



# Monthly Editorial Quiz CONSOLIDATION December 2025

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## Practice Questions

- The term Expected Credit Loss (ECL) framework, recently seen in the news, is best described as:
  - A system that sets fixed interest rates for long-term bank loans
  - A mechanism to regulate foreign currency transactions by banks
  - A forward-looking model requiring banks to estimate and provision for potential future loan losses
  - A government scheme for refinancing distressed micro-enterprises
- India's recently released GDP data showed stronger-than-expected growth. Which of the following factors can be attributed to India's higher-than-expected GDP growth?
  - Festive season-driven increase in consumption
  - Government capital expenditure and tax cuts
  - Front-loading of exports ahead of additional US tariffs

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A. 1 and 2 only | B. 2 and 3 only |
| C. 1 only       | D. 1, 2 and 3   |

- Consider the following pairs:

### Column I

- Headline Inflation
- Core Inflation
- Food Inflation

### Column II

- Inflation excluding food and fuel to reflect underlying price trends
- Overall inflation including all major components in the CPI basket
- Inflation driven by rising prices of cereals, pulses, vegetables, etc.

How many of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- |              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| A. Only One  | B. Only Two |
| C. All Three | D. None     |

- Article 311 of the Constitution of India, recently seen in the news, is best described as:
  - A provision that guarantees reservation in promotions for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes
  - A constitutional article that governs the dismissal, removal, or reduction in rank of civil servants under the Union or a State

- A clause that protects the autonomy of the Election Commission of India
- A constitutional provision laying down the procedure for amending the Constitution

- Consider the following statements:

- Under Article 85 of the Constitution, the President summons each House of Parliament, ensuring that the interval between two sessions does not exceed six months.
- The Constitution clearly mandates that Parliament must meet exactly three times every year for a fixed number of sitting days.
- Prorogation is the President's formal act of ending a parliamentary session, after which the House can reconvene only through a fresh summons issued by the President.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- |              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| A. Only One  | B. Only Two |
| C. All Three | D. None     |

- Regarding the Amazon Rainforest, consider the following statements:

- It is the world's largest tropical rainforest, located in South America and spanning an area nearly twice the size of India.
- It spans the Amazon River Basin, the largest river basin globally.
- It is one of the world's richest biological reservoirs, hosting about half of all known wildlife species, all of which are well documented.

How many of the statements given above is/are **not** correct?

- |              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| A. Only One  | B. Only Two |
| C. All Three | D. None     |

- Which of the following statements is/are objective(s) of de-dollarisation?

- Reducing exposure to a single foreign currency
- Making cross-border payments more predictable
- Limiting sudden balance-of-payments stress

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A. 1 and 2 only | B. 2 and 3 only |
| C. 1 only       | D. 1, 2 and 3   |

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8. The term "Bretton Woods system," often seen in the news, is best described as:
- A post-war monetary arrangement based on fixed exchange rates and dollar-gold convertibility
  - A global cyber framework formed for worldwide digital security coordination
  - An international treaty established to manage climate and environmental finance
  - A financial programme created to support large-scale global infrastructure projects

9. Consider the following statements:

- The IndiaAI Mission is implemented by IndiaAI, an independent business division under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- The AI Competency Framework provides structured training to government officials to help them apply AI in policymaking and governance.
- Sarvam AI, in partnership with UIDAI, is using generative AI to enhance Aadhaar services and has been approved to build India's Sovereign LLM Ecosystem.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

10. Regarding the Bar Council of India, consider the following statements:

- It is a statutory body created by Parliament under the Advocates Act, 1961 to regulate and represent the Indian bar.
- It also sets standards for legal education and grants recognition to universities whose degree in law will serve as qualification for enrolment as an advocate.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

11. Consider the following features of a South American country:

- It borders the Caribbean Sea to the north and Brazil to the south.
- Its central region consists of extensive grassy plains known as the llanos.
- More than half of its territory is covered by forests, and key agricultural areas lie in arid and semi-arid regions.

Which of the following countries best matches the above description?

- Colombia
- Venezuela
- Ecuador
- Peru

12. Consider the following statements:

- The preparation, revision, and maintenance of electoral rolls are governed by the Representation of the People Act, 1950.
- Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls is conducted under Representation of the People Act, 1950, and empowered by Article 324 of the Constitution.
- Article 327 deals with the power of Parliament to make provision with respect to elections to the Legislature.

How many of the statements given above is/are **not** correct?

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

13. Consider the following statements:

- World Health Organisation(WHO) recommends GLP-1 therapies as a standalone treatment for obesity in adults.
- Obesity is a major driver of communicable diseases.
- The WHO guidelines exclude pregnant women from using GLP-1 therapies.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 3 only
- All of the above

14. Consider the following statements regarding the Sanchar Saathi app directive:

- The directive mandates pre-installation of the app on all new devices by March 2026.
- The app will have higher system privileges, potentially accessing SMS, camera, and phone functionalities.
- Users cannot delete or disable the app once installed.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 3 only
- All of the above

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15. Match the environmental policy/notification with its effect:

Column A	Column B
1. Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act, 2023	a. Eased construction rules in coastal areas
2. Draft EIA Notification 2020	b. Exempted large categories of land/projects from forest clearance rules
3. CRZ Notification 2018	c. Diluted public hearings and compliance reporting
4. National Clean Air Programme	d. Underfunded initiative to control air pollution

Select the correct answer:

- A. 1-b, 2-c, 3-a, 4-d  
B. 1-c, 2-b, 3-d, 4-a  
C. 1-d, 2-a, 3-b, 4-c  
D. 1-a, 2-b, 3-c, 4-d
16. Consider the following statements regarding ECINet:
1. ECINet is a secure digital platform designed to allow State and District election officials to exchange sensitive election-related information in real time.
  2. Under the ECINet 2.0 upgrade, all communications related to electoral roll management, law and order, and polling logistics will be integrated into a single unified dashboard.
- 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
17. Which of the following Acts or Rules form the normative privacy framework in India?
- A. Puttaswamy Judgment, IT Act 2000, Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023  
B. Right to Information Act 2005, IT Act 2000, NCII SOP 2025  
C. Indian Penal Code, IT Act 2000, CRZ Notification 2018  
D. Forest (Conservation) Act 1980, Digital Media Ethics Code 2025
18. Consider the following statements about the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC):
1. CSC was initiated in 2011 as a trilateral group between India, Sri Lanka, and Maldives.

2. Mauritius and Bangladesh joined CSC as a full member in 2024.
3. The Colombo Security Conclave conducts its strategic coordination at the level of National Security Advisors.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only              B. 2 and 3 only  
C. 1 and 3 only              D. All of the above

19. Consider the following statements regarding India's Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS):

1. CCTS, 2023, has been introduced under the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Act, 2022.
2. The Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS) replaces the Perform, Achieve, and Trade (PAT) scheme.
3. It immediately covers all power, transport, and industrial sectors.

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

20. Regarding Leprosy, consider the following statements:
1. Leprosy is primarily caused by viruses.
  2. India accounts for more than half of the world's leprosy cases.

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

21. Consider the following statements:

1. Prior environmental clearances (ECs) are mandated under the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006.
2. Article 21 of the Constitution provides the right to a clean and healthy environment.

How many statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only                      B. 2 only  
C. Both 1 and 2            D. Neither 1 nor 2

22. The Hayli Gubbi volcano, which erupted after nearly 12,000 years, is located in:

- A. Yemen                      B. Ethiopia  
C. Oman                      D. Iran

23. Consider the following statements:

1. China controls more than 90% of global rare-earth and graphite processing capacity.

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2. India currently imports almost all of its lithium, nickel and cobalt requirements.

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

24. Regarding the depreciation of the Rupee, consider the following statements:

1. A widening trade deficit generally leads to depreciation of the rupee.
2. A surge in gold imports increases demand for dollars in India.
3. Higher crude oil prices always strengthen the rupee due to increased export earnings.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only  
B. 2 and 3 only  
C. 1 and 3 only  
D. 1, 2 and 3

25. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the impact of currency depreciation on exporters and importers?

1. Depreciation is uniformly beneficial for both
2. Depreciation benefits importers and hurts exporters
3. Depreciation marginally benefits exporters
4. Depreciation hurts importers and inflation

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 and 2 only  
B. 2 and 3 only  
C. 3 and 4 only  
D. 1 and 4 only

26. Regarding Dark Energy, consider the following statements:

1. Dark energy refers to an unknown force driving the accelerated expansion of the universe.
2. It is distributed evenly throughout the universe, not only in space but also in time.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 only  
B. 2 only  
C. Both 1 and 2  
D. Neither 1 nor 2

27. Consider the following pairs:

**Column 1**

**Column 2**

- |                  |                                                                 |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Question Hour | Raising urgent matters not on the agenda                        |
| 2. Zero Hour     | Direct questioning of Ministers                                 |
| 3. Half-an-Hour  | Detailed discussion on matters arising from inadequate answers. |

How many of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- A. Only one  
B. Only two  
C. All three  
D. None

28. Consider the following statements regarding Shyamji Krishna Varma:

1. He founded India House in London to provide a base for Indian students and revolutionaries in Europe.
2. He edited the journal *Indian Sociologist*, which advocated for constitutional reforms in British 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

29. Consider the following statements:

1. Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) have roughly one-third the generating capacity of traditional nuclear reactors but can still produce large amounts of low-carbon electricity.
2. Russia's Akademik Lomonosov is the world's first operational floating nuclear power plant.

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

30. Operation Trident, which was recently seen in the news, is best described as:

- A. A naval strike mission carried out by India against Pakistan in the 1971 conflict.
- B. A maritime training exercise conducted jointly by several nations in the Indian Ocean.
- C. A coastal security operation launched to counter piracy threats near regional waters.

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D. A coordinated defence initiative aimed at improving cyber readiness among partners.

31. In the context of recent monetary policy, which of the following best explains the term “Goldilocks period”?

- A. High growth and high inflation
- B. Low inflation and low growth
- C. High growth and low inflation
- D. Moderate growth and moderate inflation

32. Which of the following statements best describes the concept of “Digital Constitutionalism”?

- A. Using digital tools to rewrite existing constitutions
- B. Extending constitutional principles such as liberty, dignity, equality and accountability into the digital domain
- C. Making digital technologies accountable chiefly to political parties and electoral authorities
- D. Creating a centralised national digital constitution to regulate technology platforms

33. Consider the following statements regarding renewable energy:

- 1. India doubled its clean energy capacity during 2021-25.
- 2. Renewables constitute half of India’s installed power capacity, but only around one-fifth of actual electricity generated.

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

34. Consider the following statements regarding cotton production in India:

- 1. India is the world’s second-largest cotton producer.
- 2. The Union government waived customs duties on raw cotton imports to reduce input costs in the textile industry.
- 3. In recent years, India’s Cotton imports have increased due to declining domestic yields and pest resistance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

35. Consider the following statements regarding India’s new labour codes:

- 1. The Code on Wages ensures minimum wages and timely payments across all sectors, including informal and gig workers.
- 2. The Industrial Relations Code introduces flexibility in hiring and layoffs while retaining protections against arbitrary dismissal.
- 3. The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code applies only to formal industrial units.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

36. Consider the following statements regarding the higher education sector in India:

- 1. Education is in the Concurrent List, allowing both Union and State governments to legislate on it.
- 2. The Indian Institutes of Management (Amendment) Act, 2023, enhanced the autonomy of IIMs by designating the President as Visitor with powers to appoint/remove Directors.
- 3. Visva-Bharati University was established by Rabindranath Tagore with a focus on interdisciplinary learning and openness.

Which of the statements given above are is/correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

37. Consider the following statements regarding the National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID):

- 1. It provides real-time access to multiple government and private databases to security agencies.
- 2. Registration of a First Information Report(FIR) is mandatory before data can be accessed through NATGRID.

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

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38. With reference to carbon storage in terrestrial ecosystems, which of the following ecosystems typically store most of their biomass below the ground rather than above the ground?

- A. Tropical evergreen forests
- B. Monsoon deciduous forests
- C. Semi-arid grasslands
- D. Alpine forests

39. Consider the following statements regarding the National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS):

- 1. It was introduced in 2022 to reduce wage fraud under MGNREGA.
- 2. It is mandatory for worksites that have 20 or more workers present on a given day.

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

40. Consider the following statements regarding the GDP base year:

- 1. India continues to use an outdated base year for GDP calculations.
- 2. Using an outdated base year may result in underestimation of fast-growing sectors and informal economic activity.

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

41. Consider the following statements regarding pension schemes in India:

- 1. The Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) is a contributory pension scheme for individuals aged 18-40 years.
- 2. The Atal Pension Yojana (APY) is designed for informal sector workers and allows flexible contribution intervals.
- 3. The New Pension Scheme (NPS) replaced the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) for formal sector government employees.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

42. Consider the following statements regarding the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI):

- 1. ISI was founded by P.C. Mahalanobis in 1931 in Kolkata.
- 2. The institute was originally registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- 3. ISI has been declared an Institution of National Importance (INI) through the Indian Statistical Institute Act, 1959.

How many statements given above is/are correct?

- A. One only
- B. Two only
- C. All three
- D. None

43. Consider the following statements regarding the Vande Mataram:

- 1. Vande Mataram was written by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee.
- 2. It was sung for the first time in the 1896 Congress session by Rabindranath Tagore.
- 3. Vande Mataram was originally written in Anand Math, associated with anti-colonial sentiment.

How many statements given above is/are **not** correct?

- A. One only
- B. Two only
- C. All three
- D. None

44. Why is a forecast of a weak La Niña expected to benefit rabi crops in India?

- A. It brings heavy rainfall during harvest time, increasing soil moisture.
- B. It causes hot and dry winters, aiding faster crop maturity.
- C. It leads to a longer and colder winter that supports better tillering, grain filling, higher yields, and reduced pest pressure.
- D. It increases cyclonic activity over the Bay of Bengal, improving irrigation for rabi crops.

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45. Consider the following statements regarding citizenship by birth in India:

1. A person born in India before 1st July 1987 is considered a citizen regardless of the nationality status of the parents.
2. For persons born between 1st July 1987 and 2nd December 2004, at least one parent must be a citizen of India at the time of birth.
3. For persons born on or after 3rd December 2004, citizenship requires that at least one parent is a citizen and the other is not an illegal migrant.
4. Citizenship by birth after 2004 is granted automatically to anyone born in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

46. China and India are both members of which of the following multilateral groupings?

1. BRICS
2. SCO
3. G20
4. ASEAN

Select the correct answer:

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

47. Consider the following statements regarding neurotechnology:

1. Neurotechnology involves using mechanical or digital tools to communicate directly with the brain.
2. Brain-Computer Interfaces (BCIs) are a type of neurotechnology that can translate neural signals into actions.

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

48. Consider the following statements regarding DHRUVA and DIGIPIN:

1. DHRUVA is a proposed Digital Public Infrastructure to standardise and share physical addresses through labels.

2. DIGIPIN is a 10-digit alphanumeric code based on geo-coordinates and provides a unique alphanumeric code for every 12 square metre block in 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

49. Consider the following statements regarding SURYAKIRAN-XIX:

1. It is a joint military exercise between India and Nepal.
2. The exercise concluded at Dehradun in Uttarakhand.
3. It focused on counter-terrorism operations in complex terrain.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

50. Consider the following statements regarding India's health sector:

1. India spends only around 2% of its Gross Domestic Product(GDP) on health.
2. In India, out-of-pocket expenditure on health remains low due to comprehensive health insurance coverage.

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

51. The authority to conduct revision of electoral rolls, including special revisions, flows from which constitutional provision?

- A. Article 324
- B. Article 325
- C. Article 326
- D. Article 327

52. In the context of quantum computing, the Quantum Fourier Transform (QFT) is used for:

- A. Stabilising qubits against decoherence
- B. Detecting repeating patterns to factor large numbers

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- C. Measuring out-of-time-order correlators (OTOC) echoes in entangled systems  
D. Simulating chemical interactions in materials
53. Justice K Hema Committee report, which is often seen in the news, is related to:
- Systemic issues related to sexual harassment in the Malayalam film industry
  - Investigation into Kerala's public health sector issues
  - Study on the impact of urbanization on Kerala's wildlife
  - Reforms in Kerala's educational curriculum structure
54. Shifting Indian diets toward National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) guidelines could have which of the following benefits?
- Reduce methane and nitrous oxide emissions by over 30%.
  - Lower household food expenditures by nearly a quarter.
  - Increase cereal consumption to double the current levels.
  - Significantly reduce protein deficits in all income deciles.
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
- 1 and 2 only
  - 1, 2, and 3 only
  - 2 and 4 only
  - 1, 2, 3, and 4
55. Consider the following statements regarding UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity:
- Deepavali is added as the 16<sup>th</sup> element from India to UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
  - The inscription recognises Deepavali primarily as a religious festival with limited contribution to social development.
  - The Representative List aims to preserve cultural expressions that are living and transmitted across generations.
- How many of the above statements is/are correct?
- One only
  - Two only
  - All three
  - None
56. With reference to the Western Tragopan (*Tragopan melanocephalus*), consider the following statements:
- It is the state bird of Himachal Pradesh.
  - It currently survives only in Himachal Pradesh.
  - According to IUCN estimates, all remaining mature individuals belong to a single subpopulation.
  - It is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.
- How many of the above statements is/are correct?
- One only
  - Two only
  - Three only
  - All four
57. Consider the following statements regarding Preah Vihear Temple:
- It is located on the Dângrêk mountain range along the Cambodia–Thailand border.
  - The temple was awarded to Thailand by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in 1962.
  - It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for Khmer Hindu architecture.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- 1 and 2 only
  - 2 and 3 only
  - 1 and 3 only
  - 1, 2 and 3
58. Consider the following statements regarding the constitutional and legal status of Vande Mataram:
- The Constitution of India explicitly mentions Vande Mataram as the national song.
  - The Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971, includes penalties for disrespecting Vande Mataram.
  - The Constituent Assembly announced that Vande Mataram would have equal status with Jana Gana Mana as the National Song.
  - Fundamental Duties originally included an obligation to respect the national song.
- Which of the above statements are correct?
- 3 only
  - 1 and 3 only
  - 3 and 4 only
  - 2 and 4 only

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59. With reference to constitutional functioning in India, consider the following statements:
1. The Constitution of India explicitly prescribes timelines for Speakers to decide anti-defection petitions under the Tenth Schedule.
  2. The Constitution does not specify any time-limit for Governors to act on Bills presented to them under Article 200.

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

60. With reference to India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) accounting, consider the following statements:

1. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) assigned India a 'Grade C' for its national income accounting framework.
2. The use of an outdated base year (2011-12) and wholesale price indices contributed to the IMF's assessment.

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. Consider the following statements regarding satellite megaconstellations:

1. They are networks of satellites that operate together to provide global or regional connectivity.
2. Geostationary satellites offer lower latency compared to low-earth orbit satellites.

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

62. Which of the following correctly explains why the temperature rise in 2025 is particularly alarming?

1. The world experienced a strong El Niño in 2025.
2. Temperatures stayed high despite the presence of La Niña.
3. The 2023–2025 period may become the first three-year phase to exceed the 1.5°C limit, highlighting the accelerating rate of global warming.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

63. Which of the following best captures the meaning of "green AI infrastructure"?

- A. Using artificial intelligence primarily to monitor and reduce industrial carbon emissions
- B. Developing large-scale computing and data-centre facilities powered by renewable energy
- C. Replacing all conventional computing hardware with solar-powered devices
- D. Creating AI systems that are exclusively focused on environmental sustainability

64. With reference to the ideas presented in Macaulay's Minute on Indian Education (1835), which of the following best describes the worldview it promoted?

1. The belief that English should be abolished from India's education system.
2. The perception that Western knowledge and literature were superior to Indian knowledge traditions.
3. A mindset that encouraged English as a means to create a class of Indians serving colonial administration.
4. The idea that Indian languages were inadequate for conveying modern knowledge.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

65. With reference to income distribution in India as per the World Inequality Report 2026, consider the following statements:

1. The top 10% of earners capture more than half of India's national income.
2. Wealth inequality in India is lower than income inequality.

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

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66. With reference to UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) lists, consider the following statements:
1. They include only traditions and practices, not physical objects.
  2. They cover domains such as performing arts, rituals, traditional craftsmanship, and knowledge of nature.
  3. Tangible heritage sites like monuments may also be included if they have associated cultural practices.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
  - B. 2 and 3 only
  - C. 1 and 3 only
  - D. 1, 2 and 3
67. Consider the following statements regarding India's Air Quality Index (AQI):
1. It is developed by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).
  2. India's AQI uses eight pollutants, including PM<sub>2.5</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, CO, O<sub>3</sub>, NH<sub>3</sub> and Pb, to calculate air quality levels.
  3. Air quality categories under AQI—from "Good" to "Severe"—are uniform across all Indian cities.

How many statements given above is/are correct?

- A. One only
  - B. Two only
  - C. All three
  - D. None
68. Consider the following statements regarding the Right to Education in India:
1. Article 21A of the Constitution guarantees free and compulsory education for children aged 3 to 18 years.
  2. The 86<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment inserted Article 21A into the Constitution.
  3. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 envisions universal education from pre-primary to higher secondary (ages 3–18).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 2 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

69. Consider the following statements regarding the High Court Collegium:

1. The High Court Collegium consists of the Chief Justice of the High Court and the two senior-most judges.
2. The composition of the Collegium is mandated under Article 217 of the Constitution.

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

70. With reference to the impact of rupee depreciation on the Indian economy, consider the following statements:

1. A weaker rupee makes Indian exports more competitive.
2. A falling rupee significantly increases domestic inflation as the Consumer Price Index (CPI) is heavily import-dependent.
3. Services exporters may benefit from rupee depreciation due to higher rupee realisations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 2 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

71. Which of the following Articles of the Indian Constitution are referred to as the "Golden Triangle"?

- A. Articles 14, 15, 21
- B. Articles 14, 19, 21
- C. Articles 14, 20, 21
- D. Articles 19, 20, 21

72. Which of the following Indian launch vehicles is being human-rated for the Gaganyaan mission?

- A. PSLV
- B. LVM-3
- C. GSLV Mk-II
- D. RLV-TD

73. With reference to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in India, consider the following statements:

1. It is released by the National Statistical Office (NSO).
2. Food and beverages account for nearly half of the total weight in the CPI.
3. The current CPI series uses 2024 as its base year.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

74. With reference to Article 19(1)(a) and Article 19(2) of the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. The grounds for restricting freedom of speech under Article 19(2) are exhaustive.
2. Additional restrictions on free speech can be imposed by courts to balance competing fundamental rights.
3. Reasonableness of restrictions on free speech is subject to judicial review.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 1 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

75. With reference to Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) systems under global climate governance, consider the following statements:

1. MRV systems are central to ensuring transparency under the Paris Agreement.
2. Countries are required to track emissions, adaptation progress, and climate finance.
3. MRV obligations apply only to developed countries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

76. With reference to methane emissions in India, consider the following statements:

1. Methane is approximately 84 times more potent than carbon dioxide over a 20-year period.
2. Around 15% of India's methane emissions originate from the waste sector.

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

77. Which of the following changes was brought about by the 102<sup>nd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act, 2018?

- A. It transferred the power of identifying OBCs entirely to State governments
- B. It gave constitutional status to National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)
- C. It removed Parliament's role in notifying OBC lists
- D. It made judicial approval mandatory for OBC inclusion

78. Which of the following correctly explains the concept of disinflation in macroeconomics?

- A. A sustained decline in the general price level of the economy
- B. A reduction in the rate at which the general price level increases
- C. A situation where prices fall across all sectors of the economy
- D. A sharp contraction in prices caused by an economic recession

79. With reference to Article 200 of the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. The Governor is constitutionally bound to act within a fixed timeline while assenting to State Bills.
2. The Governor may return a Bill to the State Legislature for reconsideration.
3. If a Bill is returned and re-passed by the State Legislature, the Governor must assent to it.

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

80. The term 'Window of Circadian Low' (WOCL), frequently used in aviation safety regulations, refers to:

- A. A period characterised by reduced air traffic movement at night
- B. A regulatory time window during which aircraft maintenance activities are restricted
- C. A biologically driven period in the human circadian rhythm reach their lowest point
- D. A phase during which pilots attain peak operational efficiency

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81. With reference to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), consider the following statements:
1. It came into force in 1975.
  2. It prohibits the development, production and stockpiling of biological and toxin weapons.
  3. It mandates the destruction or diversion to peaceful purposes of existing biological weapons.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3
- D. 2 and 3 only

82. Project Suncatcher proposes inter-satellite computation primarily through:

- A. Radio-frequency communication links
- B. Fibre-optic cables in orbit
- C. Laser-based optical links
- D. Quantum entanglement networks

83. With reference to the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), consider the following statements:

1. It provides a legal guarantee of wage employment to rural households willing to do unskilled manual work.
2. The entire cost of wages under the scheme is borne by the Union Government.

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

84. Regarding Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Day, consider the following statements

1. The theme of UHC Day 2025 was "Unaffordable health costs? We're sick of it!"
2. UHC Day is primarily focused on hospitalisation and curative care, excluding preventive and promotive services.

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

85. In the context of inhalable microplastics the term "**Trojan horse effect**" refers to:

- A. Their ability to chemically degrade inside the human body
- B. Their role in transporting toxic co-pollutants and microbes into the lungs
- C. Their contribution to ground-level ozone formation
- D. Their interaction with greenhouse gases in the atmosphere

86. With reference to nuclear power generation in India, consider the following statements:

1. Nuclear power contributed about 3% of India's total electricity generation in 2024–25.
2. India has set a target of achieving 100 GW of nuclear power capacity by 2047.
3. The target includes commissioning at least five indigenous Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) by 2033.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

87. With reference to the Fifth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. It provides a special governance framework for Scheduled Areas.
2. It mandates the creation of a Tribal Advisory Council with a majority of adivasi members.
3. It grants discretionary powers to the Governor to prevent land alienation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3
- D. 2 and 3 only

88. Which of the following countries joined NATO after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022?

1. Sweden
2. Finland
3. Ukraine
4. Georgia

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

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89. With reference to funding under MGNREGA, consider the following statements:

1. The Central Government bears 100% of unskilled labour costs.
2. States bear the cost of unemployment allowance.
3. Material cost is shared equally between Centre and States.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

90. With reference to the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), consider the following statements:

1. CBAM is a European Union initiative to impose a carbon price on imports of certain goods from outside the EU.
2. It aims to prevent carbon leakage by equalizing the cost of carbon between domestic and foreign producers.

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

91. Consider the following statements regarding insurance metrics in India:

1. Insurance density in India has increased from \$55 to \$97 over the past decade.
2. Insurance penetration has risen from 3.3% to 3.7% of GDP.
3. India's insurance density is higher than the global average due to life insurance dominance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

92. Fog formation in northern India is primarily associated with which of the following conditions?

- A. High wind speeds and low humidity
- B. Fall in temperature and accumulation of moisture near the ground
- C. Intense solar radiation and surface heating
- D. Temperature inversion caused by cyclonic systems

93. With reference to internal migration in India, consider the following statements:

1. Migrants constituted 38% of India's population in 2011.
2. Two-thirds of migrants are women, largely due to marriage.
3. Male migrants tend to move shorter distances than female migrants.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3
- D. 1 only

94. India's obligation to protect the Aravalli range is also linked to which international commitment?

- A. Convention on Biological Diversity
- B. Ramsar Convention
- C. UN Convention to Combat Desertification
- D. UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

95. With reference to the Preah Vihear temple, consider the following statements:

1. It is an 11<sup>th</sup>-century Hindu temple of Khmer origin.
2. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled in 1962 that it belongs to Cambodia.
3. The ICJ clarified in 2013 that Thailand has sovereignty over the surrounding area.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

96. With reference to Article 200 of the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. The Governor is constitutionally bound to act on a Bill within a fixed time period.
2. The Governor may reserve a Bill for the consideration of the President.
3. The Governor can return a Bill (other than a Money Bill) to the Legislature with comments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

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97. The depreciation of the Indian rupee has helped exporters mainly by:
- Increasing domestic consumption
  - Fully neutralising the impact of U.S. tariffs
  - Partially offsetting higher tariff costs
  - Eliminating trade deficits

98. With reference to Article 41 of the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:

- It mandates the State to guarantee employment as a justiciable fundamental right.
- It places the right to work within the limits of the State's economic capacity and development.
- Article 41 falls under Socialistic (or Welfare) Directive Principles of State Policy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

99. With reference to the relationship between human development and energy consumption, consider the following statements:

- Growth in per capita energy consumption has historically accompanied human progress.
- Digitalisation of the economy reduces overall energy demand.
- The Human Development Index (HDI) correlates with per capita Final Energy Consumption (FEC).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

100. With reference to DHRUV64 microprocessor, consider the following statements:

- It is a 64-bit, dual-core general-purpose processor capable of running modern operating systems.
- It is specifically designed only for low-end sensing and appliance control applications.
- It is part of India's Digital India RISC-V (DIR-V) programme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 and 3 only
- 1 only

- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

101. Which of the following statements about foreign investment in Indian banks is correct?

- Foreign banks can hold up to 50% stake under the automatic route.
- Any stake beyond 25% is considered promoter shareholding and subject to stricter norms.
- There is no overall FDI cap on private banks in India.
- RBI does not regulate foreign investment in Indian banks.

102. Recently, the fossil skeleton "Little Foot" was in the news. It is related to:

- A newly discovered dinosaur species in South Africa
- A fossil of early human ancestor in South Africa
- Evidence of early human settlement in East Asia
- Ancient cave paintings in Europe

103. With reference to the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), consider the following statements:

- GRAP was first notified in 2017 by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change following the Supreme Court's order in the M.C. Mehta vs. Union of India case.
- It is currently implemented by the Environment Pollution (Prevention & Control) Authority (EPCA).
- The measures under GRAP are statutory in nature, issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

104. Which of the following features of MGNREGA have contributed to increasing women's participation in rural employment?

- Self-targeting design allows anyone willing to work to claim employment.
- Mandatory wage parity between men and women.
- Centrally fixed allocation of work to states based on technocratic criteria.

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

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- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

105. A depreciation of the Indian rupee is less likely to translate into higher domestic inflation when:

- A. There is a surge in global capital inflows
- B. Domestic inflation remains below the Reserve Bank of India's comfort zone
- C. Monetary policy interest rates are increased sharply
- D. The fiscal deficit is reduced significantly

106. How many countries share a land border with Oman?

- 1. Saudi Arabia                      2. UAE
- 3. Yemen                              4. Qatar

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

- A. One only
- B. Two only
- C. Three only
- D. All four

107. With reference to the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, consider the following statements:

- 1. The Act empowers the Central Government to control the development, use and disposal of atomic energy in India.
- 2. It provides a statutory mandate for an independent nuclear safety regulatory authority.
- 3. The Act restricts private sector participation in nuclear power generation without government approval.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

108. With reference to the Code on Wages, 2019, consider the following statements:

- 1. It provides for equal wages for men and women for the same work or work of similar nature.
- 2. It empowers the Central Government to fix a national minimum wage.
- 3. It mandates that State minimum wages cannot be lower than the national minimum wage.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

109. **Assertion (A):** The Southern Ocean absorbs a proportionately large share of anthropogenic carbon dioxide compared to its surface area.

**Reason (R):** According to IPCC AR6, cold surface waters and strong vertical stratification in the Southern Ocean enhance the solubility pump and limit outgassing of carbon dioxide.

**Choose the correct answer:**

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

110. With reference to the India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), consider the following statements:

- 1. The corridor envisages a multimodal connectivity network integrating maritime routes, rail links and digital infrastructure.
- 2. Jordan occupies a critical position in the corridor as a land bridge between the Gulf region and the Mediterranean.
- 3. The initiative is intended, among other objectives, to provide a rules-based alternative to China's Belt and Road Initiative.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

111. The decentralised implementation of MGNREGA was aligned with which constitutional provision?

- A. 61<sup>st</sup> Constitutional Amendment
- B. 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment
- C. 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment
- D. 42<sup>nd</sup> Constitutional Amendment

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112. With reference to the African Union (AU), consider the following statements:

1. The African Union replaced the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in 2002.
2. The headquarters of the African Union is located in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
3. The African Union follows a strict policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of member states.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

113. With reference to Environmental Vertical Reform (EVR), consider the following statements:

1. It involves a top-down accountability system for local governments to meet environmental targets.
2. It encourages local governments to act autonomously without supervision from higher authorities.
3. EVR was a key factor in Beijing's reduction of PM2.5 levels in recent years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 2 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

114. "Doxxing" in the context of online abuse refers to:

- A. Posting false news to damage someone's reputation
- B. Publicly revealing private information about individuals without consent
- C. Spamming individuals with offensive messages
- D. Blocking social media accounts of targeted individuals

115. With reference to the Great Indian Bustard (GIB) conservation issue, consider the following statements:

1. Overhead transmission lines have been identified as a major cause of GIB mortality.
2. The Supreme Court's 2021 order completely banned renewable energy projects in GIB habitats.
3. Undergrounding of power lines has been explored as a mitigation strategy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 1 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

116. Which of the following Russian-origin defence systems form a critical part of India's military capability?

1. S-400 air defence system
2. BrahMos missile
3. Sukhoi SU-30 MKI
4. F-16 fighter jets

Select the correct answer:

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

117. The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 was enacted primarily to:

- A. Regulate wages and bonus payments
- B. Consolidate laws related to trade unions
- C. Ensure safety, health, and welfare of workers across establishments
- D. Govern industrial dispute resolution mechanisms

118. With reference to the Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025, consider the following statements:

1. It shifts the employment guarantee framework from demand-driven to allocation-based.
2. It grants discretionary powers to the Union government regarding nature and location of works.
3. It strengthens the financial autonomy of States compared to MGNREGA.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

119. The Supreme Court first explicitly recognised the right to live in a healthy environment as part of Article 21 in:

- A. Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India (1978)
- B. Rural Litigation and Entitlement Kendra v. State of U.P. (1985)
- C. Subhash Kumar v. State of Bihar (1991)
- D. M.C. Mehta v. Union of India (1987)

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120. The phenomenon known as Kessler Syndrome refers to:
- Atmospheric drag causing satellite decay
  - Cascading collisions among space debris making orbits unusable
  - Solar storms disrupting satellite electronics
  - Micrometeoroid showers impacting spacecraft frame it better
121. With reference to rhinoceros conservation, consider the following statements:
- As of 2024, India is home to more than 4,000 one-horned rhinoceroses.
  - Kaziranga National Park in Assam have home to one of the world's largest populations of greater one-horned rhinos.
  - Rhino horns are made of bone and calcium deposits.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 and 2 only
  - 2 only
  - 1 and 3 only
  - 1, 2 and 3
122. The Supreme Court upheld the conviction of traffickers involved in the sexual exploitation of a minory under which of the following laws?
- Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act
  - Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act
  - Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act
  - Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act
123. With reference to the Viksit Bharat — Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025, consider the following statements:
- It enhances the statutory wage employment guarantee from 100 to 125 days.
  - It removes procedural clauses that earlier weakened the enforceability of unemployment allowance.
  - It converts the employment guarantee from a justiciable right into a policy directive.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 and 2 only
  - 2 and 3 only
  - 1 only
  - 1, 2 and 3
124. Which of the following thinkers described Bankimchandra Chatterjee as “The rishi of Indian nationalism”?
- Rabindranath Tagore
  - Aurobindo Ghose
  - Jawaharlal Nehru
  - Sabyasachi Bhattacharya
125. The term “core-periphery pattern” in the context of India's exports refers to:
- Dominance of agricultural exports from inland States
  - Concentration of export capacity in a few coastal and industrial States
  - Higher exports from backward regions due to low labour costs
  - Equal integration of all States into global value chains
126. What was the impact of Macaulay's Minute on Indian languages during the colonial period?
- It aimed to entirely replace Indian languages with English.
  - It prompted the modernization and refinement of Indian languages.
  - It rendered Indian languages obsolete in the educational system.
  - It discouraged the translation of texts between Indian languages and English.
127. With reference to the Keezhadi archaeological site, consider the following statements:
- Keezhadi is located on the floodplain of the Vaigai river in southern Tamil Nadu.
  - The excavated structures at Keezhadi are exposed at the present ground surface.
  - The site provides material evidence supporting descriptions found in Sangam literature.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 and 3 only
  - 1 only
  - 2 and 3 only
  - 1, 2 and 3
128. Consider the following statements regarding ‘critical minerals’:
- They are essential for strategic and clean energy technologies.
  - The Supreme Court permitted critical mineral mining despite the general ban on mining in the Aravalli region.

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3. India has achieved self-sufficiency in critical mineral production.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only  
B. 2 only  
C. 1 and 3 only  
D. 1, 2 and 3

129. Consider the following statements regarding monazite-bearing beach sands in India:

1. They are a major domestic source of rare earth elements.
2. They often occur alongside thorium.
3. Their extraction involves strategic and nuclear-related governance concerns.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only  
B. 2 and 3 only  
C. 1, 2 and 3  
D. 1 only

130. Consider the following statements regarding fiscal federalism under MGNREGA and VB-G RAM G:

1. Under MGNREGA, the Centre bore the full wage cost.
2. The revised funding ratio under VB-G RAM G is 60:40 between Centre and States.

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

131. With reference to labour law reforms in India, consider the following Labour Codes enacted by the Parliament:

1. Code on Wages
2. Industrial Relations Code
3. Code on Social Security
4. Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code

Which of the codes consolidated 29 central labour laws?

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

132. With reference to cyclonic disturbances over the North Indian Ocean, consider the following statements:

1. The Bay of Bengal remains the primary origin of cyclonic disturbances.
2. The frequency of cyclonic disturbances in the Bay of Bengal has increased in recent decades.
3. The Arabian Sea has historically produced more severe cyclonic storms than the Bay of Bengal.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only  
B. 1 and 3 only  
C. 2 and 3 only  
D. 1, 2 and 3

133. The concept of 'Dutch disease' is best described as:

- A. Decline of agriculture due to rapid urbanisation
- B. Negative impact of a booming sector on other tradable sectors through price and exchange rate effects
- C. Fiscal imbalance caused by excessive public expenditure
- D. Structural shift from manufacturing to services due to globalisation

134. With reference to the Bureau of Port Security (BoPS), consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory body constituted under the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025.
2. It functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
3. It is modelled on the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only  
B. 1 only  
C. 2 and 3 only  
D. 1, 2 and 3

135. Consider the following statements regarding rabies in India:

1. India accounts for nearly one-third of global rabies-related human deaths.
2. Dogs constitute the primary reservoir of rabies virus in India.
3. Rabies in India disproportionately affects economically vulnerable populations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3
- D. 3 only

136. Mitochondria are referred to as the “powerhouse of the cell” primarily because they:

- A. Store genetic material
- B. Synthesize proteins for cellular metabolism
- C. Produce adenosine triphosphate (ATP) through cellular respiration
- D. Regulate cell division

137. In the context of India’s foreign policy, the term “performative diplomacy”, refers to:

- A. Diplomacy driven by coercive military power
- B. Symbolic gestures without substantive outcomes
- C. Back-channel negotiations between states
- D. Citizen-centric foreign policy initiatives

138. Which of the following are government efforts to boost private investment in India?

- 1. Corporate tax rate cuts (2019)
- 2. Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes
- 3. Income-tax and GST cuts to boost demand

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

139. Which of the following statements regarding WADA is/are correct?

- 1. It is the global regulator responsible for harmonising anti-doping rules.
- 2. It conducts doping tests directly on athletes worldwide.
- 3. It publishes annual reports on global doping trends.

Select the correct answer:

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 1 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

140. The term “linguistic tax” most appropriately refers to:

- A. The additional cost imposed by governments for translation and interpretation services

- B. The social and economic disadvantages faced by migrants due to lack of linguistic assimilation
- C. The decline of indigenous languages in metropolitan cities
- D. The deliberate exclusion of regional languages from urban governance

141. Consider the following statements regarding ISRO’s LVM3-M6 mission:

- 1. It successfully launched a 6,100-kg commercial satellite, Bluebird Block-2, into low-earth orbit.
- 2. It marked the heaviest payload ever carried by an Indian rocket.
- 3. It was part of ISRO’s Gaganyaan human spaceflight programme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

142. “Convergence” in the context of state-level growth in India refers to:

- A. States with higher per capita income growing faster than lower-income states
- B. Low-income states gradually closing the income gap with high-income states
- C. Uniform growth of all states at the same absolute rate
- D. Reduction of central transfers to fiscally weaker states

143. With reference to the Aravalli Hills, consider the following statements:

- 1. The Aravallis form a continuous ecological landscape that regulates climate, facilitates groundwater recharge, and supports biodiversity.
- 2. The recent Supreme Court judgment relied on a “100-metre local relief” rule to define the Aravallis, sidelining scientific data.
- 3. The Central Empowered Committee (CEC) fully endorsed the Ministry of Environment’s 100-metre threshold report.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

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144. Consider the following statements regarding electoral bonds in India:

1. Electoral bonds were introduced in 2018 to enhance transparency in political funding.
2. The scheme allowed donors to maintain anonymity regarding which political party they funded.
3. Electoral trusts were the primary mechanism of political funding before electoral bonds.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

145. With reference to the galaxy 'Alaknanda', consider the following statements:

1. It is the farthest spiral galaxy discovered so far.
2. It existed when the universe was about 1.5 billion years old.
3. It shows two well-defined spiral arms and a central bulge.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

146. With reference to India's Research and Development (R&D) ecosystem, consider the following statements:

1. India contributes about 3% of global research output despite having 17.5% of the world's population.
2. India's Gross Expenditure on R&D (GERD) has consistently exceeded 2% of GDP in recent years.
3. India's R&D expenditure is lower than that of China, the United States, and Israel.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 1 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

147. With reference to the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), consider the following statements:

1. It connects India with Russia and Northern Europe via Iran.
2. It is shorter and more cost-efficient than the Suez Canal route for India.

3. It is an exclusively maritime trade corridor.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

148. With reference to rare-earth elements (REEs), consider the following statements:

1. Rare-earth elements include the 15 lanthanides along with scandium and yttrium.
2. All rare-earth elements are placed separately below the main periodic table.
3. Scandium and yttrium belong to Group 3 of the periodic table.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 1 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

149. The term "Goldilocks phase" in macroeconomics generally refers to:

- A. High growth with high inflation
- B. Low growth with low inflation
- C. Moderate inflation with strong growth
- D. Stagnation with fiscal expansion

150. With reference to exchange rate management in India, consider the following statements:

1. A prolonged fixing of the rupee exchange rate can lead to loss of foreign exchange reserves.
2. An overvalued currency can reduce export competitiveness and invite speculative attacks.
3. Allowing partial adjustment of the exchange rate can help absorb external shocks.

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

151. With reference to the Election Commission of India's Special Intensive Revision (SIR), consider the following statements:

1. The SIR aims to remove duplicate, outdated, or ineligible entries from electoral rolls.

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2. The burden of proving eligibility is largely shifted from the voter to the state.

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

152. Which of the following statements about the Prevention of Child Marriage Act (PCMA), 2006 is/are correct?

1. It criminalises child marriage and provides for annulment of such marriages.
2. The Act has led to high conviction rates across all States in India.
3. Its implementation has been uneven, with infrequent application in several areas.

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

- A. 1 only                      B. 1 and 2 only  
C. 1 and 3 only              D. 1, 2 and 3

153. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Polluter Pays Principle' (PPP) in India:

1. The PPP mandates that the person or firm causing environmental damage must bear the cost of such damage.
2. The principle was statutorily recognised under the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.
3. The Indian judiciary has strictly applied PPP in cases of air pollution, ensuring full cost recovery from polluters.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only              B. 2 and 3 only  
C. 1 and 3 only              D. 1, 2 and 3

154. Consider the following statements regarding opium cultivation in India:

1. The Malwa region in Madhya Pradesh and Mewar region in Rajasthan produce nearly 85% of India's legally-grown opium.
2. Licences for opium cultivation are issued by the Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN) under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.
3. Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan are the only states where opium cultivation is legally permitted.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only              B. 2 and 3 only  
C. 1 and 3 only              D. 1, 2 and 3

155. Consider the following statements regarding child marriage in India:

1. The legal age for marriage is 18 years for girls and 21 years for boys.
2. The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, allows child marriages if both families give consent.

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

156. India's malaria elimination targets include which of the following milestones?

1. Zero indigenous malaria cases by 2027
2. Complete elimination of malaria by 2030
3. Elimination of vector mosquitoes by 2030

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- A. 1 and 2 only              B. 2 only  
C. 1 and 3 only              D. 1, 2 and 3

157. Consider the following statements regarding dark energy:

1. It constitutes roughly 70% of the total energy content of the universe.
2. It exhibits attractive gravitational behaviour at large scales.
3. Einstein's cosmological constant is one theoretical representation of dark energy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only              B. 1 and 3 only  
C. 2 and 3 only              D. 1, 2 and 3

158. With reference to Artificial Intelligence (AI) regulation in India, consider the following statements:

1. India currently regulates AI primarily through existing legal frameworks such as the IT Act, IT Rules, and sectoral regulations.
2. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has taken steps to curb deepfakes under the IT Rules.

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

159. With reference to maritime reforms in India, consider the following statements:

1. Nearly 95% of India's trade by volume moves through maritime routes.

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2. The Indian Ports Act, 2025 replaced a colonial-era law.
3. Maritime reforms focus only on port expansion and not governance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only      B. 2 only  
C. 1 and 3 only      D. 1, 2 and 3

160. The term “pink economy” or “rainbow market” refers to:

- A. Government welfare schemes for sexual minorities  
B. Cultural industries linked to LGBTQIA+ art  
C. The economic and consumer market power of LGBTQIA+ communities  
D. Corporate social responsibility initiatives

161. The term “WTO-plus commitments”, often mentioned in the context of India’s recent Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), refers to:

- A. Trade provisions that are inconsistent with or violate World Trade Organization (WTO) rules

- B. Trade agreements that are confined only to reduction or elimination of customs tariffs  
C. Commitments undertaken by countries that go beyond existing WTO obligations  
D. Special and differential trade concessions exclusively extended to least-developed countries

162. With reference to the Aravalli mountain range, consider the following statements:

1. The Aravallis are among the oldest mountain systems in the world.
2. The Supreme Court has consistently treated hills, ridges, plateaus, and forests of the Aravallis as separate ecological units.
3. The Aravalli range plays an important role in reducing air pollution in the Indo-Gangetic plains.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only      B. 1 only  
C. 2 and 3 only      D. 1, 2 and 3

## Answers

- |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1. (C)   | 2. (D)   | 3. (A)   | 4. (B)   | 5. (B)   | 6. (A)   | 7. (D)   | 8. (A)   | 9. (C)   | 10. (C)  |
| 11. (B)  | 12. (D)  | 13. (C)  | 14. (A)  | 15. (A)  | 16. (C)  | 17. (A)  | 18. (C)  | 19. (A)  | 20. (B)  |
| 21. (C)  | 22. (B)  | 23. (C)  | 24. (A)  | 25. (C)  | 26. (C)  | 27. (A)  | 28. (C)  | 29. (C)  | 30. (A)  |
| 31. (C)  | 32. (B)  | 33. (C)  | 34. (D)  | 35. (A)  | 36. (B)  | 37. (A)  | 38. (C)  | 39. (C)  | 40. (C)  |
| 41. (B)  | 42. (C)  | 43. (D)  | 44. (C)  | 45. (A)  | 46. (B)  | 47. (C)  | 48. (C)  | 49. (B)  | 50. (A)  |
| 51. (A)  | 52. (B)  | 53. (A)  | 54. (A)  | 55. (B)  | 56. (C)  | 57. (C)  | 58. (A)  | 59. (B)  | 60. (C)  |
| 61. (A)  | 62. (B)  | 63. (B)  | 64. (C)  | 65. (A)  | 66. (A)  | 67. (B)  | 68. (C)  | 69. (A)  | 70. (A)  |
| 71. (B)  | 72. (B)  | 73. (A)  | 74. (A)  | 75. (A)  | 76. (C)  | 77. (B)  | 78. (B)  | 79. (B)  | 80. (C)  |
| 81. (C)  | 82. (C)  | 83. (C)  | 84. (A)  | 85. (B)  | 86. (D)  | 87. (C)  | 88. (A)  | 89. (A)  | 90. (C)  |
| 91. (A)  | 92. (B)  | 93. (A)  | 94. (C)  | 95. (A)  | 96. (B)  | 97. (C)  | 98. (A)  | 99. (A)  | 100. (A) |
| 101. (B) | 102. (B) | 103. (C) | 104. (A) | 105. (B) | 106. (C) | 107. (B) | 108. (D) | 109. (A) | 110. (D) |
| 111. (B) | 112. (A) | 113. (A) | 114. (B) | 115. (A) | 116. (A) | 117. (C) | 118. (A) | 119. (C) | 120. (C) |
| 121. (A) | 122. (B) | 123. (A) | 124. (B) | 125. (B) | 126. (B) | 127. (A) | 128. (A) | 129. (C) | 130. (C) |
| 131. (D) | 132. (B) | 133. (B) | 134. (A) | 135. (C) | 136. (C) | 137. (B) | 138. (D) | 139. (A) | 140. (B) |
| 141. (A) | 142. (B) | 143. (A) | 144. (A) | 145. (A) | 146. (A) | 147. (A) | 148. (A) | 149. (C) | 150. (D) |
| 151. (A) | 152. (C) | 153. (A) | 154. (D) | 155. (A) | 156. (A) | 157. (B) | 158. (C) | 159. (A) | 160. (C) |
| 161. (C) | 162. (A) |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |

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## Practice Explanation

1.

Ans: C

Exp:

**Expected Credit Loss (ECL) framework:**

- The Expected Credit Loss (ECL) framework is a **forward-looking provisioning approach** where banks must assess and set aside funds for **potential future credit losses**, instead of waiting for actual signs of default.
- This strengthens early risk recognition and aligns India with global standards such as **IFRS 9**.
- It was in the news because the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** released a discussion paper proposing the shift from the **current incurred-loss model to the ECL framework**, marking a major reform aimed at improving the banking sector's risk management and stability.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

2.

Ans: D

Exp:

- India recorded an unexpectedly high real GDP growth of **8.2% in Q2 FY26**, exceeding projections by the Reserve Bank of India and the Finance Ministry. The surge has been attributed to multiple supportive economic factors highlighted in recent economic analyses.
- The festive **season boosted consumption demand**, contributing significantly to overall economic activity, particularly in retail, services, and manufacturing. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Centre's tax cuts announced in the Budget**, along with increased government capital expenditure, helped stimulate demand and investment, supporting GDP growth. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- Exporters front-loaded shipments in **anticipation of additional US tariffs**, which temporarily boosted export volumes and added to GDP growth. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

3.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The recent debate around inflation targeting in India highlights that **food inflation overwhelmingly drives headline inflation**, with a correlation of **0.89** between the two.

- Headline inflation includes **all components** of the CPI basket—food, fuel, clothing, housing, etc. **Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
- Core inflation **excludes volatile items** such as *food and fuel* to capture underlying price trends. **Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
- Food inflation refers to price changes in cereals, pulses, vegetables, fruits, spices, etc. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

4.

Ans: B

Exp:

**Article 311:**

- Article 311 provides **procedural safeguards to civil servants** employed under the Union or a State regarding dismissal, removal, or reduction in rank.
- It ensures that such employees **cannot be removed by an authority subordinate** to the appointing authority and must be given a **reasonable opportunity** of being heard, except under specific exceptions such as security of the state or conviction on criminal charges.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

5.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **Under Article 85** of the Constitution, the President summons each House of Parliament, ensuring that the interval between two sessions does not exceed six months. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- While the Constitution **does not specify the number** of sessions or sitting days, Parliament typically meets three times a year. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Prorogation is the formal termination** of a parliamentary session by the President. After prorogation, the House can meet again only when it is summoned afresh by the President. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

6.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The Amazon Rainforest, located in South America, is the largest tropical rainforest in the world, covering approximately 6 million sq. km, which is twice the size of India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

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- It spans the Amazon River Basin, the largest river basin globally. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ Around 60% of the rainforest lies in Brazil, with the remainder spread across Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia, Guyana, Suriname, and French Guiana.
- The Amazon is naturally bounded by the Guiana Highlands (North), Andes Mountains (West), Brazilian Plateau (South), and the Atlantic Ocean (East).
- The region experiences high rainfall, intense humidity, and uniformly warm temperatures, creating ideal conditions for a dense and continuous rainforest canopy.
- The Amazon is one of the **world's richest biological reservoirs**, hosting about **10% of all known wildlife species**, many of which are still undocumented. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

7.

Ans: D

Exp:

De-dollarisation:

- De-dollarisation aims to **diversify currency use** so that countries are not overly dependent on the US dollar or any single currency. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Reliance on one dominant currency **can create volatility**; using multiple or local currencies improves stability and predictability. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Reducing dollar dependence lowers vulnerability to external shocks, currency volatility, capital outflows, and balance-of-payments pressures. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

8.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The Bretton Woods system emerged from the **1944 Bretton Woods Conference**, where 44 Allied nations created a new global monetary order after World War II.
- Under this system, **countries fixed their exchange rates** to the U.S. dollar, while the dollar itself was made convertible into gold at \$35 per ounce.
- It aimed to **promote global financial stability**, prevent competitive devaluations and support post-war reconstruction.
- The conference also established the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** and the World Bank, which continue to shape global economic governance.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

9.

Ans: C

Exp:

- IndiaAI functions as an independent business division under MeitY and is responsible for implementing the **IndiaAI Mission** by building a national ecosystem for AI innovation, startups, compute capacity, datasets, and responsible AI governance. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- The **AI Competency Framework** is designed specifically for government officials, offering structured and benchmarked training to equip them with essential AI knowledge so they can apply these tools effectively in governance, policymaking, and service delivery. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- **Sarvam AI** is working with the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to integrate generative AI into Aadhaar services to improve security and user experience. In April 2025, it also received approval to develop India's sovereign **Large Language Model (LLM) ecosystem** to strengthen public service delivery and digital trust. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**

10.

Ans: C

Exp:

Bar Council of India:

- The Bar Council of India is a **statutory body** created by Parliament under the Advocates Act, 1961 to regulate and represent the Indian bar. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It performs the regulatory function by prescribing standards of professional conduct and etiquette and by exercising disciplinary jurisdiction over the bar.
- It also **sets standards for legal education and grants recognition** to universities whose degree in law will serve as qualification for enrolment as an advocate. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- In addition, it performs **certain representative functions** by protecting the rights, privileges and interests of advocates and through the creation of funds for providing financial assistance to organize welfare schemes for them.

11.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The description matches **Venezuela**, which borders the **Caribbean Sea to the north** and Brazil to the south, has the llanos in its central region, and has about 54% forest cover.

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- Its agriculture is concentrated in the **arid states of Falcón and Lara**, making it vulnerable to climatic variations.

➤ **Hence, option B is correct.**

**12.**

**Ans: D**

**Exp:**

- **Special Intensive Revision** of Electoral Rolls is a comprehensive, door-to-door verification and update of electoral rolls undertaken by the Election Commission of India (ECI) to ensure accurate and error-free voter lists.
- The **preparation, revision, and maintenance** of electoral rolls are enshrined in the Constitution of India (Articles 324, 325, 326) and governed by the Representation of the People Act, 1950. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is conducted under Section 21(3) of the **Representation of the People Act, 1950**, and empowered by **Article 324** of the Constitution, allowing the ECI discretionary powers to revise rolls as it deems fit. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Article 327** deals with the power of Parliament to make provision with respect to elections to the Legislature. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Article 328 deals with the power of the Legislature of a State to make provision with respect to elections to such Legislature.

**13.**

**Ans: C**

**Exp:**

- WHO conditionally recommends GLP-1 therapies for long-term obesity treatment in adults as part of a multimodal approach including healthy diet and physical activity, not as a standalone treatment. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Obesity drives non-communicable diseases like cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, and certain cancers, but increases susceptibility to some infections; it is not classified as a major driver of communicable diseases. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- WHO guidelines explicitly exclude pregnant women from using GLP-1 therapies for obesity treatment due to safety concerns. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

**14.**

**Ans: A**

**Exp:**

- The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) directive requires smartphone manufacturers to pre-install the Sanchar Saathi app on all new devices sold in India by March 2026 to combat IMEI fraud, scam calls, and stolen phones. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The directive mentions that the app may require **elevated system privileges** to function effectively, which raises concerns regarding access to sensitive permissions like **SMS, calls, and camera**, although the DoT claims such privileges are necessary for anti-fraud mechanisms. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- The government has **not mandated that the app must be undeletable**. Users will be able to delete or disable it. This prevents compliance issues with global norms (e.g., Google's Android policies) and reduces concerns about forced installation. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

**15.**

**Ans: A**

**Exp:**

**1-B: Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act, 2023 → Exempted large categories of land/projects from forest clearance rules**

- The Act exempts certain lands from forest clearance, including those within 100 km of borders for strategic projects, up to 10 hectares for security infrastructure, and up to five hectares in left-wing extremism areas for public utilities.

**2-C: Draft EIA Notification 2020 → Diluted public hearings and compliance reporting**

- It reduced public hearing notice from 30 to 20 days, exempted some projects from hearings, and changed compliance reports to annual instead of bi-annual, weakening oversight.

**3-A: CRZ Notification 2018 → Eased construction rules along coastlines**

- The notification eased coastal construction by permitting dwelling units in CRZ-III rural areas (200-500m from high tide line), allowing tourism facilities like toilets 10m from beaches, and streamlining clearances for non-sensitive zones.

**4-D: National Clean Air Programme → Underfunded initiative to control air pollution**

- The programme faces funding issues, with skewed allocations (e.g., 67% to road dust, 1% each to industries and outreach) and low utilization rates like 32% in Delhi, limiting effective pollution control.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

**16.**

**Ans: C**

**Exp:**

- ECINet serves as a secure, centralized digital platform by the Election Commission of India, enabling real-time exchange of sensitive election data among state and district officials

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through integrated services like voter management and monitoring apps. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The ECINet 2.0 upgrade consolidates over 40 existing applications—including those for electoral rolls (ERONet), law and order (cVIGIL), and polling logistics (Suvudha, ESMS)—into a single unified dashboard with one login for streamlined access. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

17.

Ans: A

Exp:

**The three key Acts or Rules that form India's normative privacy framework:**

- **Puttaswamy Judgment:** The 2017 Supreme Court ruling in Justice K.S. Puttaswamy (Retd.) vs. Union of India recognized privacy as a fundamental right under Article 21, forming the constitutional basis for India's data privacy framework.
- **IT Act 2000:** Section 43A and other provisions of the Information Technology Act, 2000, address data protection and compensation for privacy breaches, serving as the primary pre-DPDP legislation for digital privacy.
- **Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023:** The DPDP Act 2023 establishes comprehensive rules for processing digital personal data, including consent requirements, data fiduciary obligations, and the Data Protection Board, completing the statutory privacy framework.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

18.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) was indeed initiated in **2011** as a **trilateral group** between **India, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives**. This was the original formation of the group before it expanded in later years. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Mauritius joined CSC in 2022, not 2024, during the fifth meeting in Male, ahead of Bangladesh's entry. **Bangladesh became a full member of the CSC in 2024. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The CSC currently operates at a **National Security Advisor (NSA)-level structure**, meaning meetings and coordination are conducted by the NSAs of the member countries. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

19.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS), notified in 2023, operates under the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Act,

2022, which provides the legal framework for establishing India's carbon market. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- CCTS transitions from and replaces the Perform, Achieve, and Trade (PAT) scheme, integrating its energy efficiency mechanisms into a broader carbon credit trading system starting FY2026. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The CCTS initially covers energy-intensive industrial sectors such as steel and cement that are transitioning from the PAT scheme, while power, transport and other industrial sectors will be included gradually over time. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

20.

Ans: B

Exp:

- Leprosy is caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium leprae* (and rarely *M. lepromatosis*), not viruses; it affects skin and peripheral nerves as a chronic bacterial infection. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- India accounts for 52-57% of global leprosy cases, with over 1 lakh new detections annually, making it the highest-burden country despite elimination efforts. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

21.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 mandates that various projects must obtain prior environmental clearances (ECs) from the relevant authorities before commencement, to assess and mitigate environmental impacts. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Article 21 of the Constitution of India provides the right to a clean and healthy environment as part of the fundamental right to life, as recognized by judicial interpretations including the Supreme Court. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

22.

Ans: B

Exp:

- Hayli Gubbi, a shield volcano in Ethiopia's Afar Region within the East African Rift System, erupted recently, after nearly 12,000 years of dormancy, producing ash plumes up to 45,000 feet that drifted toward Yemen, Oman, and India.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

23.

Ans: C

Exp:

- China controls over 70% of global lithium production and more than 90% of rare-earth and graphite processing,

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giving it dominant influence over critical minerals supply chains globally. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- India is almost fully dependent on imports for lithium, cobalt, and nickel, essential minerals used in batteries and clean energy technologies. Import dependence for these critical minerals is near 100%, highlighting significant vulnerability. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

24.

Ans: A

Exp:

- A widening trade deficit increases demand for foreign currency to pay for excess imports over exports, putting downward pressure on the rupee's value and leading to depreciation. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Gold imports, a major component of India's import bill, require payment in US dollars, raising dollar demand and contributing to rupee depreciation during import surges. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Since India imports the majority of its crude oil (over 85%), higher crude prices raise the import bill, which means India needs more dollars to pay for oil. This increases demand for dollars, putting downward pressure on the rupee. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

25.

Ans: C

Exp:

- Depreciation is not uniformly beneficial for both exporters and importers, and it does not specifically benefit importers while hurting exporters. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Depreciation affects trade significantly. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Currency depreciation generally benefits exporters since it makes their goods cheaper and more competitive internationally, leading to higher foreign demand and export volumes, though the benefit can be marginal depending on external factors. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Depreciation harms importers by increasing the cost of imported goods and raw materials, which raises production costs and domestic prices and may fuel inflation. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

26.

Ans: C

Exp:

- Dark energy represents an unknown force or energy causing the universe's expansion to accelerate, comprising

about 68% of the universe's total energy content. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- Dark energy exhibits uniform density throughout space and remains constant over cosmic time (as in the cosmological constant model), unlike matter, whose density dilutes with expansion. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

27.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Question Hour:** The first hour of each parliamentary sitting, dedicated to Members of Parliament (MPs) questioning Ministers on government policies and administration. It is for raising matters relevant to Ministries but not necessarily urgent or off-agenda. **Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
- **Zero Hour:** A unique parliamentary practice where MPs raise urgent matters or issues not formally listed in the agenda. It takes place immediately after Question Hour and allows direct raising of pressing issues without prior notice. **Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
- **Half-an-Hour:** A 30-minute discussion held in either House of Parliament.
  - ◆ Used to seek **further clarification** on a matter that:
    - arose during Question Hour, and
    - answer given by the Minister was unsatisfactory, incomplete or evasive. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**

- **Hence, option A is correct.**

28.

Ans: C

Exp:

- Shyamji Krishna Varma founded India House in London in 1905 as a residence and meeting point for Indian students and revolutionaries in Europe, promoting nationalist activities and serving as a base for revolutionary Indian nationalism. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- He also edited and published the journal *Indian Sociologist*, which advocated for India's independence and constitutional reforms as part of the broader nationalist movement. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

29.

Ans: C

Exp:

- Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) are advanced reactors that typically have about one-third the power capacity of conventional reactors, yet they provide significant low-

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carbon electricity, suitable for remote sites and industrial applications. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- Akademik Lomonosov, developed by Russia, is the world's first operational floating nuclear power plant, operating at Pevek in the Arctic region. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

30.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Operation Trident was an offensive naval operation by the Indian Navy on Karachi port during the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971.
- Indian missile boats equipped with Styx anti-ship missiles struck Karachi harbor and nearby oil installations, significantly crippling Pakistan's maritime capabilities and economy without Indian casualties.
- This operation is celebrated as a major naval victory and is commemorated annually on Navy Day.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

31.

Ans: C

**Exp:** RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra described India's current macroeconomic situation as a "**rare goldilocks period**" during the December 2025 Monetary Policy Committee meeting, citing 8.0% GDP growth in H1:2025-26 alongside benign 2.2% inflation—creating an optimal balance for policy support.

- **Hence, option C is correct.**

32.

Ans: B

Exp:

- Digital Constitutionalism refers to the application and protection of constitutional values in the digital space as societies become increasingly data-driven.
- The objective is to ensure that technologies, platforms and surveillance do not undermine fundamental rights such as:
  - ◆ Liberty
  - ◆ Dignity
  - ◆ Privacy
  - ◆ Equality
  - ◆ Non-arbitrariness
  - ◆ Rule of law
  - ◆ Accountability
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

33.

Ans: C

Exp:

- India doubled its clean energy capacity during 2021-25 through rapid solar and wind additions. Presently, solar

capacity stands at **129 GW**, while the **non-fossil electricity capacity has crossed 259 GW**, accounting for **over 50 % of the nation's total installed power capacity as of October 2025**, marking a historic shift toward low-carbon energy. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- Renewables reached ~50% of total installed capacity (~540 GW non-fossil out of ~1,050 GW total), but contributed only ~20-25% of electricity generation due to intermittency and limited baseload operations compared to coal. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

34.

Ans: D

Exp:

- India is the world's second-largest cotton producer, with major cultivation in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Telangana. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- The Union government waived customs duty on raw cotton imports to ease high domestic prices and ensure cheaper availability for textile and spinning industries. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- India's cotton imports have increased significantly in recent years due to **declining domestic production**. This decline is linked to factors such as yield stagnation, pest issues, and farmers shifting to other crops, leading to a demand-supply gap that necessitates higher imports. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

35.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Code on Wages** establishes a uniform framework for minimum wages and timely payments across all sectors, including informal and gig workers. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Industrial Relations Code introduces flexibility in hiring and layoffs while maintaining protections against arbitrary dismissal. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code applies to all sectors, including construction, mining, manufacturing, and transportation, not just formal industrial units. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

36.

Ans: B

Exp:

- Education falls under the Concurrent List (Entry 25, List III, Seventh Schedule), enabling both Union and State

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governments to legislate on higher education matters. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The Indian Institutes of Management (Amendment) Act, 2023, reduced IIM autonomy by designating the President as Visitor with powers to appoint/remove Directors and Chairpersons, appoint inquiry committees, and override Board decisions—contrary to the 2017 Act's Board-driven model. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Visva-Bharati University was founded by Rabindranath Tagore in 1921 as an open university emphasizing interdisciplinary learning, internationalism, and cultural exchange beyond traditional boundaries. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

37.

Ans: A

Exp:

- NATGRID provides real-time access to 21+ databases (banking, telecom, immigration, transport) from government/private sectors for 11 central agencies and state police to combat terrorism and internal threats. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- No FIR registration is mandatory; authorised agencies access data directly via secure queries with role-based permissions and audit trails for accountability. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

38.

Ans: C

Exp:

- Semi-arid grasslands develop dense, fibrous root systems which may extend several metres deep.
- **These roots:**
  - ◆ Stabilise soil
  - ◆ Enhance water infiltration
  - ◆ Prevent erosion
  - ◆ Store large quantities of carbon as soil organic carbon (SOC)
- **In grasslands:**
  - ◆ Up to 90% of biomass is below ground
  - ◆ Carbon stored in soil is more stable and remains even after surface fires
  - ◆ This makes grasslands crucial for long-term carbon sequestration, especially in arid and semi-arid regions.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

39.

Ans: C

Exp:

- NMMS was introduced in May 2022 (piloted in Alwar, Rajasthan) to combat wage fraud like ghost beneficiaries under MGNREGA through real-time digital attendance tracking. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- NMMS is mandatory for worksites with 20 or more workers (muster rolls issued), requiring supervisors to capture attendance with geo-tagged photos; universal from January 1, 2023. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

40.

Ans: C

Exp:

- India's GDP base year was 2011-12 until mid-2025, making it outdated by over a decade as of December 2025, since revisions typically occur every 5-10 years to reflect economic shifts. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation announced a change to 2022-23, with new data expected by February 2026, confirming the prior base year's obsolescence. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- An outdated base year distorts estimates by underweighting fast-growing sectors like services, digital platforms, and the gig economy, while missing informal activities due to unupdated price weights and structures. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Hence, option C is correct**

41.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) is a non-contributory pension scheme under the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) for individuals belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) households who are aged 60 years and above. It is not for the age group 18-40 years. The pension amount is approximately ₹200 per month for ages 60-79, and ₹500 for those aged 80 and above (amounts may vary slightly by state). **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Atal Pension Yojana (APY) targets unorganized/informal sector workers (18-40 years) with flexible monthly/quarterly/half-yearly/annual contributions guaranteeing fixed pensions. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- NPS replaced OPS for central government employees joining after January 1, 2004 (defined contribution vs. defined benefit), with many states following suit. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

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42.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) was founded by Professor P.C. Mahalanobis on December 17, 1931, in Kolkata as a statistical laboratory that evolved into a premier research institution. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ISI was originally registered on April 28, 1932, as a non-profit learned society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, before later re-registration under the West Bengal Societies Act. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ISI was declared an Institution of National Importance through the Indian Statistical Institute Act, 1959, granting it statutory status and central funding. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

43.

Ans: D

Exp:

- Bankim Chandra Chatterjee authored Vande Mataram, composing it on November 7, 1875, and first publishing it in his journal Bangadarshan before incorporating it into his 1882 novel Anandamath. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Rabindranath Tagore sang or recited it at the 1896 Indian National Congress session in Calcutta, marking its initial prominent public performance. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The poem originally featured in Anandamath, a novel depicting the Sannyasi Rebellion against British rule, embodying strong anti-colonial sentiment. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

44.

Ans: C

Exp:

- Weak La Niña conditions are associated with cooler-than-normal winter temperatures over northwest and central India.
- Rabi crops such as wheat, mustard, gram, and barley perform well in cold and moist winters.
- A longer and colder winter helps in:
  - ◆ Better tillering and grain filling
  - ◆ Improved crop yields
  - ◆ Reduced pest and disease pressure
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

45.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Under the Citizenship Act, 1955 (as originally enacted), any person born in India before 1st July 1987, is automatically a citizen by birth, regardless of the parents' nationality status. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The 1986 amendment introduced Section 3(1)(a): for persons born between 1st July 1987, and 2nd December 2004, at least one parent must be a citizen of India at the time of the child's birth. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The 2003 amendment (effective 3rd December 2004) under Section 3(1)(c) requires that for births on or after this date, at least one parent is a citizen and the other is not an illegal migrant at the time of birth. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Citizenship by birth after 2004 is not automatic for anyone born in India; it is conditional on the parental criteria, preventing automatic citizenship for children of illegal migrants. **Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

46.

Ans: B

Exp:

- China and India are founding members of BRICS, alongside Brazil, Russia, and South Africa, with both actively participating in its summits and expansions as of 2025. **Hence, 1 is correct.**
- Both nations are full members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), cooperating on security and economic issues. **Hence, 2 is correct.**
- China and India are both G20 members, representing major economies in global forums on finance and trade. **Hence, 3 is correct.**
- ASEAN comprises Southeast Asian nations (e.g., Indonesia, Thailand), and neither China nor India holds membership, though both engage as dialogue partners. **Hence, 4 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

47.

Ans: C

Exp:

- Neurotechnology encompasses technologies like neural interfaces, implants, and imaging devices that enable direct interaction with the brain or nervous system via mechanical or digital means, including stimulation, recording, or modulation of neural activity. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

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- Brain-Computer Interfaces (BCIs) represent a key subset of neurotechnology, decoding neural signals from brain activity (e.g., via EEG or implants) to control external devices, such as prosthetics or cursors, effectively translating thoughts into actions. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

➤ **Hence, option C is correct.**

48.

Ans: C

Exp:

- DHRUVA is a proposed Digital Public Infrastructure to standardise and share physical addresses through labels. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- DIGIPIN is a 10-digit alphanumeric code based on geo-coordinates, making addresses machine-readable. DIGIPIN provides a unique code for every 12 square metre block in India, helping with precise location identification. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

➤ **Hence, option C is correct.**

49.

Ans: B

Exp:

- SURYAKIRAN-XIX is a biennial joint military exercise between the Indian Army and Nepal Army, aimed at enhancing interoperability in sub-conventional operations under UN mandates. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - The exercise ran from 25th November to 8th December 2025, in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand (not Dehradun), with validation activities observed by DGMOs on 9th December 2025. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
  - It emphasized counter-terrorism in mountainous terrain, alongside jungle warfare, HADR, medical response, and aviation-ground integration. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

50.

Ans: A

Exp:

- India's public health expenditure constitutes around 1.9-2% of GDP, translating to approximately 2% of the Union Budget allocation for health in 2025-26 (₹99,858 crore out of total budgeted expenditure near ₹50 lakh crore). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - Out-of-pocket expenditure remains high at nearly 47-50% of total health spending, as comprehensive insurance like AB-PMJAY covers only secondary/tertiary care for targeted populations, leaving primary care and the uninsured exposed. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

51.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Article 324** vests the superintendence, direction and control of elections — including preparation and revision of electoral rolls — in the Election Commission of India (ECI).
    - ◆ Therefore, the authority for Special Intensive Revision (SIR) and other revision exercises flows from this Article.
  - **Article 325:** No person to be excluded from electoral rolls on grounds of religion, race, caste, etc.
  - **Article 326:** Provides for universal adult franchise.
  - **Article 327:** Parliament can make laws regarding elections to legislatures.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

52.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The Quantum Fourier Transform (QFT) is a key component of Shor's algorithm, which converts the problem of factoring large numbers into one of finding periodic patterns in modular arithmetic.
  - These patterns allow a quantum computer to determine the prime factors exponentially faster than classical computers.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

53.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The Justice K. Hema Committee report, released in 2024 after being submitted to the Kerala government in 2019, exposed systemic issues in the Malayalam film industry, primarily focusing on widespread sexual harassment, abuse, and the "casting couch" culture where women faced demands for sexual favours to secure roles or entry.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

54.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Shifting to NIN dietary guidelines reduces methane emissions by 36% and nitrous oxide by 35% compared to business-as-usual scenarios, primarily through lower animal products and optimized staple consumption. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Household food expenditures could drop by nearly 23-24%, as NIN-recommended diets emphasize affordable, locally sourced plant-based foods over processed and high-emission items. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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- NIN guidelines promote balanced diets with increased fruits, vegetables, and proteins from diverse sources like pulses and dairy, not doubling cereals (which remain staples but moderated). **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- While protein intake is deficient, adopting NIN guidelines alone would not fully eliminate protein deficits across all income deciles. **Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

55.

Ans: B

Exp:

- Deepavali is inscribed as the 16th element from India on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity during the 20th session in December 2025. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The inscription highlights Deepavali's role in fostering social cohesion, traditional crafts, community practices, and contributions to sustainable development goals like gender equality, beyond mere religious observance. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The Representative List under the 2003 UNESCO Convention safeguards living cultural expressions—such as traditions, rituals, and knowledge—transmitted across generations by communities to promote cultural diversity and dialogue. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

56.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The Western Tragopan (locally known as *Jujurana*, meaning "king of birds") was declared the state bird of Himachal Pradesh in 2007. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Western Tragopan has a disjunct distribution across the Western Himalayas, ranging from northern Pakistan (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, Indus Kohistan, and Kashmir) eastward through the Indian states of Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh, to the western parts of Uttarakhand.
  - ◆ Himachal Pradesh is a major stronghold and has the world's largest known population in the Great Himalayan National Park area, but it is not the only place it survives. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The IUCN Red List data zone for the species notes a global population of 3,200–9,500 mature individuals, and crucially, all remaining mature individuals are considered to belong to a single subpopulation, highlighting its extremely

fragmented and vulnerable status. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

- The species is classified as Vulnerable (VU) on the IUCN Red List, but it is considered to be one of the rarest of all living pheasants. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

57.

Ans: C

Exp:

- Preah Vihear Temple sits atop a cliff in the Dângrêk mountain range, forming the natural border between Cambodia and Thailand. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The International Court of Justice ruled in 1962 that the temple belongs to Cambodia by sovereignty, rejecting Thailand's claims despite Thai occupation since 1954. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2008, it exemplifies 11<sup>th</sup>-century Khmer Hindu architecture dedicated to Shiva. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

58.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The Constitution of India does not explicitly mention Vande Mataram as the national song; Article 51A(a) refers only to respecting the National Anthem. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971 covers the National Flag and National Anthem but makes no reference to Vande Mataram or penalties for its disrespect. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- On 24<sup>th</sup> January, 1950, President Rajendra Prasad announced in the Constituent Assembly that Vande Mataram would have equal status with Jana Gana Mana as the National Song. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Fundamental Duties under Article 51A(a) require respect for the National Anthem only, not the national song; proposals to amend this have not been enacted. **Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

59.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The Tenth Schedule of the Constitution does not prescribe any explicit timelines for Speakers (or Chairpersons) to decide anti-defection petitions; Supreme Court judgments

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have urged “reasonable time” (e.g., 3 months), but no constitutional mandate exists. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- Article 200 outlines the Governor’s options on Bills (assent, withholding assent, reserving for the President, or returning for reconsideration) but specifies no time limit, leading to frequent delays criticised by courts. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

➤ **Hence, option B is correct.**

60.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The IMF assigned India a ‘Grade C’ rating for its national accounts statistics in the 2025 Article IV consultation, indicating some shortcomings that hamper surveillance, particularly in GDP data quality. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The IMF highlighted issues such as the use of an outdated base year (2011-12) and reliance on wholesale price indices as contributing factors to its assessment. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

➤ **Hence, option C is correct.**

61.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Satellite megaconstellations consist of hundreds or thousands of satellites, typically in low Earth orbit (LEO), working collaboratively to deliver global broadband internet, Earth observation, or communication services, as exemplified by Starlink and OneWeb. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Geostationary satellites (GEO), positioned at 36,000 km altitude, experience higher latency (around 600 ms round-trip) due to greater signal travel distance compared to LEO satellites (500-2,000 km altitude, latency under 50 ms). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

➤ **Hence, option A is correct.**

62.

Ans: B

Exp:

- El Niño typically causes warmer global temperatures, so its presence would offer a direct explanation for heat. However, a La Niña event began in late 2024/early 2025, which should have had a cooling effect, making the persistent high temperatures more alarming, not less. The record heat occurred despite La Niña’s cooling effect. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- La Niña is a natural climate pattern that typically has a temporary cooling effect on global temperatures. However, in early 2025, global temperatures remained record-breaking high despite an emerging La Niña, indicating that human-induced climate change is overpowering this natural cooling influence. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- The 2023–2025 period may become the first three-year phase to exceed the 1.5°C limit: It has been predicted that 2025, following the record-breaking years of 2023 and 2024, could be the second-hottest year on record. If this is confirmed, it would mark the first time global average temperatures have exceeded the 1.5°C threshold above pre-industrial levels for three consecutive years, highlighting the accelerating rate of global warming. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

➤ **Hence, option B is correct.**

63.

Ans: B

Exp:

- Green AI infrastructure refers to the sustainable design and operation of AI-supporting hardware ecosystems, particularly data centers and computing facilities powered by renewable energy sources to minimize carbon emissions from intensive AI training and inference.

➤ **Hence, option B is correct.**

64.

Ans: C

Exp:

- Macaulay strongly advocated for English education, not its abolition. He argued English should replace oriental learning to impart “really useful knowledge,” leading to the English Education Act 1835 that prioritized English-medium instruction. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Macaulay viewed Western literature and science as vastly superior, dismissing all Indian learning (Sanskrit, Arabic, Persian) as worthless: “a single shelf of a good European library was worth the whole native literature of India and Arabia”. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The core objective was creating an elite class “Indian in blood and colour, but English in tastes, in opinions, in morals and in intellect” to act as interpreters between British rulers and Indian masses, ensuring colonial control through anglicized intermediaries. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Macaulay believed Indian languages incapable of expressing modern scientific concepts: “no printed book in the Sanskrit language contains any information on useful knowledge,”

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making English essential for progress. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**

➤ **Hence, option C is correct.**

65.

Ans: A

Exp:

➤ The World Inequality Report 2026 states that India's top 10% earners capture 58% of national income, while the bottom 50% receive only 15%, making India among the most unequal major economies. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

◆ The World Inequality Report 2026 was released by the World Inequality Lab, an international research collective that compiles the World Inequality Database and publishes periodic global inequality assessments.

➤ Wealth inequality exceeds income inequality, with the top 10% holding 65% of wealth (top 1% at 40%), far higher concentration than income metrics. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

➤ **Hence, option A is correct.**

66.

Ans: A

Exp:

➤ UNESCO's ICH lists focus exclusively on non-physical, living cultural practices, expressions, and knowledge systems as defined by the 2003 Convention, explicitly excluding tangible objects, monuments, or material heritage (covered under separate conventions). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

➤ The Convention identifies five domains: oral traditions and expressions; performing arts; social practices, rituals, and festive events; knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe; and traditional craftsmanship. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

➤ Tangible heritage sites like monuments are inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List (cultural landscapes or properties), not ICH lists; associated cultural practices may qualify separately as ICH elements, but the sites themselves are excluded. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

➤ **Hence, option A is correct.**

67.

Ans: B

Exp:

➤ India's AQI was developed by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in consultation with IIT Kanpur and an expert group of medical and air-quality professionals. The CPCB is responsible for monitoring and publishing real-time AQI

values for cities across the country. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

➤ The NAQI computation is based on a defined list of eight priority pollutants: PM<sub>2.5</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, CO, O<sub>3</sub>, NH<sub>3</sub> and Pb. For each pollutant, CPCB provides concentration breakpoints linked to AQI sub-indices. The overall AQI at a location is determined by the highest (worst) sub-index among the pollutants monitored at that site (the "max sub-index" approach). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

➤ While the framework of categories is uniform, the functional uniformity in measurement, pollutant coverage, data quality and reporting practice is not guaranteed across every city. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

➤ **Hence, option B is correct.**

68.

Ans: C

Exp:

➤ Article 21A guarantees free and compulsory education for children aged 6 to 14 years, not 3 to 18 years. It is confined to elementary education, roughly Class I to VIII. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

➤ The 86th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002 inserted Article 21A into the Constitution, making the Right to Education a fundamental right for children aged 6–14. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

➤ NEP 2020 envisions universal access to quality education from age 3 (foundational stage including pre-school) up to 18 years (Grade 12), covering pre-primary to higher secondary as a policy goal, even though the constitutional guarantee under Article 21A remains 6–14. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

➤ **Hence, option C is correct.**

69.

Ans: A

Exp:

➤ The High Court Collegium comprises the Chief Justice of the High Court and the two senior-most judges of that High Court, as established through Supreme Court judgments interpreting Article 217. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

➤ Article 217 of the Constitution deals with the appointment and conditions of service of High Court judges by the President in consultation with the Chief Justice of India, the Governor, and the Chief Justice of the High Court. It does not mandate the Collegium's composition, which evolved judicially through the Second and Third Judges Cases. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

➤ **Hence, option A is correct.**

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70.

Ans: A

Exp:

- A weaker rupee lowers the foreign currency price of Indian goods, enhancing export competitiveness in global markets, though actual gains depend on import intensity and demand elasticity. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- India's Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket has moderate import dependence (around 10-15% directly via oil, pulses, etc.), so rupee depreciation causes imported inflation but not "significantly" dominating overall CPI, which is largely domestically driven. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Services exports like IT/ITES and BPO benefit substantially, earning dollars converted to more rupees, boosting profitability and margins for firms like TCS and Infosys. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

71.

Ans: B

Exp:

- Articles 14, 19, and 21 of the Indian Constitution form the "Golden Triangle."
  - ◆ **Article 14:** Guarantees equality before the law and equal protection of the laws.
  - ◆ **Article 19:** Protects certain fundamental freedoms, such as speech, movement, and assembly.
  - ◆ **Article 21:** Guarantees the right to life and personal liberty.
- The Supreme Court in *Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India* (1978) emphasized that any procedure affecting personal liberty under Article 21 must satisfy the requirements of Articles 14 and 19, interlinking these three fundamental rights as a protective framework for life, liberty, and equality.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

72.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The LVM-3 (Launch Vehicle Mark-3), also known as GSLV Mk-III, is being human-rated specifically for India's Gaganyaan mission to carry astronauts to low Earth orbit.
- ISRO has conducted extensive tests including crew module recovery, abort systems, and environmental controls to certify its safety for human spaceflight.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

73.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The Consumer Price Index (CPI) in India is released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- India's CPI basket weights about 46% to food and non-alcoholic beverages, making it the largest component by far. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The current CPI base year is 2012; a shift to 2024 is proposed but not yet implemented. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

74.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Article 19(2) enumerates exhaustive grounds—such as sovereignty and integrity of India, security of the state, friendly relations with foreign states, public order, decency or morality, contempt of court, defamation, and incitement to an offence—for imposing reasonable restrictions on freedom of speech under Article 19(1)(a). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Courts cannot impose additional restrictions beyond those listed in Article 19(2); any new grounds would violate the constitutional framework, as the list is closed and exhaustive. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The reasonableness of restrictions imposed under Article 19(2) is subject to judicial review, where courts assess proportionality, nexus to permitted grounds, and absence of arbitrariness. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

75.

Ans: A

Exp:

- MRV systems form the core of the Enhanced Transparency Framework under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, ensuring countries report progress on NDCs with clarity, consistency, and comparability. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- All Parties must track and report greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation), adaptation actions, and support provided/received including climate finance, though with flexibility for developing countries. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- MRV obligations apply to all countries under the Paris Agreement's common but differentiated responsibilities;

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developed nations have stricter requirements, but developing countries also submit biennial transparency reports. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

➤ **Hence, option A is correct.**

76.

Ans: C

Exp:

➤ Methane possesses a global warming potential approximately 84 times greater than carbon dioxide over a 20-year time horizon, as established by IPCC assessments. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

➤ India's methane emissions from the waste sector constitute around 14-15%, primarily from landfills and wastewater, according to official Biennial Update Reports and sectoral analyses. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

➤ **Hence, option C is correct.**

77.

Ans: B

Exp:

➤ The 102<sup>nd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act, 2018, inserted Article 338B, making the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) a constitutional body, similar to the National Commissions for SCs and STs.

➤ It also inserted Article 342A, giving the President the power to notify the list of Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs) for the purposes of the Constitution, with Parliament empowered to amend this central list.

➤ **Hence, option B is correct.**

78.

Ans: B

Exp:

➤ When disinflation occurs, the general price level keeps rising, but the rate of increase drops—e.g., from 7% to 3% year-over-year. Central banks often target this to cool overheating economies without triggering deflation.

➤ **Inflation:** Prices rising (positive rate, e.g., +5%).

➤ **Deflation:** Prices actually falling (negative rate, e.g., -2%), risking economic contraction.

➤ **Hence, option B is correct.**

79.

Ans: B

Exp:

➤ Article 200 requires the Governor to act "as soon as possible" when returning a Bill, but no fixed timeline binds the Governor for granting or withholding assent, allowing potential delays subject to judicial scrutiny. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

➤ Under Article 200, the Governor may return non-Money Bills to the state legislature for reconsideration, along with a message suggesting amendments. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

➤ If the legislature re-passes the returned Bill (with or without amendments) and presents it again, the Governor shall not withhold assent and must declare it as law. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

➤ **Hence, option B is correct.**

80.

Ans: C

Exp:

➤ The Window of Circadian Low (WOCL) refers to the time period—typically 2:00 to 5:59 in the crew's acclimatized time zone—when the body's internal clock causes peak fatigue, reduced alertness, and lowest cognitive performance, increasing aviation safety risks.

➤ **Hence, option C is correct.**

81.

Ans: C

Exp:

➤ The Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) entered into force on 26 March 1975. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

➤ The core obligation of the BWC is to ban the development, production, stockpiling and acquisition of biological agents and toxins for non-peaceful purposes, as well as related weapons and delivery systems. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

➤ States Parties are required to destroy or divert to peaceful purposes all agents, toxins, weapons, equipment and means of delivery covered by the Convention within a specified period after it enters into force for them. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

➤ **Hence, option C is correct.**

82.

Ans: C

Exp:

➤ Project Suncatcher, Google's initiative for solar-powered AI data centers in space, uses laser-based optical links (free-space optical communication) for high-speed inter-satellite data transfer, enabling distributed computation across satellite constellations.

➤ These links provide terabit-level bandwidth by maintaining close satellite formations, far surpassing radio-frequency limitations for AI workloads.

➤ **Hence, option C is correct.**

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83.

Ans: C

Exp:

- MGNREGA legally guarantees at least 100 days of unskilled manual wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer for such work. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Since the 2014-15 amendments, the Union Government bears 100% of wage costs (both unskilled and skilled labor), while states cover material costs and administrative expenses. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

84.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The 2025 theme, “Unaffordable health costs? We’re sick of it!”, focuses on tackling high out-of-pocket expenses, pushing millions into poverty. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- UHC encompasses the full health spectrum—prevention, promotion, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care—not just hospitalization. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

85.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The “Trojan horse effect” describes how inhalable microplastics act as carriers, **adsorbing toxic chemicals** (like heavy metals, PAHs, phthalates) and **pathogens** (bacteria, fungi) on their surfaces due to their **hydrophobic nature** and **high surface area**.
- Once inhaled, these particles deliver the contaminants deep into **lung tissue**, **bypassing natural defenses** and **amplifying health risks** like inflammation and respiratory diseases.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

86.

Ans: D

Exp:

- Nuclear power contributed approximately 3% of India’s total electricity generation in FY 2024–25, with NPCIL achieving a record 50+ billion units from its ~8.8 GW capacity. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- India targets **100 GW nuclear power capacity by 2047** as part of its energy security and net-zero strategy, requiring ~11-fold expansion from current levels. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- The **Nuclear Energy Mission** (Budget 2025-26) allocates funds for at least five indigenous Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) by **2033** to accelerate deployment. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

- **Nuclear Energy Mission for Viksit Bharat:** It aims to enhance **domestic nuclear capabilities**, promote private sector participation, and accelerate the deployment of advanced nuclear technologies such as Small Modular Reactors (SMRs).

- **Small Modular Reactors (SMRs):** Small Modular Reactors are advanced nuclear reactors with **power capacity up to 300 MWe per unit**—one-third of traditional plants—designed for factory fabrication, modular assembly, and transport to sites.

- **Hence, option D is correct.**

87.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The Fifth Schedule lays down a special governance framework for Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes, dealing with their administration and control under **Article 244(1)**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- It provides for a **Tribes Advisory Council in each State** having Scheduled Areas, with **up to 20 members**, of whom as nearly as may be, **three-fourths** are representatives of Scheduled Tribes in the State Legislative Assembly—i.e., an adivasi majority. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- Under the Fifth Schedule, the **Governor** has special regulatory powers for the “**peace and good government**” of **Scheduled Areas**, including making regulations that prohibit or **restrict transfer of land** by or among members of Scheduled Tribes, to prevent land alienation. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

- **Hence, option C is correct.**

88.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Finland joined NATO in April 2023.
- Sweden joined NATO in March 2024. Both accessions occurred after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in 2022.
- Ukraine and Georgia are not NATO members (though they seek membership).
- **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO):** NATO is a political and military alliance of **32 member states** from Europe and North America, **founded on April 4, 1949**, via the North Atlantic Treaty to counter Soviet expansion during the Cold War.

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- ◆ **Headquartered in Brussels**, NATO includes two strategic commands (Allied Command Operations and Allied Command Transformation).

➤ Hence, option A is correct.

89.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Under MGNREGA, the Central Government bears 100% of the cost of unskilled labour. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Unemployment allowance, payable when work is not provided within 15 days of demand, is borne by the State Governments. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The material cost is not shared equally; it is shared in a 75:25 ratio between the Centre and States (with special provisions of 90:10 for NE and hill states). **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)
  - ◆ MGNREGA, enacted in 2005, **came into force on February 2, 2006** guarantees **100 days** of unskilled manual wage employment per financial year to every rural household willing to work, enhancing livelihood security.
  - ◆ Legal right to work; **employment within 15 days of demand**, or unemployment allowance.
  - ◆ **Priority to women** (at least 1/3rd jobs); works focus on water conservation, rural infrastructure.

➤ Hence, option A is correct.

90.

Ans: C

Exp:

- **CBAM**: The **Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)** is an EU policy that imposes a carbon price on imports of carbon-intensive goods like cement, steel, aluminum, fertilizers, electricity, and hydrogen from non-EU countries. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ CBAM imposes **carbon tariffs (up to 35%)** on Indian steel, aluminum, cement, and fertilizers—**27% of India's steel/aluminum exports go to the EU**—raising costs due to coal-based production and reducing competitiveness.
- **Aim**: CBAM prevents carbon leakage by ensuring imported goods face equivalent carbon costs to EU producers under the **EU Emissions Trading System (ETS)**, promoting global decarbonization while protecting EU industry. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ **Emissions Trading System (ETS)**: It is a market-based mechanism to control air pollution by providing

economic incentives for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

- **India's Concern**: India argues CBAM violates WTO non-discrimination, ignores developing nations' CBDR principle, and hinders **2070 net-zero target** by pressuring high-emission industries without support.

➤ Hence, option C is correct.

91.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Insurance Density**: It rose from \$55 (2014-15) to \$97 currently, reflecting **higher average premiums per capita**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Insurance penetration**: It increased from **3.3% of GDP (2014-15) to 3.7%** in FY23-24. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Comparison with Global Average**: India's insurance density (\$97) remains far below the global average (~0.6% of world average), despite life insurance dominance. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Insurance Regulator in India**: **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** is the statutory body regulating the insurance sector in India.
  - ◆ It was established under the **IRDA Act, 1999**.
  - ◆ **Functions**: Protect policyholders' interests, regulate and promote orderly growth of the insurance industry, and ensure financial stability of insurers.
- Hence, option A is correct.

92.

Ans: B

Exp:

- Fog forms when **temperatures drop** and **moisture accumulates close to the ground**, leading to **condensation of water vapour** into tiny droplets suspended in air.
- This condition is common in northern India during winter, especially after the retreat of monsoon winds.
- Fog requires **calm or light winds** and **high relative humidity**. High wind speeds disperse moisture, and low humidity prevents condensation, making fog formation unlikely. **Hence option A is wrong.**
- Strong solar radiation causes **surface heating**, which increases air temperature and reduces relative humidity, thereby **preventing fog formation**. **Thus option C is wrong.**
- Fog in northern India is mainly linked to **radiation inversion under anticyclonic (high-pressure) conditions**, not cyclonic systems. Cyclones usually bring clouds, winds, and rainfall, which disrupt fog formation. **Thus option D is wrong.**
- Hence, option B is correct.

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93.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Census 2011 recorded 453 million internal migrants, constituting **37-38% of India's total population**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- **Two-thirds of migrants are women**, primarily due to **marriage-related migration** (46% of total migration). Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- Male migrants typically **travel longer distances for work** (inter-state), while female migration is shorter-distance and intra-state, driven by marriage. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.
- Hence, **option A is correct**.

94.

Ans: C

Exp:

- **Aravalli's distribution:** Aravalli Range extends from **Delhi–Haryana region to Gujarat**, covering about 800 km.
  - ◆ It passes through **Rajasthan (the largest stretch), Haryana, Delhi, and Gujarat**.
- **Protection Efforts:** India's Aravalli protection efforts, including the **Aravalli Green Wall Project**, directly address desertification prevention, aligning with **obligations under the UNCCD** to restore degraded lands and combat Thar Desert expansion.
- **UNCCD: United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)** is a legally binding international agreement adopted in **1994** to combat **desertification, land degradation and drought**, particularly in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid regions.
  - ◆ **India is a Party to the UNCCD**, which obligates it to undertake **sustainable land management, ecosystem restoration and protection of vulnerable regions** such as the Aravalli range.
- UNCCD is one of the **three Rio Conventions**, along with the **UNFCCC** (climate change) and the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**, and supports the **Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) target by 2030**.
- Hence, **option C is correct**.

95.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Preah Vihear Temple:** It is an **11<sup>th</sup>-century Khmer Hindu temple** dedicated to **Shiva**, constructed primarily during the reigns of **Suryavarman I and II**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

- **ICJ Ruling:** The ICJ ruled in **1962** that the temple itself **belongs to Cambodia**, affirming its location within Cambodian territory based on a **1907 Franco-Siamese treaty map**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- **2013 ICJ Clarification:** The 2013 ICJ ruling clarified the temple's immediate promontory belongs to Cambodia but did not grant Thailand sovereignty over the surrounding disputed areas; it called for demarcation while Thailand retains some adjacent zones. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.
- **International Court of Justice (ICJ):** It is the principal **judicial organ of the United Nations**, established in **1945** under the UN Charter.
  - ◆ It settles legal disputes **between states** and gives advisory opinions on legal questions referred by UN organs and specialized agencies.
  - ◆ The ICJ is headquartered at **The Hague, Netherlands**, and consists of **15 judges elected for nine-year terms**.
  - ◆ Its judgments are **binding only on the parties** involved in a particular case and have no direct enforcement mechanism.
- Hence, **option A is correct**.

96.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **Article 200** governs the Governor's actions on Bills passed by the state legislature. The Governor must declare whether to assent to the Bill, withhold assent, or reserve it for the President's consideration.
- There is **no fixed time period that binds the Governor**; the proviso mentions acting "as soon as possible" for returns, but this is not a strict deadline. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- The Governor of an Indian state has the **discretionary power to reserve a Bill** for the President's consideration under Article 200 of the Constitution. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- The **Governor** can return **all Bills except Money Bill** with a message for reconsideration by the legislature. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
- Hence, **option B is correct**.

97.

Ans: C

Exp:

- **Impact of Rupee Depreciation on Domestic Demand:** A depreciating rupee makes imports more expensive, which

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can actually reduce domestic consumption of imported goods. Its primary effect is on external competitiveness, not boosting internal demand. **Hence, option A is not correct.**

- **Rupee Depreciation vs High Tariff Barriers:** While a **weaker rupee makes Indian exports cheaper in dollar terms**, India's tariff differential with competing countries is too large to overcome. Hence, rupee depreciation cannot fully cancel out the effect of steep U.S. tariffs. **Hence, option B is not correct.**
- **Effect on Export Competitiveness:** A depreciating rupee **improves price competitiveness of exports by lowering their dollar value**. This helps exporters absorb some of the tariff shock, but only to a limited extent. This is why exporters are still under stress. **Hence, option C is correct.**
- **Trade Deficit and Demand Conditions:** Exchange rate depreciation alone cannot eliminate trade deficits, especially when imports fall due to weak demand rather than structural strength. The shrinking trade deficit is partly a sign of slackening demand, not improved competitiveness. **Hence, option D is not correct.**
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

98.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Article 41** does not mandate employment as a justiciable Fundamental Right. It is non-enforceable in courts, as it forms part of the **Directive Principles of State Policy (Part IV)**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Article 41 explicitly states that the State shall make provision for the right to work **"within the limits of its economic capacity and development."** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Article 41 falls under **socialist/welfare-oriented DPSPs (Articles 38-47)** promoting economic justice and welfare state ideals. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

99.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Per capita energy consumption growth** has historically driven human progress, with low-development countries seeing sharp Human Development Index (HDI) gains from modest energy increases due to industrialization, health, and education improvements. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Digitalisation does not reduce overall energy demand;** direct ICT production/use, rebound effects, and economic

growth from productivity gains typically increase net consumption despite efficiency improvements. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- Strong positive correlation exists between HDI and per capita **Final Energy Consumption (FEC)**, with studies confirming energy use rises alongside development metrics like income, health, and education. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

- **Hence, option A is correct.**

100.

Ans: A

Exp:

- DHRUV64 is a **64-bit, dual-core general-purpose processor capable** of supporting modern operating systems. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is not **limited to low-end sensing or appliance control**; it targets telecom, industrial automation, automotive, and embedded systems. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- DHRUV64 is part of India's **Digital India RISC-V (DIR-V) programme** aimed at indigenous processor development. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

101.

Ans: B

Exp:

- Under the automatic route, foreign banks **can invest up to 20% in an Indian private sector bank** without prior RBI approval. **Hence, A is not correct.**
- If a foreign bank or investor **holds more than 25%**, it is classified as a promoter, triggering stricter RBI scrutiny, fit-and-proper checks, and licensing conditions. **Hence, B is correct.**
- The total foreign direct investment in **private banks is capped at 74% under India's FDI policy**. **Hence, C is not correct.**
- The Reserve Bank of India monitors and regulates foreign investment, **especially beyond thresholds like 20% or 24.99%**, to ensure financial stability and compliance. **Hence, D is not correct.**
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

102.

Ans: B

Exp:

"**Little Foot**" is one of the most complete early human fossils discovered in the **Sterkfontein cave system, South Africa**. Recent studies suggest it may belong to a previously unknown

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species of early human ancestor, providing new insights into the branching pattern of human evolution.

➤ Hence, option B is correct.

103.

Ans: C

Exp:

- **Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP):** A statutory emergency framework under the **Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)** to curb air pollution in **Delhi-NCR** through stage-wise measures (Stage I–IV) triggered by **worsening AQI**.
- It forecasts **meteorological/ weather conditions** in Delhi that brings together multiple **stakeholders, implementing agencies and authorities in NCR** to respond to situations of deteriorating air quality in the region.
- GRAP was **approved by the Supreme Court in the M.C. Mehta v. Union of India (2016)** matter and then notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in January 2017. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- EPCA implemented GRAP initially but was dissolved in 2020 and replaced by the **Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)**.
- **Since 2021**, GRAP has been **implemented by CAQM, not EPCA**.
- Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- GRAP was notified by MoEFCC under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**, making its measures **statutory**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

104.

Ans: A

Exp:

- MGNREGA's **self-targeting design** allows anyone willing to work, including women, to claim employment, increasing their participation. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Mandatory wage parity** ensures women receive the same wages as men, which incentivizes participation. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Centrally fixed allocation of work reduces local flexibility** and does not contribute to increasing women's participation; it may even limit it. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- Other key features of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

- ◆ MGNREGA, enacted in 2005, **came into force on February 2, 2006** guarantees **100 days** of unskilled manual wage employment per financial year to every rural household willing to work, enhancing livelihood security.

- ◆ Legal right to work; **employment within 15 days of demand**, or unemployment allowance.

- ◆ **Priority to women** (at least 1/3rd jobs); works focus on water conservation, rural infrastructure

➤ Hence, option A is correct.

105.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **Surge in global capital inflows:** Capital inflows can help stabilize the exchange rate, but they do not directly reduce the inflationary pass-through from a depreciating currency to domestic prices. **Hence, option A is not correct.**
- **Inflation below RBI's comfort zone:** When inflation is already low, a weaker rupee (which raises import costs) is less likely to **push overall inflation** to uncomfortable levels. **Hence, option B is correct.**
- **Sharp increase in interest rate:** Higher interest rates are a **policy response to inflation**, not a condition that explains why depreciation itself leads to lower inflationary impact. **Hence, option C is not correct.**
- **Significant reduction in fiscal deficit:** **Fiscal consolidation affects macro stability** in the long term, not the immediate inflationary impact of currency depreciation. **Hence, option D is not correct.**
- Hence, option B is correct.

106.

Ans: C

Exp:

- **Saudi Arabia** — Shares a land border with Oman from **West**
- **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** — Shares a land border with Oman from **North-west**
- **Yemen** — Shares a land border with Oman from **South-west**
- **Qatar** does not share a land border with Oman; it is located across the Persian Gulf, connected only by maritime boundaries.
- Oman also has a **maritime boundary** with **Iran and Pakistan** across the **Arabian Sea** and **Gulf of Oman**.

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- Hence, option C is correct.

107.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The **Atomic Energy Act, 1962** empowers the Central Government to regulate atomic energy development, production, use, and disposal through licensing, prohibitions, and control over minerals, substances, and equipment.
- **Sections 14 and 17** grant the Central Government authority to control mining, production, possession, use, and disposal of atomic materials and related activities. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Act **does not establish an independent nuclear safety regulatory authority** (AERB operates under the Atomic Energy Commission, created administratively). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Private sector activities require government licenses**, with prohibitions on unauthorized production or use of atomic energy. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Hence, option B is correct.

108.

Ans: D

Exp:

- The **Code on Wages, 2019** explicitly provides for equal wages to men and women for the same work or work of similar nature. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The Code empowers the Central Government to fix a **national minimum wage** applicable across the country. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Code mandates that **State governments cannot fix minimum wages below the national minimum wage**, though they may set higher wages. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Hence, option D is correct.

109.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **High CO<sub>2</sub> Uptake by the Southern Ocean:** The Southern Ocean covers **only about 25–30% of the global ocean area** but accounts for **roughly 40% of the oceanic uptake of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub>**, as also highlighted in **IPCC AR6**. **Hence, the assertion is correct.**
- **Physical Processes Enhancing Carbon Absorption:** **Cold surface waters increase CO<sub>2</sub> solubility (solubility pump)**, while strong vertical stratification restricts the return of carbon-rich deep waters to the atmosphere, thereby limiting outgassing. **Hence, the reason is correct.**
- **Link Between Assertion and Reason:** These physical processes directly explain why the Southern Ocean absorbs a disproportionately large amount of carbon dioxide. **Hence, both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.**
- Hence, option A is correct.

110.

Ans: D

Exp:

- India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) is envisaged as a **multimodal connectivity corridor**, integrating maritime routes, rail links, energy and digital infrastructure to enhance trade and **connectivity between India, West Asia and Europe**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Jordan occupies a strategic geographic position in the Northern Corridor, acting as a **land bridge between the Gulf region and the Mediterranean**, making it crucial for overland connectivity. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- IMEC is widely seen as a transparent, rules-based and multilateral **alternative to China's Belt and Road Initiative**, emphasising sustainability and cooperation. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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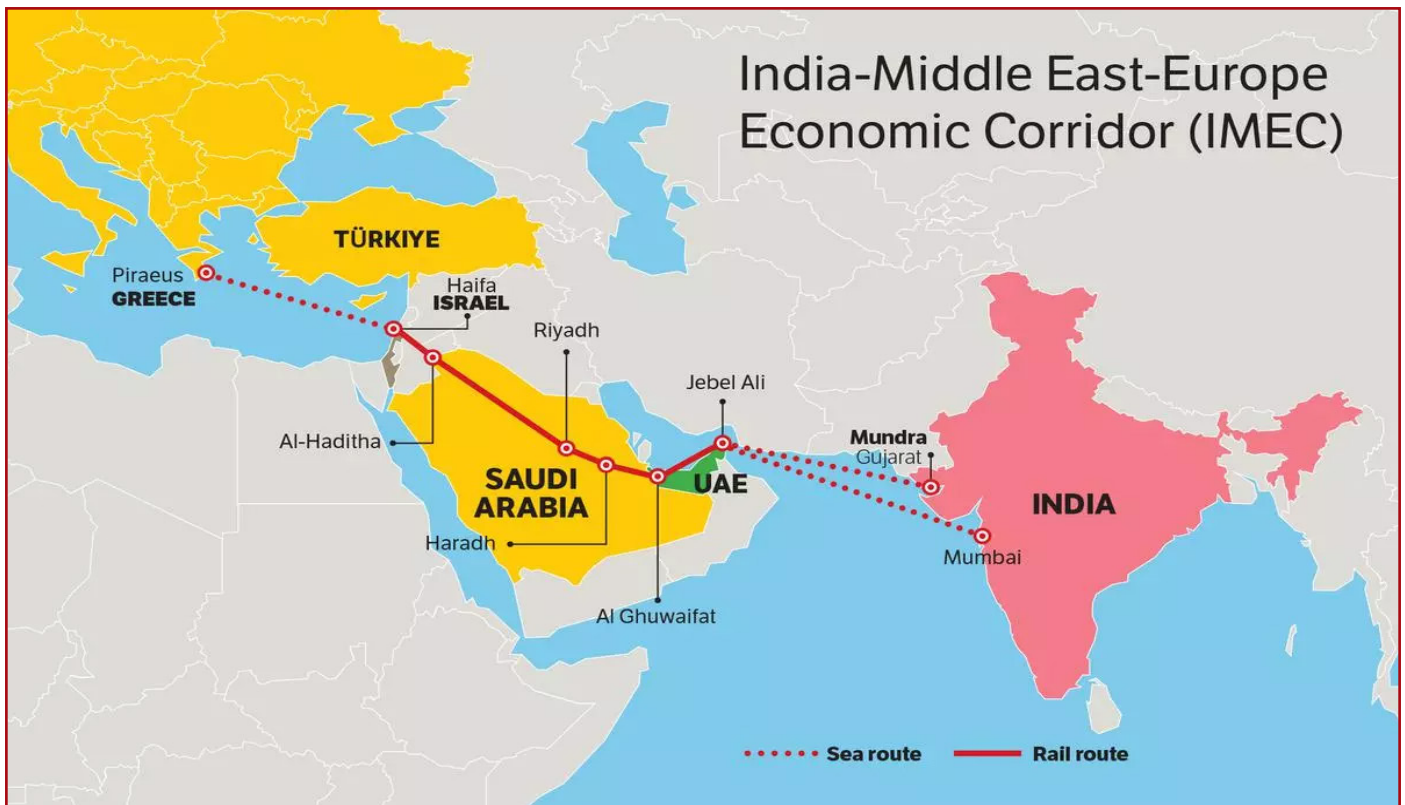


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## India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)



➤ Hence, option D is correct.

111.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The **73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992**, introduced **Part IX and Articles 243-243O**, establishing **Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)** as constitutional bodies with powers for planning and implementation of rural development schemes.
- **MGNREGA (2005)** mandates **decentralized implementation primarily through Gram Panchayats and Gram Sabhas** for work selection, execution, and monitoring, directly operationalizing the 73rd Amendment's devolution of powers to local self-governments.
- **61<sup>st</sup> Amendment (1988)**: Reduced the **voting age from 21 to 18 years** for Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections.
- **74<sup>th</sup> Amendment (1992)**: Constitutionalised Urban Local Bodies (Municipalities) by adding **Part IX-A to the Constitution**.
- **42<sup>nd</sup> Amendment (1976)**: Added the words **"Socialist"** and **"Secular"** to the Preamble and included **"Unity and Integrity of the Nation"** in the Fundamental Duties. Significantly expanded Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSPs).
- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

- ◆ **Legal guarantee**: Provides **100 days of wage employment** in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer for unskilled manual work.
- ◆ **Rights-based approach**: Mandates time-bound employment or unemployment allowance, strengthening livelihood security.
- ◆ **Asset creation**: Focuses on durable rural assets like water conservation, drought proofing, and land development.

➤ Hence, option B is correct.

112.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The African Union (AU) formally replaced the **Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in 2002** to move beyond decolonisation towards integration and development. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The headquarters of the African Union is located in **Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Unlike the OAU's strict non-interference doctrine, the AU follows the **principle of "non-indifference"**, allowing intervention in cases of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- Hence, option A is correct.

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113.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Environmental Vertical Reform (EVR)** involves a **top-down accountability system**, where local governments are directly responsible to higher authorities for achieving environmental targets. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- EVR **reduces local autonomy**; it moves away from fragmented local control to a **vertically integrated system**, reducing the chances of local interference in pollution control. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- EVR was a key factor in **Beijing's reduction of PM2.5 levels**, enabling strict enforcement, regional coordination, and rapid policy implementation. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Significance:**
  - ◆ **Improved environmental governance:** More consistent and effective regulation across regions.
  - ◆ **Tackling local protectionism:** Reduces tendencies of subnational governments to relax environmental standards for economic reasons.
  - ◆ **Enhanced enforcement capacity:** Provincial or central agencies have greater leverage to enforce rules and monitor pollution.
  - ◆ **Better corporate compliance:** Firms may increase **environmental and social governance (ESG)** performance under stricter vertical oversight.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

114.

Ans: B

Exp:

- Doxxing is the **malicious practice of exposing someone's personal information**—such as home address, phone number, family details, or workplace—**without their consent**, often to harass, intimidate, or endanger them.
- **Doxxing Methods:** Personal information is exposed by **combining public data from social media and records, digital tracking (IP addresses, metadata), hacking or data breaches, social engineering (impersonation or fake messages), and cross-platform linking using common usernames or emails.**
- In the X (Twitter) incident, verified users publicly shared private information about South Asians, including addresses and family photos, which is a classic example of doxxing.
- Other common Online Abusive Practices

- ◆ **Cyberstalking:** Repeated monitoring, following, or threatening a person online.
- ◆ **Cyberbullying:** Harassment through abusive messages, trolling, or humiliation on digital platforms.
- ◆ **Trolling:** Deliberate provocation or posting offensive content to incite reactions.
- ◆ **Impersonation:** Creating fake accounts to pose as someone else and damage their reputation.
- ◆ **Revenge pornography:** Sharing intimate images or videos without consent.
- ◆ **Online hate speech:** Targeting individuals or groups based on identity, ideology, or belief.
- ◆ **Swatting:** Making false emergency reports to trigger police action against a victim.

- **Hence, option B is correct.**

115.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Overhead transmission lines are a major cause of **mortality for the Great Indian Bustard** due to collisions, which has been a central concern in conservation efforts and Supreme Court proceedings. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Supreme Court's 2021** order did not completely ban renewable energy projects in GIB habitats. Instead, it **imposed restrictions on overhead transmission lines** and called for a committee-led approach to assess feasibility, including undergrounding, while balancing conservation with renewable energy needs. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Undergrounding of power lines has been **explored and mandated in certain priority areas** as a mitigation strategy to reduce bird mortality. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Great Indian Bustard (GIB)
  - ◆ **Great Indian Bustard (GIB) (Ardeotis nigricaps)** is one of India's **heaviest flying birds**, endemic to the grassland and semi-arid ecosystems of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.
  - ◆ It is listed as **Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List**, with habitat loss, collision with power transmission lines, and fragmentation of grasslands being the main threats.
  - ◆ The species is protected under **Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, affording it the **highest level of legal protection** in India.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

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116.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **S-400 air defence system:** A Russian-origin, **long-range air and missile defence system** inducted by India and forming a key pillar of its air defence. **Hence, 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ It can detect targets up to **~600 km and engage aircraft, cruise missiles and ballistic missiles up to ~400 km.**
- **BrahMos missile:** A jointly developed Indo-Russian **supersonic cruise missile** and a critical component of India's strike capability. **Hence, 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ A speed of **Mach 2.8–3.0** and an **extended range of ~450 km** (and growing). It can be **launched from land, sea, air and submarines.**
- **Sukhoi SU-30 MKI:** A Russian-origin **multirole fighter aircraft**, licence-produced in India, with a **combat radius of ~1,500 km (over 3,000 km with refuelling).**
  - ◆ Equipped with **advanced avionics, super-maneuvrability and long-range missiles**, it forms the backbone of the Indian Air Force. **Hence, 3 is correct.**
- **F-16 fighter jets:** A **U.S.-origin fighter aircraft** supplied to **Pakistan**, not part of India's military inventory. **Hence, 4 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

117.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The **Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020** was enacted to consolidate and regulate occupational safety, health, and working conditions of workers across various types of establishments by **subsuming 13 existing labour laws.**
- It mandates employer responsibility for providing a **safe working environment**, including **health standards, welfare facilities, working hours, and leave**, with special provisions for women and inter-State migrant workers.
- The Code introduces **uniform definitions and allows women to work in all establishments**, including night shifts, subject to safety and consent requirements.
- It **empowers the Central and State governments to prescribe standards**, conduct inspections through web-based systems, and impose penalties for non-compliance, strengthening enforcement mechanisms.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

118.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **VB-G RAM G Act, 2025** shifts the framework from a **demand-driven employment guarantee** (as under MGNREGA) **to an allocation-based/command-driven model**, where the Union government prescribes State-wise normative allocations. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Act **grants wide discretionary powers to the Union government** to decide where, what and how public works will be undertaken, diluting local and State-level autonomy. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Act **does not strengthen the financial autonomy of States.** Instead, by changing the funding pattern to **60:40** and requiring **States to pay for any expenditure beyond the Centre's fixed allocation**, it actually **increases the financial burden on States** and reduces their flexibility compared to MGNREGA, where the Centre bore a larger share of costs. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

119.

Ans: C

Exp:

- **Subhash Kumar v. State of Bihar:** SC explicitly recognized the right to a healthy environment as part of Article 21's right to life. The Supreme Court held that access to unpolluted water and a pollution-free environment is a fundamental right under Article 21, directing closure of polluting tanneries in Patna.
- **Maneka Gandhi (1978):** Expanded Article 21 to include due process but not environmental rights.
- **Rural Litigation (1985):** Closed limestone quarries citing ecological damage, implied environmental protection.
- **M.C. Mehta (1987):** Established absolute liability for hazardous industries, foundational but not the first explicit recognition.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

120.

Ans: C

Exp:

- **Kessler Syndrome** describes a chain reaction where **collisions between satellites and debris generate more fragments**, exponentially increasing debris density until low Earth orbit becomes unusable for future missions.
- Proposed by NASA scientist **Donald Kessler in 1978**, it occurs when object density exceeds a critical threshold;

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each collision spawns thousands of trackable debris pieces traveling at orbital speeds (~7.8 km/s), triggering further impacts.

- Hence, option C is correct.

121.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Assam is collectively home to 80% of the global population of greater one-horned rhinos. This conservation success story is the result of relentless efforts by the forest department and local communities. The rhino population in India has surged by approximately 170% since the 1980s, growing from 1,500 to over 4,014 today. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Kaziranga National Park (Assam)** is home to one of the largest populations of the greater one-horned rhinoceros in the world. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Rhino horns are not made of bone or calcium. They are **composed of keratin**, the same protein found in human hair and nails. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Conservation Status of One-Horned Rhinoceros:**
  - ◆ **IUCN Status: Vulnerable** – the population is increasing due to strong conservation efforts but still faces threats from poaching and habitat loss.
  - ◆ **CITES Listing: Appendix I** – international trade of the species is prohibited except under exceptional circumstances to prevent exploitation.
- Hence, option A is correct.

122.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The Supreme Court recently upheld the conviction of a couple involved in trafficking and sexually exploiting a minor girl, primarily under the **Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act (ITPA), 1956**, along with IPC provisions.
- Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act (ITPA), 1956
  - ◆ **Purpose:** The ITPA aims to **prevent human trafficking and sexual exploitation**, particularly of women and children, and to rehabilitate victims.
  - ◆ **Key Provisions:** It criminalizes **procuring, inducing, or exploiting persons for prostitution**, running brothels, and living off the earnings of prostitution.
  - ◆ **Protection and Rehabilitation:** The Act provides for **rescue, shelter, and social reintegration** of victims, along with regulation and monitoring of offenders.
- Hence, option B is correct.

123.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The new Act increases the legal guarantee of wage **employment from 100 days to 125 days** in a financial year. This clearly expands the entitlement of rural households. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Earlier, even though unemployment allowance existed on paper, procedural conditions made it difficult to claim. The new Act removes such dis-entitlement clauses and strengthens grievance redressal, making the guarantee more enforceable in practice. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Act **does not dilute the legal right to work**. The employment guarantee remains statutory and justiciable, meaning workers can still legally demand employment. It is not reduced to a policy guideline. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- Hence, option A is correct.

124.

Ans: B

Exp:

- Sri Aurobindo described Bankimchandra Chatterjee as **"The rishi of Indian nationalism"** in his essays on Bankim Chandra, particularly praising **Anandamath and Vande Mataram** for awakening national consciousness through the spiritual vision of Bharat Mata.
- Hence, option B is correct.

125.

Ans: B

Exp:

- India's exports exhibit a core-periphery pattern where coastal states like **Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka (the "core")** account for over 60% of merchandise exports due to ports, SEZs, and manufacturing clusters, while inland/peripheral states contribute minimally.
- Pattern Characteristics
  - ◆ **Core states (western/southern coasts)** dominate electronics, pharmaceuticals, gems/jewelry, and petroleum exports via Mumbai, Kandla, Chennai, and Bangalore hubs.
  - ◆ **Periphery (Bihar, UP, Odisha interiors)** focuses on low-value agri/mineral exports with poor connectivity.
  - ◆ This spatial inequality persists despite policies like Act East and inland waterways.
- Hence, option B is correct.

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126.

Ans: B

Exp:

- Macaulay's Minute on Education is often associated with the promotion of English education. However, in practice, its impact on Indian languages was more complex.
  - ◆ While English gained prominence, Indian languages continued to evolve by absorbing new ideas, vocabulary, and literary forms.
  - ◆ This interaction contributed to the reorganisation and enrichment of their literary and intellectual traditions, rather than leading to their disappearance or isolation.
- Macaulay's Minute on Indian Education (1835)
  - ◆ **English Education:** Advocated English as the medium to create an "English in taste, Indian in blood" class.
  - ◆ **Indian Languages:** Indirectly modernized and enriched them with new vocabulary and ideas.
  - ◆ **Western Knowledge:** Emphasized Western science, literature, and philosophy over traditional Indian systems.
- Hence, option B is correct.

127.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Keezhadi site** is located on the floodplain of the **Vaigai river in southern Tamil Nadu**. Its position on a river floodplain explains the presence of multiple layers of sand, silt, and clay deposited by floods. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The archaeological remains at Keezhadi are **not visible on the present ground surface**. They are **buried beneath flood sediments**, which is why scientific dating methods like **Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL)** were needed to understand when these layers were deposited. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The **discovery of brick structures, drainage systems, pottery, and planned layouts provides material evidence** that supports the **Sangam-period literary descriptions** of well-developed towns and active trade in the Tamil region. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Hence, option A is correct.

128.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Critical minerals such as lithium, cobalt, nickel and rare earth elements** are essential for strategic sectors like **defence, electronics, space, and clean energy technologies** including electric vehicles, batteries, and renewable energy systems. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- While the **Supreme Court ordered a halt on fresh mining leases in the Aravallis**, however it allowed government-sanctioned mining of critical minerals, recognising their importance for India's development and strategic needs. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- India has **not achieved self-sufficiency** in critical minerals and remains heavily dependent on imports, particularly from countries like China, Australia, and Chile. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- Hence, option A is correct.

129.

Ans: C

Exp:

- **Monazite-bearing beach sands** are a major domestic source of **rare earth elements (REEs) in India**, especially along the eastern and southwestern coasts. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Monazite commonly occurs along with **thorium, a radioactive element of strategic importance** for India's nuclear energy programme. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Because of the presence of thorium and other atomic minerals, extraction and processing of monazite sands are subject to stringent governance, regulatory oversight, and coordination with nuclear authorities, making it a strategic sector. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Hence, option C is correct.

130.

Ans: C

Exp:

- Under MGNREGA, the Central government bore the full cost of unskilled wages and **more than 90% of the total programme expenditure**, giving States a strong incentive to implement the scheme. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Under the VB-G RAM G Act, 2025, the funding pattern has been **revised to a 60:40 Centre-State ratio**, shifting a substantially larger financial burden on States. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **VB-G RAM G Act, 2025 (Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission – Gramin):**
- It replaced MGNREGA, shifting from a **rights-based, demand-driven employment** guarantee to a supply-driven framework where the Centre decides the scale and allocation of work.
- The Act centralises control, reducing State autonomy in planning and implementation, and caps employment instead of guaranteeing up to 100 days of work.
- Hence, option C is correct.

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131.

Ans: D

Exp:

As part of a major labour law reform exercise, the Parliament consolidated 29 central labour laws into four Labour Codes:

- **The Code on Wages, 2019** merged laws relating to minimum wages, payment of wages, bonus, and equal remuneration.
- **The Industrial Relations Code, 2020** replaced laws dealing with trade unions, industrial disputes, and conditions for layoffs and retrenchment.
- **The Code on Social Security, 2020** brought together provisions relating to provident fund, insurance, gratuity, and social security for organised and unorganised workers.
- **The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020** consolidated laws concerning workplace safety, health, and welfare.
- Hence, option D is correct.

132.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **Bay of Bengal as the primary origin:** The Bay of Bengal has historically been the main source of cyclonic disturbances in the North Indian Ocean, contributing the largest share of annual storms. This is due to its warmer waters, higher humidity, and conducive atmospheric conditions. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- **Frequency trend in the Bay of Bengal:** While the Bay of Bengal continues to be the primary cradle, its frequency of cyclonic disturbances has declined in recent decades. The decline is particularly noticeable since the 1980s, even though the intensity of storms has increased (more storms reaching severe or very severe levels). Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- **Severity of Arabian Sea cyclones:** Although fewer cyclones originate in the Arabian Sea, those that do are more likely to intensify into severe cyclonic storms compared to those from the Bay of Bengal. Recent warming of the Arabian Sea has further increased both the intensity and unpredictability of these storms. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- Hence, option B is correct.

133.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **Dutch disease** describes the negative effects on other tradable sectors, like manufacturing, caused by a boom in one sector, such as natural resources, through mechanisms like currency appreciation and rising prices for non-tradables.

- ◆ Thus, a booming sector can **crowd out** other tradable sectors by causing **price rises and currency appreciation**, reducing their **global competitiveness**.

- The term comes from the **Netherlands** in the 1960s, when large natural gas discoveries caused the Dutch guilder to appreciate. As a result, Dutch manufacturing became less competitive, leading to economic imbalances.

- Hence, option B is correct.

134.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Bureau of Port Security (BoPS)** has been constituted as a statutory body under **Section 13 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025**, giving it legal authority to enforce port and ship security norms. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- BoPS does not function under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**. It operates under the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways**, reflecting its sector-specific regulatory role. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- BoPS is modelled on the **Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)**, meaning it performs regulatory oversight, coordination, and standard-setting functions rather than direct operational deployment. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- Hence, option A is correct.

135.

Ans: C

Exp:

- India accounts for around 20,000 rabies deaths annually, which is nearly one-third of the global total (~59,000 deaths). Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Dogs are the primary reservoir of the rabies virus in India, especially free-roaming dogs. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Rabies disproportionately affects economically vulnerable populations, such as daily wage workers, rural communities, waste collectors, and children, due to poor access to timely post-exposure prophylaxis and awareness. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- **Rabies:** It is a **viral zoonotic disease** that affects the **central nervous system**.
  - ◆ **Transmission:** Bite, scratch, or saliva of an **infected animal** entering broken skin/mucosa.
  - ◆ **Common reservoirs:** Dogs (major source in India), bats, cats, monkeys.
- Hence, option C is correct.

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136.

Ans: C

Exp:

- Mitochondria earn the nickname “**powerhouse of the cell**” because they **generate ATP**, the cell’s primary energy molecule, via **cellular respiration** processes like the **Krebs cycle and electron transport chain**.
- This occurs mainly in the **inner mitochondrial membrane**, where **oxidative phosphorylation** converts food-derived energy into about 30-34 ATP per glucose molecule.
- **Mitochondria:** Mitochondria are **semi-autonomous, double-membrane organelles** responsible for ATP synthesis and are **inherited maternally**.
  - ◆ **Own DNA & Reproduction:** They have their **own circular DNA** and **ribosomes**, allowing them to **replicate independently** of the cell, supporting the **endosymbiotic origin theory**.
  - ◆ **Other Functions:** Mitochondria are involved in **apoptosis (programmed cell death)**, **calcium storage**, **heat production**, and regulation of cellular metabolism.
- Hence, option C is correct.

137.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **Performative diplomacy** highlights a style of **foreign policy** where **symbolism, grand narratives, summits, and public-facing gestures are prioritised** over tangible, long-term strategic or economic outcomes.
- While such diplomacy **may generate positive headlines and international visibility**, it may fall short when tested by **structural challenges or external shocks**, such as trade disputes or geopolitical tensions.
- Hence, option B is correct.

138.

Ans: D

Exp:

- **Corporate tax rate cuts (2019):** Reduced the corporate tax burden to encourage private sector investment and improve competitiveness. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes:** Provided financial incentives to firms for expanding domestic manufacturing and investment. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- **Income-tax and GST cuts:** Aimed at boosting consumer demand, thereby improving capacity utilisation and incentivising private investment. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- Hence, option D is correct.

139.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)** is the apex global body that frames and harmonises anti-doping rules through the **World Anti-Doping Code**, ensuring uniform standards across countries and sports. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- WADA does not directly conduct doping tests on athletes. Testing and sample collection are carried out by **National Anti-Doping Organisations** (like NADA in India) and **international sports federations**. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- WADA publishes annual reports and global statistics, including data on adverse analytical findings (AAFs) and testing trends worldwide. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- Hence, option A is correct.

140.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The term “**linguistic tax**” refers to the social and economic barriers or extra costs imposed on migrants and non-native speakers due to language barriers, such as challenges in communication, integration, and opportunities in host societies.
- This concept highlights **disadvantages** like increased mental effort, slower processing, higher rejection risks in professional contexts, and **reduced competitiveness** for those not fluent in the dominant language.
- In migration scenarios, it captures how lack of **linguistic assimilation** leads to broader vulnerabilities in employment, education, and daily life.
- Hence, option B is correct.

141.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Launch of Bluebird Block-2:** The mission successfully placed a 6,100-kg commercial satellite into **low-earth orbit (LEO)**. This satellite belongs to a **private operator** and highlights **ISRO’s growing role in commercial satellite launches**, not just domestic missions. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- **Heaviest payload by an Indian rocket:** Before this mission, the heaviest payload ISRO had placed in LEO was smaller. **LVM3-M6** demonstrated ISRO’s capability to handle very heavy satellites, which is **crucial for both domestic and international clients** and for future deep-space and large payload missions. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

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- **Not part of Gaganyaan:** Although the LVM3 rocket is also the launch vehicle for **Gaganyaan, the human spaceflight programme**, this specific mission was entirely commercial and uncrewed. The Gaganyaan missions are separate and are planned to place **astronauts in Low Earth Orbit and return them safely.** Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

➤ Hence, option A is correct.

142.

Ans: B

Exp:

- Convergence in the context of state-level growth in India means **low-income states grow faster than high-income ones**, gradually **narrowing the per capita income gap** over time, as per neoclassical growth models like Solow-Swan.
- This **“catch-up” effect** arises from diminishing returns to capital, allowing poorer states higher growth potential when controlling for factors like investment and human capital.
- Hence, option B is correct.

143.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Aravalli Hills** constitute a continuous ecological landscape that regulates climate, supports groundwater recharge, and sustains biodiversity. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The **Supreme Court** relied on the “100-metre local relief” rule to define the Aravallis, which sidelined scientific evidence such as slope-based analysis. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The **Central Empowered Committee (CEC)** did not approve or endorse the Ministry of Environment’s 100-metre threshold; in fact, it had cautioned against it. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
- Hence, option A is correct.

144.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Electoral bonds** were introduced in March 2018 with the stated objective of enhancing transparency in political funding. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The scheme allowed donors to **maintain anonymity**, meaning the public did not know which party received a donation. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Before electoral bonds, the majority of political funding came from opaque cash donations; electoral trusts existed but were sparingly used and were not the primary mechanism. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
- Hence, option A is correct.

145.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Alaknanda is not the farthest, but the **second farthest spiral galaxy** discovered so far using **JWST**. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- Alaknanda **existed about 1.5 billion years after the Big Bang**, which is very early in cosmic history. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The galaxy has a **well-developed disk with two clearly visible spiral arms and a small central bulge**, confirming it as a mature spiral galaxy. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- **Galaxy:** A large system of stars, stellar remnants, interstellar gas, dust, and dark matter, bound together by gravity. The **Milky Way** which contains our **Solar System** is an example of a galaxy.
- **JWST (James Webb Space Telescope):** A space-based telescope **launched by NASA, ESA, and CSA** to observe distant galaxies, stars, and exoplanets with unprecedented sensitivity, especially in the infrared spectrum.
- Hence, option A is correct.

146.

Ans: A

Exp:

- India has about **17.5% of the world’s population** but contributes only around **3% of global research output**, highlighting underutilisation of its human capital. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- **India’s Gross Expenditure on R&D (GERD)** has remained at about **0.6–0.7% of GDP**, and has not exceeded 2% in recent years. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- India’s R&D spending is **much lower than that of China (~2.4%), the USA (~3.5%) and Israel (>5%)**. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- Reasons for Low R&D Expenditure in India
  - ◆ **Low Private Sector Participation:** Indian industry contributes only around 36–37% of total R&D, while the government funds the majority (~63%).
  - ◆ **Academia-Industry Disconnect:** Research often theoretical, weak technology transfer, few collaborations.
  - ◆ **Brain Drain:** Talented researchers seek better opportunities abroad.
  - ◆ **Bureaucratic Hurdles:** Delays in approvals, staggered funding, and weak IP incentives.
- Hence, option A is correct.

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147.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **International North–South Transport Corridor (INSTC)** connects **India with Russia and Northern Europe through Iran**, facilitating Eurasian trade. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The INSTC is shorter and more cost-efficient (**about 40% shorter and 30% cheaper**) than the traditional Suez Canal route. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The INSTC is a **multimodal corridor**, involving sea, rail and road, not an exclusively maritime route. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- International North–South Transport Corridor (INSTC)
  - ◆ **Launched in 2000** with **founding members as India, Iran, Russia.**
  - ◆ It is a multimodal transport corridor (ship–rail–road) connecting **India with Russia, Central Asia, and Northern Europe via Iran and bypassing Pakistan.**
  - ◆ Iran is the pivotal transit hub, with key nodes such as **Chabahar Port and Bandar Abbas** enhancing India’s connectivity to Eurasia.
  - ◆ INSTC strengthens India’s strategic, trade, and energy linkages, while reducing dependence on traditional maritime chokepoints like the Suez Canal.



- Hence, option A is correct.

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148.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Rare-earth elements (REEs) consist of **15 lanthanides (La–Lu) plus scandium and yttrium**, making a total of 17 elements.
- **Only the lanthanides are usually shown separately below** the main periodic table for convenience. Scandium and yttrium are placed in the main table, not separately.
- Scandium and yttrium belong to **Group 3 of the periodic table** and are positioned above the transition metals.

Group ▶	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Period ▼																		
Nonmetals	1 H																	2 He
Metals	3 Li	4 Be											5 B	6 C	7 N	8 O	9 F	10 Ne
	11 Na	12 Mg											13 Al	14 Si	15 P	16 S	17 Cl	18 Ar
	19 K	20 Ca											31 Ga	32 Ge	33 As	34 Se	35 Br	36 Kr
	37 Rb	38 Sr											49 In	50 Sn	51 Sb	52 Te	53 I	54 Xe
	55 Cs	56 Ba	La to Yb										81 Tl	82 Pb	83 Bi	84 Po	85 At	86 Rn
	87 Fr	88 Ra	Ac to No										113 Nh	114 Fl	115 Mc	116 Lv	117 Ts	118 Og
	s-block (plus He)	f-block																p-block (excluding He)
		Lanthanides		57 La	58 Ce	59 Pr	60 Nd	61 Pm	62 Sm	63 Eu	64 Gd	65 Tb	66 Dy	67 Ho	68 Er	69 Tm	70 Yb	
		Actinides		89 Ac	90 Th	91 Pa	92 U	93 Np	94 Pu	95 Am	96 Cm	97 Bk	98 Cf	99 Es	100 Fm	101 Md	102 No	

- Hence, option A is correct.

149.

Ans: C

Exp:

- A Goldilocks phase in macroeconomics describes an economy that is **“just right” — neither too hot nor too cold**. It is characterised by robust or strong economic growth without excessive inflation, allowing stable employment, steady consumption, and accommodative but not overstretched policy conditions.
- Hence, option C is correct.

150.

Ans: D

Exp:

- Defending or fixing the rupee for a prolonged period requires the RBI to sell foreign currency, which leads to a **drawdown of foreign exchange reserves**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- An **overvalued currency makes exports costlier and imports cheaper**, hurting export competitiveness and often inviting speculative attacks once markets perceive the exchange rate as unsustainable. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- **Partial or flexible adjustment of the exchange rate allows the economy to absorb external shocks** (such as capital outflows or trade shocks) without excessive loss of reserves. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

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- Exchange Rate Management in India
  - ◆ India follows a **managed float system**, where the RBI allows the rupee to fluctuate based on market forces but intervenes to reduce excessive volatility.
  - ◆ **RBI interventions:** Buying/selling dollars in the spot and forward markets to stabilize the currency.
  - ◆ **Policy tools:** Adjusting foreign exchange reserves, repo rates, and capital flow regulations to influence demand and supply of the rupee.
  - ◆ **Objective:** Maintain external stability, protect export competitiveness, and manage inflationary pressures.
- Hence, option D is correct.

151.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The SIR's primary aim is to prune duplicates, outdated addresses, and entries for ineligible voters from electoral rolls. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The burden of proving eligibility is shifted from the state to the voter, meaning voters have to actively ensure their names remain on the rolls, not the other way around. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- Hence, option A is correct.

152.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The **Prevention of Child Marriage Act (PCMA), 2006** makes it a punishable offense for anyone to solemnize or conduct a child marriage. It also empowers courts to annul child marriages, especially when one or both parties are below the legal age (18 for girls, 21 for boys). The Act provides for penalties for those facilitating child marriage, including parents, guardians, and religious authorities. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Although the Act exists, its **implementation has been weak**. National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data show very low conviction rates, often because cases are not reported, families resist prosecution, or enforcement authorities lack resources. Social norms, fear of community backlash, and procedural delays further reduce the practical impact of the law. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- The effectiveness of the Act varies across States and regions. While some States like **Rajasthan, Bihar, and West Bengal have higher child marriage rates**, enforcement is inconsistent. Factors such as poverty, illiteracy, lack of awareness, and inadequate administrative machinery

contribute to gaps between law and practice. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

- Hence, option C is correct.

153.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The Polluter Pays Principle (PPP) indeed mandates that the person or firm causing environmental damage must bear the cost of remediation or compensation. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- PPP has been statutorily recognised under the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- In practice, the Indian judiciary has not fully ensured strict application of PPP, especially in complex cases of air pollution with multiple sources. Often, the government bears most of the cost, and PPP is applied partially or contextually. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
- Hence, option A is correct.

154.

Ans: D

Exp:

- The Malwa region in Madhya Pradesh and Mewar region in Rajasthan produce nearly 85% of India's legally-grown opium. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Licences for opium cultivation are issued by the Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN), which functions under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Opium cultivation is permitted in the notified tracts in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh (As per Dept of Revenue). Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- Hence, option D is correct.

155.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The legal age for marriage in India is 18 years for girls and 21 years for boys. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, does not allow child marriages under any circumstances, even with parental consent. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- Hence, option A is correct.

156.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Zero indigenous malaria cases by 2027 is an intermediate milestone set by India. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

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- Complete elimination of malaria by 2030 aligns with India's commitment under the WHO global malaria strategy. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Elimination of vector mosquitoes by 2030 is not an official target; the focus is on controlling vectors, not eradicating them. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

157.

Ans: B

Exp:

- Observational evidence from Type Ia supernovae, Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB), and large-scale structure shows that dark energy constitutes about 70% of the universe's total energy density. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Dark energy does not exhibit attractive gravitational behaviour. Instead, it has a repulsive effect at large cosmic scales, causing the accelerated expansion of the universe and counteracting gravity. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Einstein's cosmological constant ( $\Lambda$ ) represents dark energy as a constant energy density filling space uniformly in the  $\Lambda$ CDM model, which is the standard model of cosmology. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

158.

Ans: C

Exp:

- India does not yet have a dedicated, comprehensive AI law. Instead, it regulates AI indirectly through existing frameworks such as the Information Technology Act, 2000, the IT Rules, and sector-specific regulations (for example, by RBI and SEBI). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has used the IT Rules to address AI-related harms such as deepfakes, fraud, and synthetically generated content, including requirements for due diligence and content labelling. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

159.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Nearly 95% of India's trade by volume and about 70% by value is carried through maritime routes, making shipping and ports critical to competitiveness. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Indian Ports Act, 2025 replaced a colonial-era legal

framework, introducing modern governance mechanisms. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- Maritime reforms go beyond port expansion and include governance reforms, such as dispute-resolution mechanisms, safety norms, environmental preparedness, and coordination frameworks. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

160.

Ans: C

Exp:

The terms "pink economy" or "rainbow market" describe the collective purchasing power, consumption patterns, and economic influence of LGBTQIA+ individuals and communities. They highlight this group as a significant consumer segment shaping markets, branding, and business strategies, rather than referring to welfare schemes, cultural industries alone, or CSR initiatives.

- **Hence, option C is correct.**

161.

Ans: C

Exp:

- WTO-plus commitments refer to provisions in FTAs that exceed the minimum obligations under WTO agreements.
- These usually cover areas such as services trade, investment protection, digital trade, intellectual property rights, competition policy, labour and environmental standards, which are either weakly covered or not covered at all under WTO rules.
- India increasingly uses WTO-plus commitments in bilateral and regional FTAs to deepen economic integration and attract investment, while still protecting sensitive sectors.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

162.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The Aravalli range is one of the oldest mountain systems in the world, estimated to be nearly two billion years old. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Supreme Court has consistently treated hills, ridges, plateaus, and forests of the Aravallis as a single, integrated ecological system, not as separate units. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The Aravalli range acts as an important ecological barrier, helping to reduce air pollution and dust movement into the Indo-Gangetic plains. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**



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