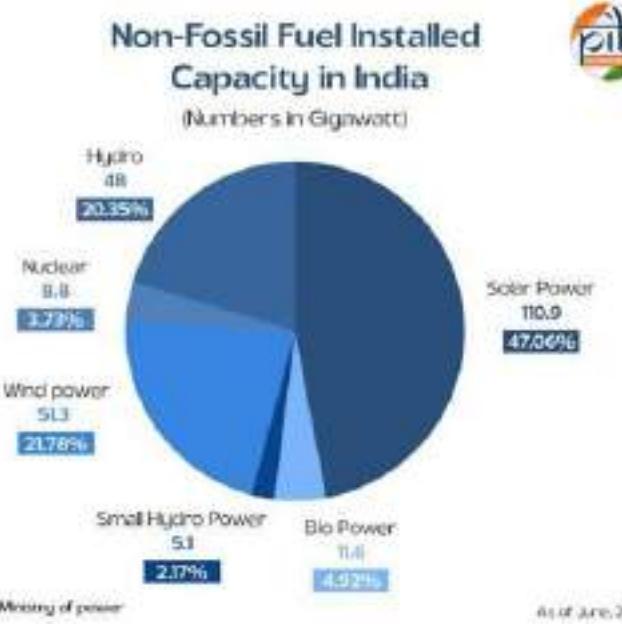
- The Three Gorges Dam in China is the largest hydroelectric power station in the world based on its installed capacity. It is built on the Yangtze river.**
- The Hoover Dam is built on the Colorado River, specifically in the Black Canyon on the border of Nevada and Arizona.** It was constructed to control the river's floods and provide water for irrigation and hydroelectric power. The dam impounds the Colorado River to create Lake Mead, one of the world's largest artificial lakes.
- The Kariba dam, located between Zambia and Zimbabwe, creates the world's largest reservoir by volume.** It is built on the Zambezi river. It creates lake Kariba which is the world's largest artificial lake and reservoir by volume. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.
- The Hirakud Dam in India is the longest major earthen dam in the world.** It is built on the Mahanadi river. Spanning an area upto 700 km² when full, the Hirakud Reservoir provides water for generating ~ 300 MW hydropower through its two power houses at Burla and Chiplima; irrigating 462,100 ha culturable command area within Bargarh, Bolangir, Sambalpur and Subarnapur Districts; and securing 9,500 km² of Mahanadi Delta region from floods.

Q 85.D

- Context:** The Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change (MOEFCC) has issued a new methodology for calculating Green Credit for tree plantation under the Green Credit Rules, 2023
- The Green Credit Rules have been notified by the Government of India on 12th October 2023** under the Environment Protection Act, 1986, as mechanism to encourage voluntary plantation activity across the country, resulting in award of Green Credits and to build an inventory of degraded land which can be utilised for Afforestation programmes.
- Covered Activities:** The Green Credit program encompasses eight key types of activities aimed at enhancing environmental sustainability:
 - Tree Plantation:** Planting trees to increase green cover and combat deforestation.
 - Water Management:** Implementing strategies to efficiently manage and conserve water resources.
 - Sustainable Agriculture:** Promoting eco-friendly and sustainable agricultural practices.
 - Waste Management:** Implementing effective waste management systems to reduce environmental pollution.
 - Air Pollution Reduction: Initiatives aimed at reducing air pollution and improving air quality.
 - Mangrove Conservation and Restoration:** Protecting and restoring mangrove ecosystems for ecological balance.
- Hence option (d) is the correct answer.**

Q 86.D

- India's power sector is among the most diversified in the world, with generation from conventional sources like coal, gas, hydro, and nuclear, as well as renewable sources such as solar, wind, biomass, and small hydro. With rising electricity demand, India continues to expand its energy capacity to support economic growth and sustainability goals.
- Over the past eleven years, India has made remarkable progress in the renewable energy sector. In line with the commitment made at COP26, the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) is working tirelessly to achieve 500 GW of installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030. As of June 2025, the country has already achieved 235.7 GW from non-fossil fuel sources, comprising 226.9 GW of renewable energy and 8.8 GW of nuclear power, accounting for 49% of the total installed power generation capacity of 476 GW. This marks a significant step toward India's decarbonisation goals and its pledge to a sustainable future.
- As of June 2025, India's total installed power capacity has reached a significant milestone with 476 GW, led by 240 GW of thermal, 110.9 GW of solar, and 51.3 GW of wind power, marking a strong shift towards renewable energy and energy security.



- Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

Q 87.B

- The PM-SETU (Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs) scheme was launched in October 2025 to modernize 1,000 government-run Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) across India. The ₹60,000-crore initiative aims to transform ITIs into advanced, industry-aligned training centers to meet contemporary and future skill demands. **Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.**
- The PM-SETU scheme utilizes a hub-and-spoke model to upgrade 1,000 ITIs, with 200 hubs providing advanced facilities and 800 spokes disseminating training to wider regions. Industry partners will manage ITI clusters through SPVs to ensure relevant training programs. The scheme, with a ₹60,000 crore outlay, is funded by central and state governments, industry, and multilateral agencies. It also includes establishing 1,200 Vocational Skill Labs in schools and emphasizes continuous trainer development.

Q 88.C

- Globally, about one-third of the world's agricultural land is used for croplands to produce food, with the remaining two-thirds used for permanent pastures for livestock. In India, nearly 80% of agricultural land is dedicated to food crops like rice, wheat, and pulses. However, overall agricultural land in India, and globally, is slowly decreasing due to urbanization and other development. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The area under rice cultivation is greater than the area under wheat cultivation in India. Rice covers about 25% of the total cropped area in India, while wheat covers roughly 14%. Rice is the most cultivated crop, occupying the largest area due to its status as a staple food and its prevalence in states with abundant water and irrigation.
- The total area under rice cultivation is approximately 514.23 lakh hectares, and the area for wheat is around 327.61 lakh hectares, as of the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare's reports from 2024-2025. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Q 89.A

- **The Child Sex Ratio is defined as the number of females per 1000 males in the age group 0–6 years.** In the census 2001 the child sex ratio of India was 927 which declined to 919 in the census 2011. **As per the census 2011, Arunachal Pradesh has the highest child sex ratio among the Indian states i.e. 972** while Haryana has the lowest child sex ratio i.e. 834 per thousand males. Among the Union Territories of India; Andaman and Nicobar Islands has the highest child sex ratio i.e. 968 per thousand males. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct and 3 is correct.**
- Although overall sex ratio in India gives a gloomy picture, situation with respect to child sex ratio in the age group of 0-6 years is more depressing. Whereas **overall sex ratios has slightly improved between 1991 and 2011, the child sex ratio has registered a steep fall from 976 in 1961 to a desperate 914 in 2011.** This is the lowest child sex ratio India has ever recorded since Independence. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

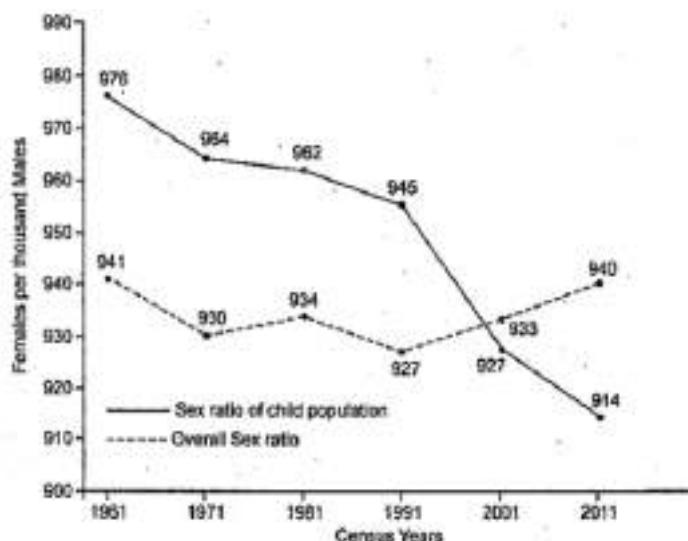


FIG. 11.8. Child sex ratio and overall sex ratio in India 1961-2011.

Child Sex Ratio in India (2001-2011)

S. No.	State/UTs	Child Sex Ratio (0-6)	
		2001	2011
	INDIA	927	919
1	JAMMU & KASHMIR	941	862
2	HIMACHAL PRADESH	896	909
3	PUNJAB	798	846
4	CHANDIGARH	845	880
5	UTTARAKHAND	908	890
6	HARYANA	819	834
7	NCT OF DELHI	868	871
8	RAJASTHAN	909	888
9	UTTAR PRADESH	916	902
10	BIHAR	942	935
11	SIKKIM	963	957
12	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	964	972
13	NAGALAND	964	943
14	MANIPUR	957	936
15	MIZORAM	964	970
16	TRIPURA	966	957
17	MEGHALAYA	973	970
18	ASSAM	965	962
19	WEST BENGAL	960	956
20	JHARKHAND	965	948
21	ODISHA	953	941
22	CHHATTISGARH	975	969
23	MADHYA PRADESH	932	918
24	GUJARAT	883	890
25	DAMAN & DIU	926	904
26	DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI	979	926
27	MAHARASHTRA	913	894
28	ANDHRA PRADESH	961	939
29	KARNATAKA	946	948
30	GOA	938	942
31	LAKSHADWEEP	959	911
32	KERALA	960	964
33	TAMIL NADU	942	943
34	PUDUCHERRY	967	967
35	A & N ISLANDS	957	968

Source: Census of India 2011.

Q 90.C

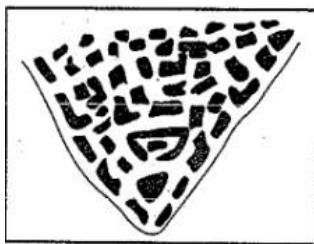
- Khirghiz – Central Asia
 - The Khirghiz (or Kyrgyz) are a Turkic ethnic group primarily inhabiting Central Asia, especially in Kyrgyzstan, parts of western China (Xinjiang), and Tajikistan.
 - They are pastoral nomads, depending on yak, horse, and sheep herding, and are well adapted to cold steppe and mountain climates.
 - **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- Bushmen – Kalahari Desert
 - The Bushmen or San people are among the oldest surviving hunter-gatherer communities, found mainly in the Kalahari Desert of Botswana, Namibia, and South Africa.
 - They are known for their click-language, stone-age traditions, and nomadic hunting lifestyle suited to the semi-arid desert environment.
 - **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- Bedouin – Arabian Desert
 - The Bedouins are Arabic-speaking nomadic tribes inhabiting the Arabian Desert and adjoining regions of Jordan, Syria, and Egypt.
 - They are historically camel herders and traders, practicing oasis-based subsistence and pastoral nomadism under harsh arid conditions.
 - **Hence, pair 3 is also correctly matched.**

Q 91.C

- **Algaculture is the farming of algae, a type of aquaculture that cultivates both microscopic algae (microalgae) and larger varieties like seaweed (macroalgae). It involves providing essential conditions like water, carbon dioxide, light, and nutrients, and has diverse applications including food, biofuels, health supplements, and pollution control.**
- **Key aspects of algaculture**
- **Types of algae:**
 - Microalgae: Microscopic, single-celled or chain-like algae (phytoplankton) cultivated in freshwater or marine environments.
 - Macroalgae: Multicellular algae commonly known as seaweed, which are typically farmed in littoral zones.
- **Cultivation requirements:**
 - Water: Suitable temperature is crucial, with systems ranging from open ponds to closed photobioreactors.
 - Light: Consistent and adequate light exposure is necessary for photosynthesis.
 - Nutrients: Algae require nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, and trace elements like silica and iron, which act as fertilizers.
 - Carbon Dioxide: Algae absorb carbon dioxide, making their cultivation a potential method for carbon sequestration.
- **Methods of cultivation:**
 - Open pond systems: Large, open ponds with paddlewheels to circulate the water, exposing algae to light and mixing nutrients.
 - Closed systems: Enclosed systems, such as photobioreactors, which are often made of tubes or transparent containers and offer more control over the environment.
- **Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.**

Q 92.A

- **Arrow Pattern: The villages which grow at the end of a cape, or at a sharp bend of a meandering river or a lake often assume arrow shape.** The main concentration of houses is along the roads and the number of houses increases away from the arrow point. In India, such settlements are found at Kanniyakumari, Chilka lake, Gulf of Khambohat and along the banks of Sonar river in Madhya Pradesh and Burhi Gandak in Bihar. **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**



-
- **Nebular Pattern:** Settlements resembling the shape of a nebula are said to have nebular pattern. The roads in such settlements are generally circular which end at the centre or nucleus of the village. These settlements are usually of small size.
- **Checkerboard Pattern:** This pattern develops at a place where two roads or some other mode of transport meet almost at right angles. The point of intersection of two main roads is the focus of growth of the settlement. The other roads or streets are parallel to the main roads and also parallel to each other. They meet each other at right angles. Such villages are found in large numbers in the fertile plain of north India. They are highly concentrated in the Ganga-Yamuna Doab. In south India, the checkerboard pattern is quite common in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- **T-Shape Pattern:** Sometimes the routes meet in such a way that they make a 'T' junction. People start making their houses along the routes extending in all three directions and T-shape pattern develops.

Q 93.A

- The SPARK initiative, which stands for Studentship Program for Ayurveda Research Ken, is a flagship scheme of the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) under the Ministry of AYUSH.
- The core objective of the SPARK program is to:
 - Ignite scientific curiosity and develop a research aptitude among young Ayurveda scholars.
 - Provide an opportunity for undergraduate Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery (BAMS) students to undertake short-term, independent research projects under the guidance of faculty mentors.
- **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**
- Key Features of SPARK 4.0
 - Target Group: BAMS undergraduate students across India.
 - Support: Selected students are awarded a studentship (stipend) of ₹50,000 to conduct their research project.
 - Goal: To strengthen the research ecosystem within the AYUSH sector and bridge classical Ayurvedic knowledge with modern scientific methods and evidence-based inquiry.

Q 94.B

- **Density of population is defined as number of persons per unit area.** It helps in getting a better understanding of the spatial distribution of population in relation to land. According to Census 2011, the density of population in India is 382 persons per sq km. There has been a steady increase of more than 200 persons per sq km over the last 50 years as the density of population increased from 117 persons/ sq km in 1951 to 382 persons/sq km in 2011. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- India's population density varies widely across states and regions. The Northern Plains, deltas, and coastal regions have high densities due to fertile soils, favorable climate, and access to water, supporting agriculture and settlements.
- **With a density of 1102 persons per sq km (census 2011), Bihar is the most densely populated State in the country. With a density of 17 persons per sq km (census 2011), Arunachal Pradesh is the least densely populated State in the country. Hence, statement 2 and 3 are correct.**
- Among the northern Indian States, Bihar (1102), West Bengal (1029) and Uttar Pradesh (828) have higher densities, while Kerala (859) and Tamil Nadu (555) have higher densities among the peninsular Indian states. States like Assam, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Jharkhand, Odisha have moderate densities. The hill states of the Himalayan region and North eastern states of India (excluding Assam) have relatively low densities while the Union Territories (excluding Andaman and Nicobar islands) have very high densities of population.

Q 95.A

- Growth of population is the change in the number of people living in a particular area between two points of time. Its rate is expressed in percentage. The growth rate of population in India over the last one century has been caused by annual birth rate and death rate and rate of migration and thereby shows different trends. There are four distinct phases of growth identified within this period:
- **Phase I : The period from 1901-1921 is referred to as a period of stagnant or stationary phase of growth of India's population**, since in this period growth rate was very low, even recording a negative growth rate during 1911-1921. Both the birth rate and death rate were high keeping the rate of increase low (Appendix-iii). **Poor health and medical services, illiteracy of people at large and inefficient distribution system of food and other basic necessities were largely responsible for a high birth and death rates in this period. Hence, statement I and statement II are correct, and statement II is the correct explanation for statement I.**
- **Phase II** : The decades 1921-1951 are referred to as the period of steady population growth. An overall improvement in health and sanitation throughout the country brought down the mortality rate.
- **Phase III** : The decades 1951-1981 are referred to as the period of population explosion in India, which was caused by a rapid fall in the mortality rate but a high fertility rate of population in the country.
- **Phase IV** : In the post 1981 till present, the growth rate of country's population though remained high, slowing down gradually. A downward trend of crude birth rate is held responsible for such a population growth.

Q 96.B

- Chandra Taal is a lake in the upper Chandra valley of the Lahul and Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh, India. Chandra Taal is near the source of the Chandra River. Despite the rugged and inhospitable surroundings, it is in a protected niche with some flowers and wildlife in summer.
- Lake Pichola, in Udaipur city in the Indian state of Rajasthan, is an artificial fresh water lake, created in the year 1362, named after the nearby Picholi village. It is one of the several contiguous lakes, and developed over the last few centuries in and around Udaipur city.
- Ashtamudi Lake, in the Kollam District of the Indian state of Kerala is a unique wetland ecosystem and a large palm-shaped water body. It is second only in size to the Vembanad estuary ecosystem of the state. Ashtamudi means 'eight hills or peaks' in the local Malayalam language
- Bhojtal, also known as Upper Lake, is a large lake which lies on the western side of the capital city of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal, India. It is a major source of drinking water for the residents of the city, serving around 40% of the residents with nearly 30 million imperial gallons of water per day.

INDIA

Important Lakes



- Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

Q 97.B

- The first modern population census in India was conducted between 1865 and 1872, though it didn't happen simultaneously across all regions. **India conducted its first coordinated census in 1881.**
- 1951 Census- First Quality Check:** Pioneered field re-checking to assess census accuracy - the first-ever attempt to verify how correct the count actually was.
- 1961 Census- Cultural Repository:** Conducted extensive studies on rural crafts, fairs, festivals, and ethnographic surveys, transforming the Census Organisation into India's largest sociological information bank.
 - Mechanical Revolution:** First census to use mechanical tabulation equipment including key punches, verifiers, sorters, and tabulators, marking India's early step toward automated data processing.
- 1971 Census- Migration Mapping:** First census to systematically track internal migration by collecting data on people's last place of residence, providing crucial insights into India's population movement patterns. **Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.**
- 1971 Census - Local Choice Research:** Allowed each state's Director of Census Operations to conduct one special study of their choice, making the census more responsive to regional research needs.

Q 98.C

- Land use is the human application of land for various purposes, such as residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, and recreational uses. It involves the management of land and the activities that take place on it, and it is a critical factor in economic development, food security, and environmental management.
- Common Nine-Fold Classification of land use
 - **Forests: All lands, whether state-owned or private, wooded or potential forest land, as per forest-related laws (23.44%)**
 - Non-agricultural Uses: Land occupied by buildings, roads, railways, or underwater (9.03%)
 - **Barren and Unculturable Land: Includes mountains, deserts, etc. (5.43%)**
 - **Permanent Pastures and Grazing Lands: All grazing lands, whether pastures or not (3.36%)**
 - Culturable Waste Land: Land available for cultivation but not used for +5 years (3.87%)
 - Fallow Lands (excluding Current): Temporarily unused for 1-5 years (3.52%)
 - Current Fallows: Cropped areas kept fallow in the current year (4.23%)
 - Misc. (Trees, Crops, etc.): Cultivable land not in 'Net Area Sown' but used agriculturally (0.98%)
 - **Net Area Sown: Total area with crops and orchards (46.10%)**
- **Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.**

Q 99.A

- **A Census Town is an area with urban characteristics like a minimum population of 5,000, at least 75% of the male main working force engaged in non-agricultural activities and population density of at least 400 persons per sq.km.** As per 2011 Census, there are 3,784 Census Towns as against 1,362 in 2001.
- **A Statutory Town** is one with a municipality, corporation, cantonment board or notified town area committee. As per 2011 Census, there are 4,041 such towns as against 3,799 in 2001.
- **State-wise distribution of Census Towns :** West Bengal-780, Kerala-461, Tamil Nadu-376, Maharashtra-279, Uttar Pradesh-267, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana-228, Jharkhand-188, Gujarat-153, Karnataka-127, Assam-126, Odisha-116, Madhya Pradesh-112, Rajasthan-112, Punjab-74, Haryana-14, Bihar-60, Goa-56, Uttarakhand-42, Jammu & Kashmir-36, Tripura-26, Manipur-23, Chattisgarh-14, Meghalaya-12, Nagaland-7, Himachal Pradesh-3, Arunachal Pradesh-1 and Mizoram-0. **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**

Q 100.C

- Iron ore is a type of rock that contains minerals such as hematite, magnetite, and taconite, which are used to produce iron. It is a crucial component in the production of steel, as it provides the iron necessary to create the alloy.
- Iron ore is mined in many countries around the world and is typically found in deposits that are located close to the Earth's surface. The extracted ore is then processed to remove impurities and create pellets or other forms that can be used in steel production.
- Rocks and minerals that can be commercially mined for their iron content can be referred to as iron ores. The ores' colours vary and are caused by a high concentration of iron oxides.
- The country is home to various types of iron ores. These include hematite, magnetite, limonite, and siderite.
 - Hematite: A reddish ore that is one of the most important types, containing 60-70% iron.
 - Magnetite: A black, magnetic ore with a high iron content of about 70-72%.
 - Limonite: A yellowish ore with a lower iron content (around 40-60%) and often found in bogs and lakes.
 - Siderite: A grayish-white ore with less than 40% iron content and higher impurities.
- **Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.**