



Monthly Editorial Quiz

CONSOLIDATION

February

2026



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Practice Questions

1. With reference to fiscal management, the Economic Survey 2025–26 highlights which of the following concerns?
 1. The Centre has reduced its fiscal deficit ratio significantly over five years.
 2. States have increasingly slipped into revenue deficits during the same period.
 3. Fiscal populism by States can be ignored due to electoral compulsions.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

2. With reference to India's steel sector and climate commitments, consider the following statements:
 1. India's steel production is expected to be more than triple by mid-century to realise its developmental potential.
 2. The steel sector contributes less than 5% of India's total carbon emissions.
 3. Continued reliance on coal-based blast furnaces is the primary reason for high emissions from the sector.

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

3. With reference to the Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDP Act), consider the following statements:
 1. It exempts certain personal information from RTI disclosure.
 2. The exemption applies irrespective of public interest considerations.
 3. It has contributed to dilution of RTI's enabling provisions.

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

4. Which of the following factors are essential for moving from "capacity creation" to "capability building" in manufacturing?
 1. Stronger industry–academia linkages
 2. Faster absorption of advanced technologies by firms
 3. Exclusive reliance on public sector enterprises
 4. Robust skilling systems

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

5. Consider the following statements regarding India–EU trade:
 1. The two economies together account for about one-fourth of global GDP.
 2. India currently exports more to the EU than it imports from it.
 3. Tariff cuts by India are expected to save EU exporters \$4.75B billion annually.

How many statements given above is/are correct?

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

6. With reference to Article 112 of the Indian Constitution and the changing role of the Union Budget, consider the following statements:
 1. Article 112 constitutionally requires the Union Budget to articulate the government's economic philosophy and growth strategy.
 2. The Union Budget began to function as a statement of the State's approach towards markets and reforms largely after the economic liberalisation of 1991.
 3. When fiscal space is constrained, signalling reform intent through policy and institutional changes assumes greater importance than expenditure expansion.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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7. With reference to MSMEs as discussed in Budget 2026, consider the following statements:
- MSMEs contribute nearly half of India's exports.
 - Budget 2026 focuses on creating "Champion MSMEs" through equity and professional support.
- 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
8. The proposed 'Rare Earths Corridor' in the Union Budget 2026–27 assumes strategic significance primarily because:
- Rare earth elements constitute a major source of government revenue
 - Rare earth reserves are unevenly distributed across the world
 - Rare earth elements are critical inputs for electric vehicles, electronics, and defence technologies
 - Rare earth extraction is mandated to be domestically undertaken under international trade rules
9. The expression "Goldilocks period", as used in the context of the Union Budget 2026–27, refers to a macroeconomic situation characterised by:
- Growth primarily led by private capital formation
 - Moderate economic expansion accompanied by elevated inflation
 - Sustained high economic growth alongside relatively low inflation
 - Stable economic growth achieved under a zero fiscal deficit framework
10. With reference to fiscal consolidation in Budget 2026–27, consider the following statements:
- The Centre achieved its fiscal deficit target for 2025–26 despite a significant shortfall in tax revenues.
 - The fiscal deficit target for 2026–27 indicates a reversal of consolidation achieved since the Covid year.
 - The Centre aims to reduce its debt-to-GDP ratio in 2026–27.
- 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
11. Which of the following best reflects India's Current Account Deficit (CAD)?
- Any CAD beyond 1% of GDP is inherently unsustainable
 - Eliminating CAD through foreign exchange reserve depletion is advisable
 - Moderate CAD can be sustained without macroeconomic instability
 - CAD directly causes inflation irrespective of financing source
12. Consider the following statements regarding public spending in India's agriculture sector as per Budget 2026–27:
- Subsidies, particularly for food and fertilisers, continue to dominate the allocation to agriculture.
 - Developmental expenditure on agricultural research and extension is proportionally higher than welfare subsidies.
 - Fertiliser subsidies are largely input-linked and encourage excessive use of nitrogenous fertilisers.
- 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
13. Consider the following statements:
- Vertical devolution determines the share of States in the divisible pool of Central taxes.
 - Horizontal devolution refers to the criteria-based distribution of the States' share of central taxes among individual States.
 - 16th Finance Commission significantly altered vertical devolution to address fiscal stress of States.
- How many statements given above is/are correct?
- A. One only B. Two only
C. All three D. None
14. With reference to the Supreme Court judgment on menstrual hygiene, consider the following statements:
- The Court explicitly recognised menstrual health as a standalone Fundamental Right under Part III of the Constitution.
 - The right to menstrual hygiene was read into the right to life and dignity under Article 21.
 - The judgment links lack of menstrual hygiene facilities to violation of bodily autonomy.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- A. 2 and 3 only B. 1 and 3 only
C. 1 and 2 only D. 1, 2 and 3

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15. With reference to wetland conservation in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 mandate identification, notification, and regulation of activities in wetlands.
2. Ramsar site designation imposes legally binding obligations enforceable by Indian courts.
3. The National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA) emphasises outcome-oriented and science-based management.

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

16. Consider the following statements regarding employment elasticity and structural transformation in India:

1. A decline in employment elasticity in the construction sector implies that higher infrastructure spending is resulting in lower labour absorption per unit of output growth.
2. An increase in employment elasticity in agriculture indicates a productivity-driven release of labour from the sector.
3. The contrasting employment trends in construction and agriculture suggest a departure from the classical pattern of structural transformation.

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

17. **Assertion (A):** Southern states experienced an increase in their share under the 16th Finance Commission despite demographic disadvantages.

Reason (R): The Commission modified horizontal devolution criteria to include economic contribution alongside population-based indicators.

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

18. With reference to Balochistan, consider the following statements:

1. It is the largest province of Pakistan in terms of geographical area.
2. It shares international borders with both Iran and Afghanistan.
3. Key infrastructure projects under the China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) pass through this region.
4. It lies entirely to the east of the Indus River.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

19. Consider the following statements regarding foreign trade and Parliament:

1. Article 253 empowers Parliament to make laws to implement international treaties.
2. Any trade agreement affecting India's foreign policy alignment should ideally be debated in Parliament.
3. Executive decisions in international trade require legislative backing to acquire enforceable legal status within India.

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. With reference to Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) steel production, consider the following statements:

1. EAF steel production is more compatible with renewable electricity than blast furnaces.
2. Higher EAF penetration reduces dependence on coking coal.
3. EAF steel cannot meet quality requirements for export markets.

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

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21. With reference to Artificial Intelligence (AI) value creation, consider the following statements:

1. Expansion of AI infrastructure alone guarantees long-term profitability of AI firms.
2. AI applications demonstrate clearer product–market fit than foundation models.
3. High inference costs constrain the profit margins of large language model providers.

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

22. With reference to the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), consider the following statements:

1. MPLADS is a Central Sector Scheme fully funded by the Government of India.
2. MPs have statutory authority to execute development works under MPLADS.
3. MPLADS focuses on creation of durable community assets.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

23. With reference to Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) schemes mentioned in the passage, consider the following statements:

1. Delay in administrative approvals diluted the intended employment outcomes.
2. Budgetary allocation alone is insufficient to ensure labour market absorption.
3. Such schemes primarily suffer due to lack of fiscal resources.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

24. With reference to the Supreme Court's ruling on menstrual hygiene, consider the following statements:

1. The Court located menstrual hygiene within the scope of the right to life under Article 21.
2. The ruling treats menstrual health as a private matter rather than a public policy concern.
3. The directions issued apply only to government schools.

How many statements given above is/are correct?

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

25. With reference to President's Rule in a State, consider the following statements:

1. Extending the President's Rule beyond one year requires a Constitutional Amendment.
2. Revocation of President's Rule is done by the President on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers.
3. On revocation of President's Rule, the State Legislative Assembly stands automatically dissolved.

How many statements given above is/are correct?

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

26. Consider the following statements regarding capital expenditure (Capex) in 2026–27 (BE):

1. Capex growth is significantly higher than nominal GDP growth.
2. Capex as a percentage of GDP is expected to remain broadly constant compared to the previous year.
3. Budget estimates for capex growth have consistently matched actual outcomes in recent years.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

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27. Match List-I with List-II:

List-I (Trade Agreements)	List-II (Primary Economic Linkage)
A. European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Agreement	1. High-income industrial markets
B. India–United States Trade Deal	2. World’s largest consumer economy
C. Free Trade Agreements with Australia and New Zealand	3. Indo-Pacific supply chains
D. Trade Agreements with UAE and Oman	4. Energy-linked and logistics hubs

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

28. With reference to nuclear deterrence theory, consider the following statements:

1. The credibility of nuclear deterrence has historically depended exclusively on the certainty of nuclear retaliation.
2. Strategic ambiguity regarding nuclear capabilities has been employed by certain states as a deliberate deterrence strategy.
3. Nuclear weapon testing has been used to signal technological capability and political resolve in deterrence relationships.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

29. With reference to the constitutional and democratic role of the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in Parliament, consider the following statements:

1. The Leader of the Opposition possesses an absolute constitutional right to participate in parliamentary debates, independent of the Speaker’s authority.
2. Any restriction on the Leader of the Opposition’s participation in parliamentary proceedings on grounds such as national security must conform to principles of proportionality and democratic accountability.

3. Procedural rules of Parliament are intended to facilitate deliberation and cannot be applied in a manner that defeats the spirit of representative democracy.

How many statements given above is/are correct?

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

30. **Assertion (A):** High government market borrowing can limit the central bank’s ability to raise interest rates.

Reason (R): Raising interest rates increases the cost of government borrowing and may disrupt debt sustainability.

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

31. With reference to the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, consider the following statements:

1. The scheme promotes decentralised electricity generation at the household level.
2. By encouraging rooftop solar installations, it can reduce transmission losses and pressure on land resources.
3. The effectiveness of the scheme is influenced by the cooperation of distribution companies (DISCOMs).

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

32. **Assertion (A):** Despite increased allocations, Budget 2026 does not mark a structural shift towards universal public healthcare.

Reason (R): The Union government’s health spending continues to remain significantly below the National Health Policy targets.

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

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33. With reference to environmental protection in India, consider the following statements:

1. The right to a clean and healthy environment has been judicially read into Article 21 of the Constitution.
2. Article 48A imposes a justiciable obligation on citizens to protect the environment.
3. Environmental classifications that lack ecological rationality may violate Article 14.

How many statements given above are correct?

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

34. With reference to India's defence budget trends, consider the following statements:

1. The recent defence budget marks a reversal of the declining trend in capital expenditure.
2. A higher share of capital expenditure automatically ensures faster modernisation.
3. Currency depreciation can partially neutralise headline increases in defence allocation.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

35. **Assertion (A):** Ayushman Bharat has significantly reduced out-of-pocket expenditure for households.

Reason (R): It has transformed India's health system from a hospital-centric to a primary-care-driven model. Choose the correct answer:

- A. Both A and R are true, and R explains A
- B. Both A and R are true, but R does not explain A
- C. A is true, but R is false
- D. A is false, but R is true

36. With reference to Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs) and Budget 2026, consider the following statements:

1. Sovereign Gold Bonds were originally designed to reduce India's dependence on physical gold imports.
2. The imposition of capital gains tax on SGBs represents a departure from the original risk-sharing arrangement with investors.
3. Retrospective taxation on SGBs is likely to have a negligible impact on investor confidence due to its small revenue yield.

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

37. With reference to the structural and governance factors sustaining rat-hole coal mining in Meghalaya, consider the following statements:

1. The prevalence of rat-hole mining is linked to geological conditions characterised by thin, discontinuous coal seams that are unsuitable for large-scale mechanised mining.
2. Despite judicial prohibitions, rat-hole mining continues largely due to fragmented land ownership, informal contracting arrangements, and diffused accountability mechanisms.
3. The absence of engineered safety features such as roof supports and side-wall reinforcements significantly increases the vulnerability of these mines to collapse.

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

38. With reference to the institutional design and decision-making processes of the global climate governance regime, consider the following statements:

1. The Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties (CMP and CMA) functions on the basis of binding voting procedures that facilitate majority-based decision-making.
2. The reliance on consensus in climate negotiations has the practical effect of allowing any single Party to block collective decisions.
3. The largely non-binding character of commitments under the Paris Agreement reflects an intentional design choice embedded in the agreement rather than a failure of implementation alone.

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

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39. **Assertion (A):** Agentic AI systems pose a structural challenge to India's software services and consultancy model.

Reason (R): Such systems can internalise domain knowledge and directly perform tasks that earlier required human-mediated software customisation.

Choose the correct answer:

- A. Both A and R are true, and R explains A
- B. Both A and R are true, but R does not explain A
- C. A is true, but R is false
- D. A is false, but R is true

40. With reference to the conduct of monetary policy and its transmission in India, consider the following statements:

1. A pause in policy rate cuts can indicate a central bank's assessment that growth conditions are sufficiently supportive, even when inflation remains benign.
2. An increase in government securities (G-sec) yields despite reductions in the policy repo rate suggests frictions or lags in monetary transmission.
3. Foreign exchange market interventions by the central bank can have tightening effects on domestic liquidity conditions.

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

41. With reference to India's agricultural trade policy, consider the following statements:

1. High tariffs on certain imports can be inefficient if domestic production is negligible.
2. Trade negotiations require balancing consumer welfare with producer protection.
3. Defensive trade postures may sometimes undermine export competitiveness.

Which of the statements given above reflect the analytical thrust of the passage?

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

42. According to the Mundell–Fleming “impossible trinity”, a country cannot simultaneously maintain:

- A. High growth, low inflation, and fiscal discipline
- B. Capital mobility, fixed exchange rate, and monetary independence

C. Trade openness, current account surplus, and capital inflows

D. Exchange rate stability, financial inclusion, and export competitiveness

43. Consider the following statements:

1. Freedom of elected representatives to raise matters of public importance
2. Executive obligation to respond to legislative debate
3. Judicial oversight over parliamentary proceedings

Which of the above is/are essential components of parliamentary democracy?

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

44. With reference to “network effects” in digital markets, consider the following statements:

1. Network effects occur when the usefulness of a digital platform to a user increases with the number of other users on the platform.
2. Strong network effects may create significant entry barriers for new competitors, even when technically comparable alternatives are available.
3. The existence of network effects by itself establishes monopolistic intent on the part of the platform owner.

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

45. With reference to the ethical vision of Sant Ravidas as reflected in the passage, consider the following statements:

1. Sant Ravidas confronted entrenched social hierarchies through moral and ethical assertion rather than organised political mobilisation.
2. His understanding of dignity was grounded in the principle of intrinsic human equality, not contingent upon ritual purity or social status.
3. The idea of Begampura represented an ethical ideal of a just society where inclusion was unconditional and justice formed the basis of harmony.

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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46. With reference to the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), consider the following statements:
1. It imposed limits on deployed strategic nuclear warheads and their delivery systems.
 2. It applied equally to strategic as well as tactical nuclear weapons.
 3. It was supported by intrusive verification mechanisms including inspections and data exchanges.
- 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
47. In the context of India's contemporary trade and foreign economic policy, the phrase "tightrope walk" is best understood to signify which of the following?
- A. Managing fiscal consolidation while increasing public expenditure
B. Balancing external economic pressures with the pursuit of strategic and developmental interests
C. Simultaneously achieving export growth and import substitution
D. Maintaining protectionist policies while engaging in multilateral trade negotiations
48. In the context of India's evolving trade strategy, the expression "reverse Byzantine equation" imply:
- A. Conducting trade negotiations through simplified bilateral arrangements to avoid multilateral complexity
B. Managing negotiations with multiple global partners through calibrated engagement while retaining decision-making autonomy
C. Allowing geopolitical alignments to primarily determine the direction and sequencing of trade agreements
D. Adopting a cautious trade posture that prioritises domestic insulation over external economic integration
49. With reference to Article 19(1)(a) and 19(2) of the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:
1. The right to freedom of speech and expression is absolute unless it incites violence.
 2. The State may impose reasonable restrictions only on grounds explicitly mentioned in Article 19(2).
 3. Restrictions imposed must satisfy the test of proportionality as evolved by judicial interpretation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

50. With reference to the idea of the "mineable self", consider the following statements:

1. It refers to the commodification of human social relations and personal narratives in the digital economy.
2. It represents a shift from extraction of natural resources to extraction of social and affective data.
3. It implies that privacy and intimacy are legally abolished in digital capitalism.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

51. With reference to the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS), consider the following statements:

1. It allows international trade among participating countries that comply with its certification norms.
2. Its regulatory framework extends to both rough and polished diamonds in the global supply chain.
3. Shipments of rough diamonds must be accompanied by a government-validated Kimberley Process certificate.

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

52. With reference to the role of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in India's growth and employment strategy, consider the following statements:

1. MSMEs tend to be more responsive to local demand conditions and production networks compared to large corporations.
2. Regulatory compliance and fixed administrative costs impose a relatively higher burden on MSMEs than on large firms.
3. Due to their limited scale of operation, MSMEs have minimal participation in domestic and global value chains.

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

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53. With reference to hate speech and constitutional governance in India, consider the following statements:

1. Hate speech is explicitly defined and exhaustively enumerated in the Constitution of India.
2. The Supreme Court has treated hate speech as a constitutional harm linked to equality and dignity.
3. Police authorities are obligated to act suo motu in cases of hate speech as per Supreme Court directions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

54. With reference to Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), consider the following statements:

1. A reciprocal FTA necessarily implies symmetrical tariff reductions by both parties.
2. FTAs may include provisions beyond tariffs, such as regulatory standards and procurement commitments.
3. Purchase obligations imposed on one party are atypical in classical free-trade theory.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

55. Which of the following countries are recognised as Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) under the NPT?

1. United States
2. Russia
3. China
4. India
5. France

Select the correct answer:

- A. 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
- B. 1, 2 and 4 only
- C. 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

56. Consider the following pairs:

Concept	Description
1. Sovereign AI stack	National control over AI infrastructure and data ecosystems

2. Hallucination (AI)	Intentional disinformation generated by human operators
3. Autonomous weapon system	System capable of selecting and engaging targets without human intervention

How many pairs are correctly matched?

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

57. With reference to India's defence aircraft development ecosystem, consider the following statements:

1. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is responsible for repair and overhaul of fighter aircraft in India irrespective of their origin.
2. The Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) functions under the Ministry of Defence.
3. The Aircraft and Systems Testing Establishment (ASTE) belongs to DRDO.

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

58. With reference to Apes, consider the following:

1. Chimpanzees
2. Bonobos
3. Gorillas
4. Orangutans

Which of the above are classified as great apes?

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

59. With reference to the term "economic security", consider the following statements:

1. It refers to aligning trade, technology and capital flows with strategic objectives.
2. It emerged for the first time after the Russia-Ukraine conflict in 2022.
3. It blurs the distinction between economic policy and national security.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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60. With reference to the “One Country, Two Systems” framework, consider the following statements:

1. It was introduced at the time of Hong Kong’s transfer from Britain to China in 1997.
2. It guaranteed complete political independence of Hong Kong from Beijing.
3. It envisaged protection of Hong Kong’s legal system and civil liberties for 50 years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

61. With reference to the freedom of speech and expression guaranteed under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution of India, consider the following statements:

1. The right is not absolute and may be restricted on grounds specified in Article 19(2).
2. Speech that threatens public order may be lawfully restricted under the Constitution.
3. Persons holding constitutional offices enjoy wider protection of free speech than ordinary citizens.

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

62. With reference to equality jurisprudence in India, consider the following statements:

1. Indian courts recognise that facially neutral procedures may disproportionately impact vulnerable groups.
2. Documentation-heavy processes may operate asymmetrically in a materially unequal society.
3. Any administrative inconvenience automatically amounts to a constitutional violation.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

63. **Assertion (A):** Updating the CPI base year improves the relevance of inflation measurement.

Reason (R): Consumption patterns change over time due to urbanisation, income growth and technological shifts.

Select 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.

64. With reference to religious freedom under the Constitution of India, consider the following statements:

1. Articles 25 and 26 guarantee freedom of religion to both individuals and religious denominations.
2. The freedom to practise religion is absolute and cannot be restricted by the State.
3. Religious freedom is subject to public order, health and morality.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

65. With reference to parliamentary procedures, consider the following statements:

1. A no-confidence motion against the Council of Ministers is provided under Article 75 of the Constitution.
2. The Constitution provides for a no-confidence motion against the Speaker.
3. Removal of the Speaker is governed by constitutional provisions rather than ordinary legislation.

How many statements given above is/are correct?

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

66. With reference to the All-India Services, consider the following statements:

1. The All-India Services are created under Article 312 of the Constitution.
2. They can be created only if the Rajya Sabha declares by a two-thirds majority that it is necessary in the national interest.
3. The Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS), and Indian Forest Service (IFoS) are examples of All-India Services.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

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67. With reference to pulses in India, consider the following statements:

1. Pulses account for a significant share of non-cereal protein intake in India.
2. India is structurally dependent on imports of pulses to meet domestic demand.
3. Pulses enjoy the same assured procurement mechanism as rice and wheat under MSP operations.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

68. With reference to “reasonable restrictions” under Article 19(2), which of the following grounds are explicitly mentioned?

1. Sovereignty and integrity of India
2. Public order
3. Administrative convenience
4. Decency or morality

Select the correct answer:

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

69. With reference to Article 51A(a) of the Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. It mandates respect for the National Flag and National Anthem.
2. It is enforceable by courts through writ jurisdiction.
3. It was inserted by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

70. Consider the following statements regarding insurance penetration:

1. Insurance penetration refers to insurance premium as a percentage of GDP.
2. A decline in insurance penetration may indicate slower growth of the insurance sector relative to the economy.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

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

1. Nuclear power contributes more than 20% of India's total electricity generation.
2. India aims to significantly expand nuclear capacity by 2047.
3. Nuclear energy is considered a low-carbon source of electricity.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

72. With reference to Article 348(1) of the Constitution of India, consider the following statements:

1. Proceedings in the Supreme Court shall be in English unless Parliament provides otherwise.
2. High Courts can use Hindi in proceedings with Presidential consent.
3. Article 348 mandates that all subordinate courts must function in English.

How many statements given above is/are correct?

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

73. In a parliamentary democracy, which of the following mechanisms ensures executive accountability to the legislature?

1. Vote of No-Confidence
2. Question Hour
3. Judicial Review
4. Collective Responsibility

Select the correct answer:

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

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

1. The CPI is compiled by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
2. The CPI is used by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India as the nominal anchor for inflation targeting.
3. A change in the base year of CPI automatically changes the inflation rate for all past years.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

75. With reference to the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad), consider the following statements:

1. It is a formal military alliance with a collective defence clause similar to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.
2. Its members are India, the United States, Japan and Australia.
3. It aims to promote a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

76. Consider the following features of India's Labour Codes:

1. Consolidation of 29 central labour laws into 4 codes.
2. Formal recognition of gig and platform workers.
3. Abolition of statutory minimum wages.
4. Portability of social security benefits.

Which of the above are correct?

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

77. Which of the following groupings include both India and Bangladesh?

1. SAARC
2. BIMSTEC
3. BBIN
4. ASEAN

Select the correct answer:

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

78. With reference to the Mahaparinibbana Sutta, consider the following statements:

1. It describes the events leading to the Buddha's Mahaparinirvana.
2. It is a part of the Sutta Pitaka.
3. It is originally composed in Sanskrit.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

79. Consider the following statements regarding the Model Code of Conduct (MCC):

1. The MCC comes into force immediately after the announcement of the election schedule.
2. The MCC is a statutory instrument enacted by Parliament.
3. The Election Commission of India derives its authority to enforce the MCC from Article 324 of the Constitution.

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

80. With reference to Sovereign Wealth Funds (SWFs), consider the following statements:

1. They are state-owned investment vehicles funded primarily from foreign exchange reserves, commodity revenues, or fiscal surpluses.
2. Their investments are confined to domestic infrastructure and strategic sectors.
3. They are significant participants in global long-term capital flows, including equity and infrastructure investments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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81. With reference to the concept of “proportionate AI governance,” which of the following best reflects its underlying principle?
- Minimising regulatory intervention to maximise technological innovation.
 - Imposing stringent regulatory controls to eliminate all potential AI-related risks.
 - Designing risk-based regulatory frameworks that safeguard accountability while enabling innovation and cross-border data flows.
 - Delegating primary regulatory responsibility to private technology firms under voluntary compliance mechanisms.
82. With reference to fiscal federalism in India, consider the following:
- States depend partly on devolution recommended by the Finance Commission.
 - Goods and Services Tax (GST) rate rationalisation can affect State revenues.
 - Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) are fully funded by the Union Government.
- Which of the above is/are correct?
- 1 and 2 only
 - 2 only
 - 1 and 3 only
 - 1, 2 and 3
83. With reference to the Maternity Benefit Act, consider the following statements:
- It provides six months of paid maternity leave for eligible women employees.
 - It applies uniformly to all working women, including the self-employed.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
84. With reference to structural changes in Indian agriculture in recent years, consider the following statements:
- The livestock and fisheries subsectors have recorded higher growth rates compared to the crops subsector.
 - Within the crops subsector, horticulture has generally outperformed traditional field crops in terms of growth.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

85. Match the following schemes with their primary focus:

List I	List II
1. AMRUT	A. Housing for urban poor
2. Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) 2.0	B. Urban sanitation and waste management
3. Smart Cities Mission	C. Urban infrastructure and governance reforms
4. PMAY-Urban	D. Water supply and sewerage infrastructure

Select the correct answer:

- 1–D, 2–B, 3–C, 4–A
- 1–B, 2–C, 3–A, 4–D
- 1–C, 2–D, 3–B, 4–A
- 1–D, 2–A, 3–C, 4–B

86. With reference to Greenland, consider the following statements:

- It is located in the Arctic region and holds growing strategic importance due to emerging sea routes and resource potential.
- Any unilateral attempt by a NATO member to take control of Greenland could undermine the principle of collective defence under NATO.
- Greenland is a fully sovereign independent republic.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

87. Which of the following features have been declared part of the Basic Structure of the Constitution by the Supreme Court?

- Federalism
- Parliamentary democracy
- Judicial review
- Directive Principles of State Policy

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

- 1, 2 and 3 only
- 2 and 4 only
- 1 and 4 only
- 1, 2, 3 and 4

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88. Consider the following statements:
1. Recapitalisation of public sector banks transfers private credit risk to the sovereign balance sheet.
 2. A deeper corporate bond market allows gradual absorption of credit losses across diversified investors.
- 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
89. With reference to the EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), consider the following:
1. It imposes carbon tariffs on imports based on embedded emissions.
 2. It creates competitive pressure on emission-intensive exporters.
 3. Transition to green steel can mitigate CBAM-related trade risks.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- A. 1 only
 - B. 1 and 2 only
 - C. 2 and 3 only
 - D. 1, 2 and 3
90. **Assertion (A):** Monetary policy tends to be more effective in economies where food has a lower weight in the CPI basket.
Reason (R): Food prices are often influenced by supply shocks that are less responsive to interest rate changes.
Select the correct answer:
- A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation
 - B. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation
 - C. A is true, but R is false
 - D. A is false, but R is true
91. Consider the following statements regarding the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI):
1. It is a statutory body established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.
 2. It functions under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
 3. It has the authority to frame regulations on labelling and food safety standards.
- 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
92. The post-Second World War international order, premised on sovereign equality, collective security and rule-based multilateralism, was formally institutionalised through the establishment of which of the following organisations?
- A. League of Nations
 - B. United Nations
 - C. North Atlantic Treaty Organization
 - D. World Trade Organization
93. With reference to the 74th Constitutional Amendment, consider the following statements:
1. It inserted the Twelfth Schedule into the Constitution.
 2. It mandates compulsory transfer of all 18 listed functions to municipalities.
 3. Urban planning and regulation of land use are among the listed functions.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- A. 1 and 3 only
 - B. 2 only
 - C. 1, 2 and 3
 - D. 1 only
94. The long-term temperature goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels was formally adopted under which of the following international agreements?
- A. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
 - B. Kyoto Protocol
 - C. Paris Agreement
 - D. United Nations Environment Programme
95. With reference to the “Horizon 2047” roadmap between India and France, consider the following statements:
1. It envisages deepened defence industrial cooperation, including co-development and co-production.
 2. It includes collaboration in space, civil nuclear energy, and emerging technologies.
 3. It underlines coordination in the Indo-Pacific region.
 4. It prioritises agricultural land reforms as a central pillar of bilateral engagement.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
 - B. 2 and 4 only
 - C. 1 and 3 only
 - D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

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96. With reference to India's long-term development vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, consider the following statements:
1. It emphasises a balanced expansion of both manufacturing and services sectors.
 2. It envisages strengthening both hard infrastructure (such as transport and energy) and soft infrastructure (such as skills and institutions).
 3. It advocates prioritising either agriculture or industry as the principal driver of growth.
 4. It recognises the need to combine innovation with large-scale implementation and capacity building.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
 B. 1 and 3 only
 C. 2 and 3 only
 D. 1, 2, 3 and 4
97. With reference to the Great Nicobar Island Project, consider the following components:

1. A trans-shipment port
2. An international airport
3. A 450 MVA gas and solar-based power plant
4. A nuclear power generation facility

Which of the above are envisaged under the project?

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

98. With reference to the tourism-related announcements in the Union Budget 2026–27, consider the following statements:

1. It emphasised institutional capacity building in the tourism sector.
2. It proposed the development of trails and heritage sites to diversify tourism offerings.
3. It advocated complete privatisation of tourism infrastructure across the country.
4. It highlighted the promotion of ecologically sustainable mountain trails in Jammu and Kashmir.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

99. The e-Shram platform in India primarily aims to:
- A. It seeks to create a national database of start-ups to facilitate tax incentives.
 - B. It aims to register unorganised workers and enable their access to social protection and welfare schemes.
 - C. It provides venture capital financing to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).
 - D. It functions as a digital certification platform to promote exports.

100. With reference to Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS), consider the following statements:

1. There is a universally accepted international definition of LAWS.
2. Technologically advanced states generally favour a higher definitional threshold for LAWS.
3. Countries with limited AI capacity tend to prefer stricter and legally binding regulations.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

101. With reference to recent defence cooperation between India and France, consider the following statements:

1. India has inducted 36 Rafale fighter aircraft into the Indian Air Force.
2. The Indian Navy is set to induct Rafale Marine aircraft for its aircraft carrier operations.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

102. The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 primarily strengthens user rights through:

1. Informed consent requirements
2. Right to access personal data
3. Right to correction and erasure
4. Automatic prohibition of cross-platform data sharing

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

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

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103. With reference to the amendment to Section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act by the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, consider the following statements:

1. The original RTI provision contained a public interest override.
2. The DPDP amendment replaces the qualified exemption with a near-blanket prohibition on disclosure of personal information.
3. The amendment strengthens the transparency architecture of the RTI Act.

How many statements given above is/are correct?

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

104. With reference to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), consider the following statements:

1. It was negotiated between Iran and the P5+1 countries.
2. Its objective was to completely dismantle Iran's nuclear programme.
3. The United States withdrew from it during Donald Trump's first presidency.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

105. Which of the following fall under the State List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India?

1. Police
2. Public order
3. Criminal law
4. Defence of India

Select the correct answer:

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

106. With reference to the Laffer Curve in public finance, consider the following statements:

1. It postulates that there exists an optimal tax rate that maximises government revenue.
2. Beyond a certain level, higher tax rates may discourage economic activity and reduce total tax collections.

3. It argues that lower tax rates always lead to higher revenue.

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

107. With reference to fiscal federalism under the Constitution of India, consider the following statements:

1. The sharing of certain Union taxes with the States is constitutionally mandated.
2. All grants-in-aid provided by the Union to the States are purely discretionary in nature.
3. The Finance Commission makes recommendations regarding both the vertical and horizontal distribution of tax revenues.

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

108. With reference to "Biotech Sovereignty embedded in AI", consider the following statements:

1. It implies sovereign control over biological data, AI models and computer infrastructure.
2. It focuses exclusively on vaccine manufacturing capacity.
3. It seeks to reduce strategic dependence on healthcare technologies.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

109. With reference to the federal features of the Constitution of India, consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution establishes a symmetrical federal structure in which all States enjoy identical powers and status.
2. Parliament is empowered to alter the boundaries, area or name of a State by law.
3. Amendments affecting federal provisions always require ratification by all State legislatures.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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110. With reference to President's Rule in India, consider the following statements:

1. President's Rule can be imposed under Article 356 in case of failure of constitutional machinery in a State.
2. During President's Rule, the State Legislative Assembly must necessarily be dissolved.
3. The proclamation of President's Rule must be approved by Parliament within a specified period.

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

111. In contemporary political discourse, the term "democratic backsliding" refers to which of the following?

- A. A constitutional transition from one form of democratic government to another
- B. The gradual erosion of democratic institutions, civil liberties and checks and balances
- C. A temporary economic crisis faced by democratic States
- D. The sudden overthrow of an elected government through a military coup

112. With reference to languages in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution of India recognises certain languages in the Eighth Schedule.
2. The Census of India records mother tongues separately from scheduled languages.
3. All constitutionally recognised languages are official languages of the Union.

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

113. Which of the following components are included in the MANAV framework?

1. Moral and Ethical Systems
2. Accountable Governance
3. National Sovereignty
4. Autonomous Military AI

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

114. **Assertion (A):** Large-aperture telescopes within Indian longitudes enhance continuous monitoring of cosmic events.

Reason (R): India's geographical position helps fill a longitudinal gap in the global observatory network.

- A. Both A and R are correct and R explains A
- B. Both A and R are correct but R does not explain A
- C. A is correct but R is incorrect
- D. A is incorrect but R is correct

115. With reference to India's participation in the Pax Silica alliance, consider the following statements:

1. India currently has substantial domestic capacity in processing and extracting critical minerals.
2. India's large domestic demand could help justify alternative global supply chains not dependent on China.
3. The alliance aims to build infrastructure for AI and critical mineral supply chains.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

116. With reference to the Women's Reservation Act, consider the following statements:

1. The Act mandates that reservation will begin only after the first Census conducted after 2026 and subsequent delimitation.
2. The Act makes women's reservation applicable to both Houses of Parliament.

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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117. With reference to the evolution of Global Capability Centres (GCCs) in India, consider the following statements:

1. GCCs were initially established primarily to leverage labour cost arbitrage.
2. In the GCC 4.0 phase, centres increasingly undertake end-to-end product ownership and proprietary IP creation.
3. GCCs today function solely as backend support centres for multinational corporations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

118. With reference to the scope of parliamentary privileges under Article 105, consider the following statements:

1. It confers freedom of speech upon Members of Parliament in the course of proceedings in Parliament.
2. The freedom of speech guaranteed under this Article is absolute and cannot be regulated by the Rules of Procedure of the House.

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

119. With reference to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), consider the following statements:

1. It authorises the President of the United States to regulate international economic transactions upon declaring a national emergency in response to an unusual and extraordinary external threat.
2. Actions taken under this Act are not subject to judicial scrutiny.
3. Invocation of the Act to impose trade restrictions can have spillover effects on global trade flows and supply chains.

How many statements given above is/are correct?

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

120. Which of the following Supreme Court judgments affirmed the autonomy of consenting adults to choose their partners?

1. Lata Singh v State of Uttar Pradesh
2. Shafin Jahan v Asokan K M
3. Laxmibai Chandaragi B v State of Karnataka

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

121. In the context of Artificial Intelligence adoption in India, the term “inference gap” most appropriately refers to:

- A. The time lag between the training of AI models and their commercial deployment
- B. The disparity between digital access and the meaningful ability to utilise AI tools for socio-economic advancement
- C. Systemic inaccuracies in AI-based predictive analytics
- D. The divergence between innovation in AI technologies and the evolution of regulatory frameworks

122. With reference to India–Brazil cooperation, consider the following groupings:

1. BRICS
2. IBSA Dialogue Forum
3. G4

India and Brazil are common members of which of the above?

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

123. With reference to institutional response to child mental health in India, consider the following statements:

1. India has fewer than 10,000 psychiatrists for a population exceeding 1.4 billion.
2. A substantial proportion of psychiatrists specialise in child and adolescent mental health.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

124. With reference to Green Ammonia, consider the following statements:

1. Green ammonia is produced by combining nitrogen with green hydrogen.
2. It is currently one of the leading applications driving green hydrogen adoption.
3. Its primary application is limited to marine fuel.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

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125. With reference to the applicability of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 (HSA) to Scheduled Tribes, consider the following statements:

1. Section 2(2) of the HSA explicitly excludes Scheduled Tribes from its application.
2. The Supreme Court has held that the Act applies to Scheduled Tribes if they have converted to Hinduism.
3. Only Parliament has the authority to extend the HSA to Scheduled Tribes.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

126. With reference to the e-Courts Mission Mode Project in India, consider the following statements:

1. The e-Courts Mission Mode Project was launched under the National e-Governance Plan.
2. Since 2011, cumulative expenditure under the project has exceeded ₹4,000 crore.
3. The project has led to complete elimination of case pendency in subordinate courts.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

127. Consider the following statements regarding universal adult franchise in India:

1. It was adopted immediately after Independence without any property, education or gender-based qualifications.
2. It is explicitly guaranteed under Article 326.
3. It is subject to reasonable restrictions such as non-residence, unsoundness of mind, crime or corrupt practices.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

128. With reference to incidents of mob lynching, consider the following constitutional provisions:

1. Article 14 – Equality before law and equal protection of laws
2. Article 21 – Protection of life and personal liberty
3. Article 25 – Freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion
4. Article 48 – Organisation of agriculture and animal husbandry (Directive Principles)

Which of the above provisions are directly enforceable against State inaction or complicity in cases of mob lynching?

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

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

1. It was announced during the G-20 Summit hosted by India.
2. It seeks to provide an alternative connectivity route to Europe bypassing vulnerable chokepoints.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

130. Match the following initiatives with their broad objective:

List I	List II
1. Global Access to Talent from India (GATI)	A. Engagement of overseas scientists in Indian institutions
2. VAJRA Scheme	B. Structured migration governance and overseas worker facilitation
3. eMigrate V2.0	C. Focuses on facilitating global mobility and structured overseas employment for Indian talent

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

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

131. With reference to the recently proposed “hexagonal alliance” articulated by Benjamin Netanyahu, consider the following statements:

1. It envisions a broad regional coalition spanning the Mediterranean, West Asia, Africa and parts of Asia.
2. It seeks to counter what is described as “radical axes” in the region.
3. It proposes the creation of a formal NATO-style collective defence treaty with binding military obligations.

Which of the statements given above best explains the primary objective of the proposal?

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

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132. According to the International Energy Agency, China accounts for:

1. Around 70% refining share in 19 of the 20 most strategic critical minerals.
2. Nearly complete global control over lithium mining.
3. About 94% of production of rare-earth-containing permanent magnets.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

133. With reference to the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination programme in India, consider the following statements:

1. The nationwide programme targets girls aged 14 years.
2. The vaccination schedule follows a single-dose regimen as recommended by the World Health Organization.
3. HPV types 16 and 18 together account for more than 80% of cervical cancer cases in India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

134. With reference to the economic implications of tariff policy, consider the following statements:

1. Tariffs are a form of indirect taxation that can shift part of the tax burden onto domestic consumers.
2. Imposition of tariffs on intermediate goods may increase production costs for domestic industries using those goods as inputs.
3. An increase in tariff revenue necessarily leads to a reduction in a country's fiscal deficit and public debt.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

135. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 25 guarantees freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion, subject to public order, morality, health and other Fundamental Rights.
2. Article 26 grants religious denominations the right to manage their own affairs in matters of religion, but it is subject to public order, morality and health.
3. Both Articles 25 and 26 are subject to constitutional limitations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

136. With reference to the issue of microplastic contamination in packaged drinking water in India, consider the following statements:

1. Microplastics are generally defined as plastic particles measuring less than 5 millimetres in size.
2. Empirical studies conducted in different regions of India have reported the presence of microplastics in both locally bottled and nationally distributed brands of packaged drinking water.
3. Nanoplastics remain largely outside the scope of routine regulatory monitoring due to technological and definitional limitations.
4. The current regulatory standards governing packaged drinking water in India explicitly prescribe permissible limits for microplastic contamination.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1, 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 2 and 4 only
- 1, 3 and 4 only

137. National Science Day is observed every year in India to commemorate which of the following events?

1. The conferment of the Nobel Prize in Physics on Sir C.V. Raman
2. The announcement of the discovery of the Raman Effect in 1928
3. The establishment of the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science in Kolkata
4. The creation of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

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138. Which of the following grounds are constitutionally valid bases for restricting freedom of speech under Article 19(2)?

1. Sovereignty and integrity of India
2. Public order
3. Friendly relations with foreign States
4. Protection of the government from embarrassment

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

139. With reference to India's engagement with West Asia, consider the following groupings/initiatives:

1. I2U2
2. India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)
3. Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad)

Which of the above are primarily aimed at promoting regional connectivity and economic cooperation in West Asia?

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

140. With reference to the concept of income mobility in the analysis of income distribution, consider the following statements:

1. Income mobility refers to the movement of households across income groups over time relative to a specified base-year ranking.
2. An analysis of income mobility can reveal distributional dynamics that may not be adequately captured by static measures such as poverty ratios or Gini coefficients.
3. An increase in upward mobility necessarily leads to a reduction in overall income inequality.

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

141. With reference to mineral exploration in India, consider the following statements:

1. The National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) targets 1,200 exploration projects by FY2031.
2. Artificial Intelligence can improve mineral prospectivity analysis by integrating geospatial and geological datasets.

3. Mission Anveshan is currently focused exclusively on rare earth mineral discovery.

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

142. With reference to Public Interest Litigation (PIL), consider the following statements:

1. A PIL can be filed directly in the Supreme Court under Article 32 for enforcement of Fundamental Rights.
2. High Courts can entertain PILs under Article 226 even for matters not involving Fundamental Rights.
3. Once the Supreme Court declines to entertain a PIL, High Courts are barred from hearing the same matter.

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

143. The Abraham Accords, frequently seen in the context of West Asian geopolitics, refer to:

- A. A collective defence arrangement between Israel and NATO members
- B. Agreements aimed at normalisation of diplomatic relations between Israel and certain Arab states
- C. A United Nations–mandated peacekeeping framework in West Asia
- D. A regional economic partnership involving India, Israel and Gulf countries

144. With reference to removal of judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts, consider the following statements:

1. A judge of the Supreme Court can be removed only by impeachment passed by a special majority in both Houses of Parliament.
2. The grounds for removal are proved misbehaviour or incapacity.
3. The President can remove a judge on the advice of the Council of Ministers without Parliamentary approval.

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

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Answers

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



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Practice Explanation

1.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The Economic Survey 2025–26 notes that the Centre has successfully reduced its fiscal deficit ratio from a peak of **9.2% of GDP in FY21 to an estimated 4.4% in FY26**. This marks a significant reduction of more than half over a five-year period, achieved through prudent consolidation and improved tax buoyancy. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Survey cautions that State finances have worsened. Between 2018–19 and 2024–25, the **number of States with a revenue surplus dropped from 19 to 11**, with many slipping into revenue deficits. The **collective revenue deficit of States increased from 0.1% to 0.7% of GDP** over this period. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Survey specifically flags **“fiscal populism” as a major concern** rather than something to be ignored. It identifies unconditional cash transfers at the state level as a key driver of fiscal stress and warns that such spending risks “crowding out” private expenditure and worsening long-term fiscal health. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Hence, option A is correct.

2.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Projections from organizations like The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and reports by Wood Mackenzie indicate that **India’s steel demand and production are expected to triple (or more) by 2050**. This expansion is driven by massive infrastructure investments to realize India’s developmental potential. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **steel sector is a major emitter in India, contributing approximately 12% of the country’s total CO₂ emissions**. It is often cited as the single largest industrial emitter of greenhouse gases in India. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The primary reason for high emissions in India’s steel sector is the continued reliance on coal-based production routes, specifically the **Blast Furnace-Basic Oxygen Furnace (BF-BOF)** and coal-based **Direct Reduced Iron (DRI) methods**. These methods are significantly more carbon-intensive than gas-based or electric-arc furnace (EAF) alternatives. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Hence, option A is correct.

3.

Ans: D

Exp:

- **Section 44(3) of the DPDP Act amended Section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act.** It expanded the scope of exemptions to cover all “information which relates to personal information,” effectively shielding such data from mandatory disclosure. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **amendment removed the “qualified” nature of the original exemption.** Previously, personal information could be disclosed if the “larger public interest justifies the disclosure”. The new law eliminated this public interest override for personal data, creating a blanket exemption. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- By removing the balancing test (weighing privacy against public activity) and the proviso that information which cannot be denied to Parliament cannot be denied to a citizen, the DPDP Act has diluted the RTI’s transparency framework. It shifts the default from **“disclosure” to “denial” for any record containing personal identifiers.** **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Hence, option D is correct.

4.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Stronger Industry–academia Linkages:** This is essential for moving research from labs to the factory floor, ensuring that manufacturing processes are driven by the latest scientific advancements rather than outdated methods. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Faster Absorption of Advanced Technologies by Firms:** Capability building is defined by how effectively firms internalize and improve upon new technologies to compete globally, rather than just operating imported machinery. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Exclusive Reliance on Public Sector Enterprises:** Relying only on the public sector restricts the competitive pressure and innovation typically driven by the private sector. True “capability building” involves the entire industrial ecosystem, including private firms and startups, to create a broad-based, self-sustaining manufacturing culture. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Robust Skilling Systems:** Human capital is the backbone of capability. Without high-level skills, firms cannot manage

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complex production cycles or engage in high-value design and innovation. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**

Hence, option A is correct.

5.

Ans: C

Exp:

- India and the EU together represent approximately **25% of global GDP**, forming a major economic bloc with complementary trade structures. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - **India maintains a trade surplus with the EU**, exporting more (e.g., \$75.85 billion) than it imports (\$60.68 billion) in goods during 2024–25. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - Under the recently concluded India-EU FTA, India's tariff reductions on EU goods are projected to save EU exporters around \$4.75B billion annually in duties. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Hence, option C is correct.**

6.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Article 112 mandates only the **presentation of the annual financial statement (Union Budget)** showing estimated receipts and expenditures before Parliament; it does not require articulating economic philosophy or growth strategy, which are policy choices beyond constitutional prescription. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - **Post-1991 liberalisation marked the Budget's evolution into a key platform for signalling market reforms and economic policy direction**, unlike its earlier focus on fiscal accounting. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - In tight fiscal environments, the government stresses **non-expenditure measures like policy reforms and institutional changes for credible growth** signalling over spending hikes. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Hence, option A is correct.**

7.

Ans: C

Exp:

- MSMEs account for about **48.6% of India's exports**, i.e., nearly half, as highlighted in the Budget 2026 discussion. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Budget 2026 explicitly emphasises the creation of "**Champion MSMEs**", with measures aimed at providing

equity support, liquidity, and professional/managerial assistance to help them scale up and integrate into value chains. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- **MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises):** MSMEs are classified based on investment in plant & machinery and annual turnover (as per revised MSME norms, 2020).
 - ◆ MSMEs are vital for inclusive growth, regional balance, and promotion of entrepreneurship, especially in rural and semi-urban areas.
- Hence, option C is correct.**

8.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The Union Budget 2026–27 announced **Rare Earth Corridors across Odisha, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu** to integrate mining, processing, and manufacturing of rare earth elements (REEs).
 - **About REEs (Rare Earth Elements):** REEs are a group of 17 critical minerals (15 lanthanides plus scandium and yttrium) essential for high-tech and clean energy applications.
 - ◆ They are key inputs for electric vehicles, wind turbines, electronics, defence systems, and advanced magnets.
 - ◆ REEs are termed "rare" not because of scarcity, but due to difficulty in extraction and environmentally intensive processing.
 - REEs like **neodymium and dysprosium are essential for EV motors, wind turbines, semiconductors, missiles, and radar systems**—sectors where India seeks self-reliance amid China's 90% global processing dominance.
- Hence, option C is correct.**

9.

Ans: C

Exp:

- A "Goldilocks period" in macroeconomics denotes an economy that is **neither overheating nor underperforming—characterised by robust growth with contained inflation.**
 - In the context of Union Budget 2026–27, the term highlights favourable headline indicators of high growth coexisting with low inflation, even as underlying structural and geopolitical risks remain.
- Hence, option C is correct.**

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10.

Ans: A

Exp:

- In the 2026–27 Budget, the Revised Estimates (RE) for 2025–26 showed that the Centre achieved its **fiscal deficit target of 4.4% of GDP**. This was achieved despite a shortfall in tax revenues, largely through expenditure compression (cutting spending in certain sectors) and higher non-tax revenues. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **fiscal deficit target for 2026–27 is set at 4.3% of GDP, which is a reduction from the 4.4% targeted in 2025–26**. This continues the path of fiscal consolidation rather than reversing it, although some experts noted the pace of reduction has slowed compared to previous years. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The Centre aims to reduce its debt-to-GDP ratio. The ratio is estimated to decline to **55.6% in 2026–27, down from 56.1% in the 2025–26 Revised Estimates**. The government has also set a medium-term target to reach a **debt-to-GDP ratio of 50% (±1%) by 2030–31**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Hence, option A is correct.

11.

Ans: C

Exp:

- A **moderate Current Account Deficit (CAD) is sustainable** and does not automatically create macroeconomic instability. It notes that India has managed larger CADs in the past while maintaining adequate foreign exchange reserves.
- **Current Account Deficit (CAD):** CAD occurs when a country's imports of goods, services and transfers exceed its exports, reflecting excess domestic absorption over production.
 - ◆ A moderate and well-financed CAD can support growth, but a persistently high CAD increases external vulnerability and macroeconomic risk.
- Further, the FRBM Review Committee assessed a **sustainable CAD at around 2.3% of GDP**, rejecting the notion that any CAD above a low threshold is dangerous.

Hence, option C is correct.

12.

Ans: A

Exp:

- In Indian agriculture, **public spending is heavily skewed toward subsidies (especially food and fertilisers)** rather

than long-term investments. For instance, in recent budget cycles (like FY26), fertiliser subsidies were projected at approximately ₹2.5 lakh crore, significantly outstripping the total allocation for the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- In reality, **developmental expenditure on agricultural research and extension is notably lower than spending on welfare-oriented subsidies**. Public investment in research and development (R&D) typically accounts for a very small fraction (often less than 1%) of the agricultural GDP, whereas subsidies for food, fertilisers, and power consume a massive portion of the fiscal resources. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Fertiliser subsidies in India are largely input-linked (especially for urea)**. Because urea prices are heavily subsidized and capped while other fertilisers like Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) and Muriate of Potash (MOP) are partially decontrolled, it creates a price distortion that incentivizes farmers to use excessive amounts of nitrogenous fertilisers (urea). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Hence, option A is correct.

13.

Ans: B

Exp:

- Vertical devolution sets the total share of states collectively from the Union's divisible tax pool (**41% per 16th Finance Commission**), addressing Centre-state fiscal imbalance. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The 16th Finance Commission hasn't just kept the vertical share at 41%, it has also revised the formula for how that 41% is distributed among states:
 - Added Contribution to GDP as a new criterion (10% weight).
 - Increased weight on Population (2011).
 - Reduced weight for some earlier criteria like tax effort.
 - Horizontal devolution allocates that **state share among individual states based on criteria like income distance, population, area, and tax effort, ensuring equity**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **16th Finance Commission (2026-31)** has not significantly altered vertical devolution; it continues deliberating within the existing 41% framework without major upward revision for state fiscal stress. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Hence, option B is correct.

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14.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The Supreme Court judgment (January 30, 2026) interprets menstrual health as integral to the **right to life and dignity under Article 21**, rather than establishing it as a standalone fundamental right listed explicitly in Part III. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It **explicitly reads menstrual hygiene rights into Article 21**, emphasizing dignity, privacy, and health access in schools and workplaces. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Court connects inadequate menstrual facilities to **violations of bodily autonomy, stigma, and educational barriers for girls**, mandating free sanitary products and infrastructure. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Hence, option A is correct.

15.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017** require states to identify, notify wetlands, and regulate prohibited/restricted activities through State Wetland Authorities, emphasizing wise use and integrated management plans. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Ramsar designation is an **international convention commitment without direct enforceability in Indian courts**; domestic obligations arise from national laws like the 2017 Rules, not Ramsar treaty itself. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA) prioritizes science-based, outcome-focused conservation with monitoring frameworks, landscape approaches, and measurable ecological restoration targets. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Hence, option A is correct.

16.

Ans: B

Exp:

- A **decline in employment elasticity means that output growth is becoming more capital-intensive**, so infrastructure spending generates fewer jobs per unit of output than earlier. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Rising employment elasticity in agriculture does not indicate productivity-led labour release. In classical development theory, **productivity gains reduce labour**

absorption in agriculture. Here, the rise reflects distress-driven re-absorption of labour into low-productivity agriculture. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- **Classical structural transformation expects labour to move from agriculture to construction/industry/services.** The observed pattern—weak job creation in construction and rising labour absorption in agriculture—signals a departure from this classical path. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Hence, option B is correct.

17.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Southern states like **Karnataka (+0.48%), Kerala (+0.46%), Tamil Nadu (+0.02%), Andhra Pradesh (+0.17%), and Telangana (+0.07%)** gained higher shares in tax devolution under the 16th Finance Commission despite lower population growth, addressing their demographic disadvantage. **Hence, assertion is correct.**
- The Commission **modified horizontal devolution by introducing 'state contribution to GDP' as a new criterion** and reducing demographic performance weightage from 12.5% (15th FC) to 10%, favouring high-performing economies like southern states. **Hence, reason is correct.**
- This formula change directly explains the southern states' gains, balancing population equity with economic efficiency.

Hence, option A is correct.

18.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Balochistan is **Pakistan's largest province by geographical area**, covering 347,190 km² or ~44% of the country's landmass. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It shares international borders with **Iran (west) and Afghanistan (northwest)**, alongside Pakistan's Arabian Sea coastline (south). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)'s** flagship projects, including Gwadar Port, highways, and energy infrastructure, primarily traverse Balochistan from Kashgar to the Arabian Sea. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Balochistan **extends west of the Indus**, encompassing regions like the Sulaiman Mountains and Kharan Desert; the Indus mainly flows through Sindh/Punjab. **Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**

Hence, option A is correct.

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19.

Ans: B

Exp:

- Vertical devolution sets the total share of states collectively from the Union's divisible tax pool (**41% per 16th Finance Commission**), addressing Centre-state fiscal imbalance. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The 16th Finance Commission hasn't just kept the vertical share at 41%, it has also revised the formula for how that 41% is distributed among states:
- Added Contribution to GDP as a new criterion (10% weight).
- Increased weight on Population (2011).
- Reduced weight for some earlier criteria like tax effort.
- Horizontal devolution allocates that **state share among individual states based on criteria like income distance, population, area, and tax effort, ensuring equity. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **16th Finance Commission (2026-31)** has not significantly altered vertical devolution; it continues deliberating within the existing 41% framework without major upward revision for state fiscal stress. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
Hence, option B is correct.

20.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The Supreme Court judgment (January 30, 2026) interprets menstrual health as integral to the **right to life and dignity under Article 21**, rather than establishing it as a standalone fundamental right listed explicitly in Part III. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It **explicitly reads menstrual hygiene rights into Article 21**, emphasizing dignity, privacy, and health access in schools and workplaces. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Court connects inadequate menstrual facilities to **violations of bodily autonomy, stigma, and educational barriers for girls**, mandating free sanitary products and infrastructure. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
Hence, option A is correct.

21.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017** require states to identify, notify wetlands, and regulate prohibited/restricted activities through State

Wetland Authorities, emphasizing wise use and integrated management plans. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- Ramsar designation is an **international convention commitment without direct enforceability in Indian courts**; domestic obligations arise from national laws like the 2017 Rules, not Ramsar treaty itself. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA) prioritizes science-based, outcome-focused conservation with monitoring frameworks, landscape approaches, and measurable ecological restoration targets. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
Hence, option A is correct.

22.

Ans: B

Exp:

- A **decline in employment elasticity means that output growth is becoming more capital-intensive**, so infrastructure spending generates fewer jobs per unit of output than earlier. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Rising employment elasticity in agriculture does not indicate productivity-led labour release. In classical development theory, **productivity gains reduce labour absorption in agriculture**. Here, the rise reflects distress-driven re-absorption of labour into low-productivity agriculture. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Classical structural transformation expects labour to move from agriculture to construction/industry/services**. The observed pattern—weak job creation in construction and rising labour absorption in agriculture—signals a departure from this classical path. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
Hence, option B is correct.

23.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Southern states like **Karnataka (+0.48%), Kerala (+0.46%), Tamil Nadu (+0.02%), Andhra Pradesh (+0.17%), and Telangana (+0.07%)** gained higher shares in tax devolution under the 16th Finance Commission despite lower population growth, addressing their demographic disadvantage. **Hence, assertion is correct.**
- The Commission **modified horizontal devolution by introducing 'state contribution to GDP' as a new criterion** and reducing demographic performance weightage from 12.5% (15th FC) to 10%, favouring high-performing economies like southern states. **Hence, reason is correct.**

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- This formula change directly explains the southern states' gains, balancing population equity with economic efficiency.

Hence, option A is correct.

24.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Balochistan is **Pakistan's largest province by geographical area**, covering 347,190 km² or ~44% of the country's landmass. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- It shares international borders with **Iran (west) and Afghanistan (northwest)**, alongside Pakistan's Arabian Sea coastline (south). Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- **China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)**'s flagship projects, including Gwadar Port, highways, and energy infrastructure, primarily traverse Balochistan from Kashgar to the Arabian Sea. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
- Balochistan **extends west of the Indus**, encompassing regions like the Sulaiman Mountains and Kharan Desert; the Indus mainly flows through Sindh/Punjab. Hence, **statement 4 is not correct**.

Hence, option A is correct.

25.

Ans: D

Exp:

- Under **Article 253 of the Constitution**, Parliament has the exclusive power to make any law for the whole or any part of the territory of India for implementing any treaty, agreement, or convention with any other country or countries. International trade agreements (often called treaties/agreements) fall under this provision. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- While the executive (cabinet) negotiates and signs trade agreements, significant agreements affecting foreign policy, national interest, and sovereignty should ideally be, and often are, **debated in Parliament to ensure democratic accountability**, although it is not strictly mandatory for all agreements. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- India follows a dualist approach, **meaning international law/treaties are not automatically enforceable in India**. If a trade agreement requires changes to domestic laws (e.g., changes in customs duties, intellectual property rights, or affecting individual rights), it requires legislative action (approval by Parliament) to be legally enforceable within India. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

Hence, option D is correct.

26.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) **steelmaking uses electricity to melt scrap steel**, making it highly compatible with renewable energy sources like solar and wind, unlike coal-dependent blast furnaces. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- EAF **eliminates the need for coking coal** (essential for blast furnaces), reducing reliance on imported coal and cutting CO₂ emissions by 50-85%. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- **EAF produces high-quality steel meeting global export standards**, including for automotive, construction, and specialty applications; many leading exporters use EAF routes. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

Hence, option A is correct.

27.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **AI infrastructure expansion (chips, data centers)** supports scaling but does not guarantee long-term profitability, as value shifts downstream to applications amid commoditization and competition. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- Applications show **stronger product-market fit with proven revenue models**, unlike foundation models that remain costly and experimental for most users. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- Inference costs—**now 55-80% of AI compute spending**—significantly pressure margins for LLM providers like OpenAI, requiring optimization via quantization and edge deployment. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

Hence, option B is correct.

28.

Ans: B

Exp:

- Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) is a **Central Sector Scheme fully funded by the Government of India through the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**, with each MP entitled to ₹5 crore annually released to district authorities. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- **MPs recommend works but lack statutory authority for execution**; district authorities handle implementation, fund release, and monitoring per scheme guidelines. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

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- The scheme **explicitly focuses on creating durable community assets like roads, schools, and water facilities** to address locally felt developmental needs. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Hence, option B is correct.

29.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) schemes (Part A for first-time employees, Part B for employers)**, approved in July 2025 with ₹99,446 crore outlay, faced delays in administrative approvals, diluting timely employment generation before the scheme's August 2025–July 2027 window. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Budgetary allocations **ensure funding but fail to guarantee labour market absorption** without addressing structural issues like skill mismatches and hiring rigidity. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Schemes **primarily suffer from implementation gaps** (delays, awareness, compliance) rather than fiscal resource shortages, given the substantial ₹2 lakh crore PM package backing. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Hence, option A is correct.

30.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The Supreme Court explicitly located menstrual hygiene within **Article 21's right to life and dignity**, recognizing it as essential for girls' health, education, and bodily autonomy. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **ruling frames menstrual health as a public policy imperative** requiring state action on facilities, free sanitary products, and education—not merely a private matter—rejecting stigma as unconstitutional. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Directions mandate **compliance across all schools (government and private)**, including separate toilets, vending machines, and sensitization programs, with derecognition threats for non-compliant private institutions. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Hence, option A is correct.

31.

Ans: A

Exp:

- President's Rule can be **extended up to three years with parliamentary approval every six months**—no

Constitutional Amendment needed. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- ◆ Circumstances for extension beyond 1 year (and up to 3 years):

- **National Emergency must be in Operation:** A Proclamation of Emergency under Article 352 (whole or part of India) should be in force in that State.

- **Election Commission Certifies Difficulty in holding Assembly Elections:** The Election Commission of India must certify that free and fair elections cannot be held in the State.

- Revocation occurs through a **presidential proclamation on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers**, without requiring parliamentary approval. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- Upon revocation, the State Legislative Assembly is either revived (if previously suspended) or fresh elections are held (if dissolved); it does not automatically dissolve—dissolution requires separate parliamentary approval during President's Rule. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Hence, option A is correct.

32.

Ans: B

Exp:

- For the 2026–27 fiscal year, the **growth in capital expenditure is estimated at 11.5%** (rising to ₹12.22 lakh crore from ₹11.11 lakh crore in FY26). Nominal GDP growth for the same period is projected at 10% to 10.5%. **While capex growth is higher than nominal GDP growth, an 11.5% increase compared to a 10% base is generally considered a moderate lead rather than "significantly higher,"** especially when compared to recent years where capex grew at a CAGR of 19.4%. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- Public capital expenditure as a **percentage of GDP is pegged at 3.1% for FY27 (BE)**, which is exactly the same as the Revised Estimates (RE) for FY26. If including "effective capex" (which includes grants-in-aid for capital assets), it is projected to remain broadly constant or show a slight increase to approximately 4.4% of GDP. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- Historically, budget estimates for capex have not always matched actual outcomes. For instance, in FY25, actual capex growth fell short of the budgeted targets. While

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budgeting accuracy is improving, there have been recent years where actual utilization was significantly lower than the original estimates in specific sectors or overall. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Hence, option B is correct.

33.

Ans: A

Exp:

- A. EFTA Agreement → High-income industrial markets (1)
- ◆ EFTA countries (Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein) are advanced, high-income economies with strong industrial and financial sectors.
- B. India–United States Trade Deal → World’s largest consumer economy (2)
- ◆ The U.S. is the largest import market globally and India’s biggest export destination, offering massive consumer demand.
- C. Australia & New Zealand FTAs → Indo-Pacific supply chains (3)
- ◆ These agreements strengthen India’s role in Indo-Pacific trade networks, especially in resources, services, and agri-value chains.
- D. UAE & Oman Agreements → Energy-linked and logistics hubs (4)
- ◆ UAE and Oman serve as key energy suppliers and strategic logistics/transit hubs connecting India to West Asia, Africa, and Europe.

Hence, option A is correct.

34.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Nuclear deterrence credibility **rests on assured retaliation, capabilities, resolve, and communication**—not exclusively certainty, as ambiguity, escalation ladders, and conventional options also shape perceptions. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Strategic ambiguity (e.g., U.S. **“calculated ambiguity,” Israel’s opacity, India’s non-use policy**) is deliberately used by states to complicate adversary calculations and enhance deterrence flexibility. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Nuclear tests (e.g., **India’s 1998 Pokhran-II, North Korea’s series**) signal technological maturity and political will, bolstering deterrence credibility against skeptics. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Hence, option A is correct.

35.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The **Leader of the Opposition does not enjoy an absolute constitutional right to speak in Parliament** independent of the Speaker.
 - ◆ The office of the LoP is statutory (Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977), and participation in debates is subject to rules of procedure and the Speaker’s authority under the Constitution (**Articles 118 and 122**). **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - While **“national security” can be a legitimate ground for restriction**, democratic theory and constitutional practice require such restrictions to meet standards of proportionality, necessity, and accountability, especially when they affect core parliamentary functions. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - **Parliamentary procedures are enabling instruments**, not ends in themselves. Using procedural rules to stifle debate would undermine the deliberative and representative character of Parliament, which is central to constitutional democracy. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Hence, option B is correct.**

36.

Ans: A

Exp:

- High levels of government market borrowing **can constrain the central bank’s policy space**. Aggressive interest rate hikes in such a scenario can destabilise bond markets and complicate the government’s borrowing programme. **Hence, assertion is correct.**
- **Raising interest rates directly increases the cost of servicing government debt**, which can raise concerns about debt sustainability and fiscal stress. **Hence, reason is correct.**
- The Reason correctly explains why high government borrowing limits the central bank’s ability to raise rates. **Hence, option A is correct.**

37.

Ans: D

Exp:

- The PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana **promotes rooftop solar installations for households to generate up to 300 units of free electricity monthly**, enabling decentralized power production. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

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- Rooftop solar **reduces transmission and distribution losses** (by generating power at consumption points) and avoids large-scale land acquisition needed for utility-scale solar parks. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- DISCOM cooperation is **critical for net metering, grid integration, subsidy claims, and surplus power buyback**—implementation bottlenecks often arise from their capacity constraints. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana:** It is a central scheme to promote the adoption of solar rooftop systems by providing substantial financial subsidies and ensuring ease of installation.
 - ◆ **Objective:** It aims to provide free electricity to one crore households in India, who opt to install roof top solar electricity units.
 - ◆ **Implementation Agencies:** The scheme will be executed at two levels.
 - **National Level:** Managed by the National Programme Implementation Agency (NPIA).
 - **State Level:** Managed by State Implementation Agencies (SIAs), which are the Distribution Utilities (DISCOMs) or Power/Energy Departments of the respective states or UTs.**Hence, option D is correct.**

38.

Ans: A**Exp:**

- Although Budget 2026 **increases health allocations in absolute terms**, it does not constitute a structural shift towards universal public healthcare because spending remains low relative to GDP and total government expenditure, and the focus is selective rather than systemic. **Hence, assertion is correct.**
- The **Union government's health spending continues to fall well short of the 2.5% of GDP target** envisaged under the National Health Policy, 2017. **Hence, reason is correct.**
- Persistently low spending relative to policy commitments directly constrains the possibility of a structural transformation towards universal public healthcare.

Hence, option A is correct.

39.

Ans: B**Exp:**

- The Supreme Court has judicially interpreted the right to a clean and healthy environment as part of **Article 21's**

right to life and personal liberty through landmark cases like *Subhash Kumar v. State of Bihar (1991)* and *Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum v. Union of India (1996)*. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- Article 48A, added by the 42nd Amendment (1976), is a Directive Principle of State Policy directing the State to protect the environment—it imposes no justiciable obligation on citizens (that's **Article 51A(g) as a fundamental duty**). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - Courts have struck down ecologically irrational environmental classifications as violating **Article 14's equality guarantee**, as seen in cases challenging arbitrary pollution zoning (*M.C. Mehta v. Union of India*). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Hence, option B is correct.

40.

Ans: B**Exp:**

- The 2026–27 defence budget allocates **₹2.19 lakh crore for capital expenditure**—a 21.8% increase over 2025–26 BE (₹1.80 lakh crore)—reversing the declining share trend (from 27% in 2021–22 to ~23% recently). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - **Higher capex share supports procurement/modernisation** but does not automatically ensure speed, constrained by long acquisition cycles, indigenisation mandates, and procedural delays. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - **Rupee depreciation (e.g., ~₹83/USD in 2026 vs. ₹75 in 2024) erodes import purchasing power** (~60% capex for foreign equipment), partially offsetting nominal rupee increases in real terms. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Hence, option B is correct.

41.

Ans: C**Exp:**

- Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY has significantly **reduced out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE) for covered households**, saving over ₹1.25 lakh crore by FY25 per Economic Survey 2025-26, dropping OOPE share from 62.6% to 39.4% of total health expenditure (2015-22). **Hence, assertion is correct.**
- Ayushman Bharat comprises two components: **PM-JAY (insurance for secondary/tertiary hospital care) and Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) for primary care.**

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While HWCs aim for primary-care-driven delivery, PM-JAY remains hospital-centric (7.5 crore hospitalizations authorized); the system transformation is partial, not complete. **Hence, reason is correct.**

Hence, option C is correct.

42.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs), launched in 2015**, were introduced to curb physical gold imports (~₹3.5 lakh crore annually pre-SGB) by channeling household savings into rupee-denominated bonds indexed to gold prices. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Budget 2026 imposes capital gains tax on SGBs bought in the secondary market or not held to maturity**, restricting tax-free redemption (previously available to all) to original primary subscribers only—a departure from the uniform tax incentive that encouraged market liquidity and risk-sharing. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Retrospective taxation applies from April 1, 2026 (FY27), affecting ~₹25,000 crore outstanding SGBs; while revenue yield is modest (~₹5,000 crore), it **erodes investor confidence in government bond tax sanctity**, potentially impacting future issuances. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Hence, option A is correct.

43.

Ans: D

Exp:

- Meghalaya's coal deposits are typically **thin, shallow, and discontinuous**, making them unsuitable for large-scale mechanised mining. This geological constraint encourages manual, narrow-shaft rat-hole mining. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The persistence of rat-hole mining despite NGT and judicial bans is explained by **fragmented land ownership, informal contracting systems, weak local enforcement, and diffused accountability**, which dilute responsibility and enable circumvention. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Rat-hole mines lack engineered safety structures such as **roof supports and reinforced side walls**, making them highly prone to collapses, flooding, and fatal accidents. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Hence, option D is correct.

44.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The **Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties (CMP and CMA)** do not operate on binding voting or majority-based decision-making. In practice, climate negotiations function through consensus, not formal voting. There is no effective, routinely used majority voting mechanism. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Consensus-based decision-making effectively grants veto power to any single Party, since the absence of agreement by even one Party can stall or dilute decisions. This is a well-known structural constraint of the UNFCCC process. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **Paris Agreement's non-binding commitments** (NDCs, voluntary targets, absence of enforcement) are an intentional design choice aimed at ensuring universal participation, not merely an implementation failure. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Hence, option B is correct.

45.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Agentic AI (like Claude with plugins)** challenges India's traditional software services and consultancy model, which is heavily based on human-intensive customisation, maintenance, and process execution. **Hence, assertion is correct.**
- These AI systems can **internalise domain knowledge, interpret rules/regulations, and autonomously execute workflows** that earlier required teams of engineers or consultants. **Hence, reason is correct.**
- This very capability—bypassing human-mediated software customisation—is what creates the structural challenge to India's IT services model.

Hence, option A is correct.

46.

Ans: D

Exp:

- A pause in rate cuts often reflects a **central bank's confidence in prevailing growth momentum and its preference to preserve policy space**, even when inflation is within the comfort zone. Monetary policy is forward-looking, not purely inflation-reactive. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

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➤ **Rising G-sec yields despite repo rate cuts point to imperfect or lagged monetary transmission**, influenced by factors such as high government borrowing, term premia, risk perceptions, and liquidity conditions. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

➤ **Forex market intervention**—especially when the central bank sells foreign currency to stabilise the domestic currency—absorbs rupee liquidity from the system, thereby tightening domestic liquidity unless sterilised. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Hence, option D is correct.

47.

Ans: D

Exp:

➤ High import tariffs **on niche agri-products (e.g., kiwis, avocados)** where domestic output is minimal yield negligible producer protection while raising consumer costs—classic inefficiency critiqued in trade policy analysis. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

➤ Trade pacts like **India-EU FTA demand balancing low agri-tariff cuts** (protecting farmers) against industrial gains and consumer access to quality imports. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

➤ **Defensive postures (MSP hikes, export bans)** shield producers short-term but erode global market share, quality competitiveness, and farmer export incentives long-term. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Hence, option D is correct.

48.

Ans: B

Exp:

➤ According to the **Mundell–Fleming “Impossible Trinity” (or Trilemma)**, a country can simultaneously achieve only two of the following three objectives:

- ◆ Free capital mobility
- ◆ Fixed (or tightly managed) exchange rate
- ◆ Independent monetary policy

➤ Trying to pursue all three at once is impossible, because capital flows will undermine either exchange rate stability or monetary autonomy.

Hence, option B is correct.

49.

Ans: A

Exp:

➤ Freedom of elected representatives to raise matters of public importance is essential, as members must be

able to voice concerns without fear of legal or executive repercussions (e.g., **Freedom of speech in Parliament, Article 105**). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

➤ A key feature of a parliamentary system is the **responsibility of the executive to the legislature**. The Council of Ministers must answer to the House (e.g., **Question Hour, No-Confidence Motions**). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

➤ While the judiciary can review the constitutionality of laws, **Article 122** of the Indian Constitution prohibits courts from questioning the validity of parliamentary proceedings on the grounds of “**alleged irregularity of procedure**.” Therefore, absolute judicial oversight over internal proceedings is not considered a standard essential component; rather, it is a limited area of interference only in cases of “**illegality or unconstitutionality**”. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Hence, option A is correct.

50.

Ans: A

Exp:

➤ Network effects occur when a **digital platform’s value to each user increases as more users join, creating positive feedback loops** (e.g., more WhatsApp users improve connectivity for everyone). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

➤ Strong network **effects erect formidable entry barriers**, as new competitors struggle to attract initial users despite technical parity—users prefer established platforms with larger networks. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

➤ Network effects alone do not prove monopolistic intent; they are a **natural market dynamic**. Antitrust scrutiny requires evidence of exclusionary conduct beyond mere dominance. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Hence, option A is correct.

51.

Ans: D

Exp:

➤ Sant Ravidas **did not pursue political mobilisation in the modern sense**. His challenge to hierarchy was ethical, personal, and moral, unsettling entrenched social assumptions through lived practice and spiritual assertion. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

➤ Ravidas’s **idea of dignity was rooted in intrinsic human equality**, rejecting any dependence on ritual purity, caste status, or inherited hierarchy—clearly emphasised in the passage. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

➤ Begampura **symbolised a moral vision of society**—one where inclusion was unconditional, justice was

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foundational, and harmony emerged from ethical equality rather than mere absence of conflict. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

- **Sant Ravidas (c. 15th–16th century):** Sant Ravidas lived in **15th–16th century North India**, a period marked by rigid caste hierarchies and intense Bhakti ferment across the Gangetic plains.
 - ◆ **Social location:** Born into a **leather-working community** in Varanasi, his life itself challenged the Brahmanical monopoly over spiritual authority.
 - ◆ **Bhakti tradition:** Ravidas was part of the **Nirguna Bhakti stream**, emphasising devotion to a formless divine and rejecting ritualism, priestly mediation, and caste-based exclusion.
 - ◆ **Literary legacy:** Several of his **hymns are included in the Guru Granth Sahib**, reflecting his influence beyond Hindu society and his integration into Sikh devotional tradition.

Hence, option D is correct.

52.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **START treaties (I & II)** limited deployed strategic nuclear warheads to 6,000 and delivery systems (ICBMs, SLBMs, heavy bombers) to 1,600, with deeper cuts in New START (1,550 warheads). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **START applied only to strategic weapons**—tactical nuclear weapons were covered separately under Presidential Nuclear Initiatives, not treaty limits. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Treaties featured **rigorous verification, on-site inspections (each side hosted ~30/year), data exchanges, and telemetry sharing** to build confidence in compliance. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START):** A bilateral nuclear arms-control treaty between the **United States and Russia**, aimed at limiting **deployed strategic nuclear warheads and delivery systems.**
 - ◆ It capped arsenals at **1,550 deployed warheads and 700 deployed delivery vehicles**, enhancing strategic stability.

Hence, option A is correct.

53.

Ans: B

Exp:

- India's trade and foreign economic policy in 2026 navigates **US tariffs (50% threatened), Russian oil sanctions risks,**

EU FTA delays, and China decoupling pressures while safeguarding growth (~7%), energy security, and strategic autonomy.

- The “tightrope” captures **managing external shocks** (Trump 2.0 transactionalism, regional instability) against internal priorities (employment, manufacturing via PLI, fiscal consolidation).

Hence, option B is correct.

54.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The phrase “reverse Byzantine equation” conveys **India's ability to engage simultaneously with multiple stakeholders**—EU, US, UK, ASEAN, Middle East—while simplifying complexity on its own terms, sequencing agreements strategically, and preserving policy autonomy.
- It does not suggest withdrawal, insulation, or externally dictated alignments, but a confident, controlled navigation of a complex global trade environment.

Hence, option B is correct.

55.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **Article 19(1)(a)** provides only a qualified (not absolute) right, which can be restricted on grounds listed in **Article 19(2)** such as sovereignty and integrity of India, security of the State, public order, decency, morality, defamation, contempt of court, etc. Incitement to violence or public order is one of the grounds, not the sole exception that makes the right non-absolute. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Judicial precedents (including the **Maneka Gandhi line of interpretation expanded Article 21 by requiring that any law affecting life or liberty must be just, fair, reasonable, and consistent with Articles 14 and 19)** settle that restrictions under Article 19(2) must be confined to the specified grounds and cannot be mechanically or deliberately extended on extra-constitutional justifications. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Supreme Court, especially after judgments in **Puttaswamy (Privacy) and Shreya Singhal (2015)**, has read the principle of proportionality into the “reasonable restrictions” test: any restriction must be suitable, necessary, and balanced, not excessive. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Hence, option B is correct.

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56.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The “mineable self” concept describes how digital platforms commodify personal data, emotions, relationships, and narratives for economic value extraction.
- It directly captures the core idea: **turning human social relations and personal stories into tradable commodities via social media, apps, and algorithms** in the digital economy. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- This reflects the shift from industrial-era resource/labor extraction to harvesting “**social and affective data**” (emotions, interactions) as renewable assets in platform capitalism. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Privacy and intimacy are significantly eroded and made “porous” through datafication, but they are not legally abolished. Regulations (e.g., data protection laws) and resistance movements (data sovereignty, platform cooperativism) still exist to counter this, though imperfectly. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Hence, option B is correct.

57.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) regulates international trade in rough diamonds to curb conflict diamonds.
- KPCS permits **rough diamond trade only among participating countries** (82 participants representing 85 nations) that implement certification and internal controls. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The scheme’s framework **applies exclusively to rough diamonds**, not polished diamonds (which fall outside KPCS scope after cutting/polishing). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Every shipment of rough diamonds requires a **government-issued Kimberley Process Certificate (KPC)** validated by the exporting participant’s authorities. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Hence, option A is correct.

58.

Ans: A

Exp:

- MSMEs are vital to India’s economy, **contributing ~30% to GDP, ~45% to exports, and employing over 110 million people**, often in rural and semi-urban areas.

- MSMEs are **highly adaptable to local markets, customs, and production networks** (e.g., clusters like Tirupur textiles), unlike large firms focused on scale and global standardization. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Fixed compliance costs (**Rs 13–17 lakh/year for manufacturing MSMEs**) represent a disproportionate burden relative to their revenue/scale compared to large corporations. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Despite scale constraints, MSMEs actively participate in domestic (e.g., auto components) and global value chains (GVCs), contributing ~45% to exports via supply chains, digital platforms (ONDC), and policies like Aatmanirbhar Bharat. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)

New classification of MSME

Type	INVESTMENT		TURNOVER	
	Current	Revised	Current	Revised
MicroEnterprise	Rs 1cr	Rs 2.5cr	Rs 5cr	Rs 10cr
Small Enterprise	Rs 10cr	Rs 25cr	Rs 50cr	Rs 100cr
Medium Enterprise	Rs 50cr	Rs 125cr	Rs 250cr	Rs 500cr

Source: Budget 2025-2026, Speech of Nirmala Sitharama, Union Minister of Finance February 1, 2025.

Hence, option A is correct.

59.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The Constitution does not explicitly define or enumerate “hate speech.” **Article 19(2)** lists grounds for restricting speech (public order, decency, incitement to offence), but hate speech is interpreted judicially through **IPC Sections 153A, 295A, 505**, not constitutionally defined. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Supreme Court judgments like **Pravasi Bhalai Sangathan (2014)** and **Amish Devgan (2020)** treat hate speech as violating Articles 14 (equality), 15 (discrimination), and 21 (dignity), calling it a threat to constitutional democracy. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- In **Tehseen Poonawalla v. Union of India (2018)**, the Supreme Court directed police to register FIRs and act suo motu on hate speech complaints likely to disturb public order, independent of complainants. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Hence, option A is correct.

60.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) are bilateral/multilateral pacts reducing trade barriers between parties.

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- Reciprocal **FTAs involve mutual tariff concessions**, but not necessarily symmetrical reductions. Asymmetrical deals are common (e.g., developing nations get longer phase-outs or exemptions on sensitive sectors), as seen in EU-India and US-India frameworks where tariff cuts vary by product/country capacity. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Modern FTAs extend far beyond tariffs to include regulatory standards (SPS/TBT), **government procurement commitments, IP protection, services liberalisation, labour/environmental rules, and investment provisions** (e.g., CPTPP, RCEP). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Classical free-trade theory (**Ricardo's comparative advantage, WTO's GATT principles**) focuses on tariff elimination and non-discrimination, not binding purchase obligations (which resemble quotas or local content rules, atypical and often WTO-inconsistent unless carved out). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
Hence, option A is correct.

61.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), a Nuclear Weapon State (NWS) is defined as a country that manufactured and exploded a **nuclear weapon before 1 January 1967.**
- The **five recognised NWS under the NPT** are:
 - ◆ United States
 - ◆ Russia (as successor to USSR)
 - ◆ China
 - ◆ France
 - ◆ United Kingdom
- India is not recognised as a Nuclear Weapon State under the NPT because:
 - ◆ India tested its **first nuclear device in 1974.**
 - ◆ India is not a signatory to the NPT.
 - ◆ The NPT framework recognises only the P5 countries.**Hence, option A is correct.**

62.

Ans: B

Exp:

- A **sovereign AI stack** refers to a country's ability to control its own AI infrastructure — including compute, data, models, and platforms — ensuring technological autonomy. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**

- **AI hallucination** refers to unintended false or fabricated outputs generated by AI systems, not intentional disinformation by humans. **Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
- **Autonomous weapon systems** operate independently to detect, select, and engage targets post-activation, without further human input. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**
Hence, option B is correct.

63.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** undertakes repair, overhaul and maintenance of fighter aircraft in the Indian Air Force inventory, whether of Russian, Western or indigenous origin. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA)** is an **autonomous organisation** under the Department of Defence R&D, Ministry of Defence, and is responsible for design and development of combat aircraft such as Tejas and AMCA. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **Aircraft and Systems Testing Establishment (ASTE)** is a **unit of the Indian Air Force (IAF), not DRDO.** It is responsible for operational testing and evaluation of aircraft and systems. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
Hence, option A is correct.

64.

Ans: C

Exp:

- Great apes include **humans, chimpanzees (Pan troglodytes), bonobos (Pan paniscus), gorillas (Gorilla), and orangutans (Pongo species)**, distinguished from lesser apes (gibbons in family Hylobatidae) by larger size, lack of tails, and other traits.
 - ◆ Chimpanzees and bonobos belong to genus Pan.
 - ◆ Gorillas belong to genus Gorilla.
 - ◆ Orangutans belong to genus Pongo.**Hence, option C is correct.**

65.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Economic security involves aligning **trade policies, technology controls, and capital flows (like investment screening) with national strategic goals**, such as supply chain resilience and reducing dependencies. It blurs lines

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between economic policy and national security, as seen in phrases like **“economic security is national security”** from U.S. strategies and integrated approaches in EU, Japan, and others.

- Policies like export controls, friend-shoring, and industrial investments explicitly link trade, tech, and capital to security objectives. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The concept predates 2022; the U.S. used “economic security is national security” in its 2017 strategy, with roots in earlier geopolitics like the 1973 oil crisis. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Modern strategies treat economic resilience as foundational to national security, shifting traditional boundaries. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Hence, option A is correct.

66.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **“One Country, Two Systems”** framework was implemented when Hong Kong was handed over to China in 1997. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It did not grant political independence. **Hong Kong remained part of China** (“One Country”) while retaining a high degree of autonomy (“Two Systems”). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The arrangement promised preservation of Hong Kong’s capitalist system, legal structure, and **civil liberties for 50 years (until 2047)**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Hence, option A is correct.

67.

Ans: B

Exp:

- Pulses provide a major **non-cereal protein source in India** (14-25% of total intake per NIN/MoSPI data), despite cereals dominating (~45-50%), vital for vegetarian diets. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The country remains structurally **import-dependent (e.g., 5-7MMT annually)** due to production-demand gaps. **Domestic output (~26MMT) falls short of ~30MMT needed**; imports from Canada/Australia sustain supply. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- MSP declared for **pulses (e.g., tur ₹7,400/qtl)**, but no assured procurement like rice/wheat—market-based via NAFED. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Hence, option B is correct.

68.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Article 19(2) lists grounds including **sovereignty and integrity of India, public order, decency or morality**, among others like security of the state and defamation.
- The full enumerated grounds are:
 - ◆ Sovereignty and integrity of India
 - ◆ Security of the State
 - ◆ Friendly relations with foreign states
 - ◆ Public order
 - ◆ Decency or morality
 - ◆ Contempt of court
 - ◆ Defamation
 - ◆ Incitement to an offence
- **“Administrative convenience”** is not listed; courts assess reasonableness separately.

Hence, option A is correct.

69.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Article 51A(a) requires citizens to abide by the Constitution**, respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag, and the National Anthem. It mandates respect for both the National Flag and National Anthem. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Fundamental Duties under **Article 51A are not enforceable by courts** through writs; they serve as moral guidelines without judicial remedies. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Added via the **42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976, on Swaran Singh Committee recommendations**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Hence, option A is correct.

70.

Ans: C

Exp:

- Insurance penetration is standardly defined as **total insurance premiums (life and non-life) as a percentage of GDP**, measuring the sector’s economic footprint. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- A **declining penetration ratio signals the insurance sector growing slower than GDP** (e.g., if premiums rise 5% while GDP rises 8%). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Hence, option C is correct.

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71.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Nuclear power currently contributes around **3% of India's total electricity generation**, despite record generation; coal dominates at 70-75%, far below 20%. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The government targets **100 GW by 2047 via Nuclear Energy Mission**, up from 22 GW planned by 2032. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Nuclear emits **near-zero CO₂ during operation** (~49M tonnes avoided in FY25), qualifying as low-carbon. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Hence, option A is correct.

72.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **Article 348(1)(a)** provides that proceedings in the Supreme Court and High Courts shall be in English unless Parliament by law provides otherwise. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Under Article 348(2)**, the Governor of a State, with the previous consent of the President, may authorise the use of Hindi (or other official language of the State) in High Court proceedings (excluding judgments unless otherwise permitted). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Article 348** applies only to the Supreme Court and High Courts. Subordinate courts generally function in the official language of the State. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Hence, option B is correct.

73.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Vote of No-Confidence:** This is the ultimate tool of accountability. If the lower house of the legislature passes this motion, the entire executive must resign immediately, as it no longer enjoys the majority's support. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Question Hour:** Held daily during parliamentary sessions, this allows Members of Parliament (MPs) to ask oral and written questions to ministers about government policies and actions, forcing the executive to justify its decisions. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Judicial Review:** While judicial review is a vital check on government power, it is a mechanism of judicial oversight, not legislative control. It involves the courts (the

Judiciary) examining the constitutionality of executive and legislative acts, whereas the question specifically asks for mechanisms of executive accountability to the legislature.

Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

- **Collective Responsibility:** This is the bedrock principle where all ministers are jointly responsible to the legislature for every act of the government. They "sink or swim together," ensuring the executive acts as a cohesive unit answerable to the elected house. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**

Hence, option A is correct.

74.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** in India is compiled and released by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)** under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Since the adoption of the inflation-targeting framework (2016), the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) **uses CPI (Combined)** as the nominal anchor for maintaining inflation within the prescribed target band (**currently 4% ± 2%**). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It updates the importance (weights) given to different goods and services in the economy. It reflects current consumption patterns, since people's spending habits change over time (for example, more spending on mobile data today than a decade ago). However, past inflation data do not automatically change. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Hence, option B is correct.

75.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The Quad is **not a formal military alliance** like the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. It has no treaty structure, no collective defence clause (like NATO's Article 5), and no binding military obligation. It is an **informal strategic grouping**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Quad consists of:
 - ◆ India
 - ◆ United States
 - ◆ Japan
 - ◆ Australia. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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- The Quad focuses on **maintaining a free, open, inclusive, rules-based Indo-Pacific, covering areas** like maritime security, supply chains, critical technologies, climate action, and disaster relief. **Hence, statement 3 is correct. Hence, option A is correct.**

76.

Ans: A

Exp:

- India rationalised and consolidated **29 central labour laws into four Labour Codes**:
 - ◆ Code on Wages, 2019
 - ◆ Industrial Relations Code, 2020
 - ◆ Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020
 - ◆ Code on Social Security, 2020. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- For the first time, **gig and platform workers have been formally recognised under the Code on Social Security, 2020**, enabling future extension of social security schemes to them. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Code on Wages, 2019 strengthens, rather than abolishes, statutory minimum wages. It **introduces the concept of a national floor wage**, below which States cannot fix minimum wages. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- The Labour Codes **aim to improve portability of benefits**, especially important for migrant, gig and informal workers, allowing continuity of social security across employers and States. **Hence, statement 4 is correct. Hence, option A is correct.**

77.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation)**: Both India and Bangladesh are founding members of this eight-member organization established in 1985. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation)**: Both nations are founding members of this group, which bridges South and Southeast Asia. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **BBIN (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal)**: This is a sub-regional initiative specifically formed by these four neighboring countries to improve connectivity and water resource management. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

- **ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)**: This is a grouping of 10 Southeast Asian nations. While India and Bangladesh maintain strong diplomatic ties with the bloc, neither country is a member (India is a "Summit-level Dialogue Partner"). **Hence, statement 4 is not correct. Hence, option A is correct.**

78.

Ans: B

Exp:

- It provides a **detailed account of the last months of the Buddha's life**, his final journey to Kushinagar, his last instructions to his disciples, and his eventual Mahaparinirvana (final passing). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is the **16th sutta of the Digha Nikaya**, which is the first of the five collections (nikayas) that make up the Sutta Pitaka. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **Mahaparinibbana Sutta was originally composed in Pali**, the liturgical language of Theravada Buddhism, not Sanskrit. While Sanskrit versions (Agamas) of the same events exist in other traditions, the Mahaparinibbana Sutta specifically refers to the Pali text. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct. Hence, option B is correct.**

79.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The Model Code of Conduct (MCC) comes into effect **immediately after the announcement of the election schedule** by the Election Commission of India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The MCC is **not a statutory instrument enacted by Parliament**. It is a consensual code evolved by political parties and enforced by the ECI. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The **authority of the ECI to enforce the MCC flows from Article 324 of the Constitution**, which vests it with the power of superintendence, direction, and control of elections. **Hence, statement 3 is correct. Hence, option A is correct.**

80.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Sovereign Wealth Funds (SWFs) are **state-owned investment vehicles** typically funded from foreign exchange reserves, commodity revenues (such as oil exports), or fiscal surpluses. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

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- Their investments are **not confined to domestic infrastructure or strategic sectors**. In fact, most major SWFs actively invest across global equity markets, real estate, infrastructure, technology platforms, and other international assets. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - SWFs are **major participants in global long-term capital flows** and play a significant role in cross-border investments. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Hence, option A is correct.**

81.

Ans: C

Exp:

- **“Proportionate AI governance”** refers to a risk-based, balanced regulatory approach that:
 - ◆ **Ensures accountability** and safeguards against harms such as bias, misinformation, and liability risks,
 - ◆ While simultaneously enabling innovation, investment, and responsible cross-border data flows.
- Hence, option C is correct.**

82.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Under **Article 280**, the Finance Commission recommends the vertical and horizontal devolution of central taxes to States. This forms a significant component of State revenues. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - Since **GST is a shared tax (Article 246A)**, any rate restructuring or rationalisation can alter the revenue base of States, especially those dependent on consumption taxes. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - **Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS)** are typically funded on a cost-sharing basis between the Union and the States (e.g., 60:40, 90:10 for special category States). Only Central Sector Schemes are fully funded by the Union. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- Hence, option A is correct.**

83.

Ans: A

Exp:

- After the **2017 amendment**, the Act provides **26 weeks (approximately six months) of paid maternity leave** for eligible women in establishments covered under the Act. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Act applies to women **employed in establishments meeting the statutory threshold** (such as factories, mines, shops, and establishments with a minimum number of

employees). It does not cover self-employed women or women working in the informal sector unless otherwise notified. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

Hence, option A is correct.

84.

Ans: C

Exp:

- Recent agricultural data (2016-25) confirms **livestock (7.1% CAGR) and fisheries (8.8%) significantly outpace crops (3.5%)**, while **horticulture production growth (35%+ MT)** has consistently exceeded traditional field crops like rice/wheat. **Hence, statements 1 and 2 both are correct.**

Subsector	Growth Rate (FY16-25)
Livestock	7.1%
Fisheries	8.8%
Horticulture	5-6%
Crops (Field)	3.5%

Hence, option C is correct.

85.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)**: Ensures universal household tap connections, sewerage networks, and basic urban civic services.
 - **Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0**: Promotes scientific solid waste management, garbage-free cities, and sustainable sanitation systems.
 - **Smart Cities Mission**: Encourages technology-driven urban development, area-based planning, and governance reforms through smart solutions.
 - **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Urban (PMAY-U)**: Provides affordable housing and credit-linked subsidies for economically weaker sections in urban areas.
- Hence, option A is correct.**

86.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Greenland is located in the **Arctic region** and has growing strategic importance due to:
 - ◆ **Opening Arctic sea routes** (Northern Sea Route, trans-Arctic shipping)
 - ◆ **Abundant rare earth minerals** and natural resources
 - ◆ Its geostrategic location between North America and Europe. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

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- Greenland is an **autonomous territory within the Kingdom of Denmark**, and Denmark is a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Any unilateral attempt by a NATO member to seize or control Greenland would contradict NATO's principles of sovereignty and collective defence (Article 5), thereby undermining alliance cohesion. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Greenland is not a sovereign independent republic. It enjoys self-rule but remains constitutionally part of the Kingdom of Denmark. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
Hence, option A is correct.

87.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The Basic Structure Doctrine, evolved in **Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala**, limits Parliament's power to amend the Constitution under Article 368.
- The Supreme Court has, over time, recognised several features as part of the Basic Structure:
 - ◆ **Federalism:** Affirmed explicitly in **S.R. Bommai v. Union of India**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ **Parliamentary Democracy:** Considered fundamental to the constitutional scheme. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ **Judicial Review:** Recognised as essential for maintaining constitutional supremacy (also reaffirmed in *Minerva Mills* case). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSPs):** DPSPs themselves are not part of the Basic Structure, though harmony and balance between Fundamental Rights and DPSPs has been held to be part of it. **Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**
Hence, option A is correct.

88.

Ans: C

Exp:

- Recapitalisation involves the **government infusing capital into PSBs to offset NPAs**. This transfers banks' credit losses (private borrower defaults) onto the sovereign balance sheet via fiscal allocations/recapital bonds, increasing public debt. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Deep corporate bond markets distribute credit risk across institutional investors** (MFs, FIs, insurers), pension funds etc., enabling gradual loss absorption through diversified holdings rather than concentrated bank/sovereign exposure. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
Hence, option C is correct.

89.

Ans: D

Exp:

- The EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) is designed to **prevent "carbon leakage"** by ensuring that imported goods face a carbon cost comparable to that imposed on EU producers.
- CBAM effectively **imposes carbon tariffs on certain imports based on their embedded emissions**, aligning them with EU carbon pricing. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It creates **competitive pressure on emission-intensive exporters** (such as steel, cement, aluminium) to decarbonise or risk losing price competitiveness in EU markets. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Transitioning to green steel (low-carbon steel) reduces embedded emissions**, thereby lowering exposure to CBAM-related tariffs and mitigating trade risks. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
Hence, option D is correct.

90.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Monetary policy is generally **more effective in economies where food has a lower weight in the CPI basket**. When inflation is driven largely by components like housing, automobiles, and services (which are demand-sensitive), interest rate changes transmit more efficiently through the economy. **Hence, assertion is correct.**
- Food prices are **often driven by supply-side factors such as monsoon performance, global commodity prices, logistics disruptions, and seasonal variations**. These factors are relatively insensitive to interest rate changes, which primarily influence demand conditions. **Hence, reason is correct.**
- If food has a high weight in CPI and food inflation is largely supply-driven, then monetary policy (which works via demand compression) becomes less effective in controlling headline inflation. Therefore, economies with lower food weight experience better monetary transmission.
Hence, option A is correct.

91.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India is a **statutory body created under the Food Safety and**

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Standards Act, 2006, which consolidated multiple food laws into a single regulatory framework. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- It functions under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, Government of India, ensuring administrative oversight within the public health domain. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - It has the **statutory power to frame regulations on food standards, safety, packaging and labelling**, including rules under the Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Hence, option C is correct.**

92.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The post-Second World War international order was formally institutionalised in **1945 with the establishment of the United Nations at the San Francisco Conference.**
 - It was based on principles such as sovereign equality of states, collective security, peaceful settlement of disputes, and multilateral cooperation.
 - **League of Nations:** Established after World War I (1919), not WWII.
 - **North Atlantic Treaty Organization:** A military alliance formed in 1949, not the foundational global order institution.
 - **World Trade Organization:** Established in 1995, focused specifically on trade governance.
- Hence, option B is correct.**

93.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992** inserted **Part IX-A** in the Constitution and added the **Twelfth Schedule**, which lists **18 functions** of municipalities. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - It does **not mandate compulsory transfer of all 18 functions**; actual devolution depends on State legislation. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - **Urban planning and regulation of land use and building construction** are explicitly included in the Twelfth Schedule. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Hence, option A is correct.**

94.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The **Paris Agreement (2015)**, adopted at **COP21 under the UNFCCC**, aims to keep global temperature rise “well below 2°C” above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5°C.
 - The **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change** provides scientific assessments but does not adopt legally binding temperature targets.
 - The **Kyoto Protocol** set emission reduction targets primarily for developed countries but did not establish the 1.5°C goal.
 - The **United Nations Environment Programme** is a UN body for environmental coordination and does not adopt binding climate agreements.
- Hence, option C is correct.**

95.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Horizon 2047 roadmap**, unveiled in 2023 to mark **25 years of the India–France Strategic Partnership**, outlines long-term cooperation up to 2047 (100 years of India’s independence).
 - It emphasises **defence industrial collaboration**, including co-development, co-production, and technology transfer. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - It includes **cooperation in space, civil nuclear energy, and emerging technologies** such as AI and digital innovation. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - It stresses **coordination in the Indo-Pacific**, reflecting shared maritime and strategic interests. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - Agricultural land reforms are not a core pillar of the bilateral roadmap. **Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**
- Hence, option A is correct.**

96.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Viksit Bharat 2047** envisions India as a developed nation by independence centenary, promoting balanced manufacturing/services growth, comprehensive infrastructure (hard/soft), and innovation with implementation focus.

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- Targets both **manufacturing (global hub) and services** for USD 30-40 trillion GDP. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Hard infrastructure (roads, energy); soft (skills, education, institutions). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Holistic approach across agriculture, industry, MSMEs, sunrise sectors**—no single driver priority. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- Combines innovation, technology, capacity building with large-scale execution. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**
Hence, option A is correct.

97.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The project proposes a **trans-shipment port** to enhance India's maritime trade and strategic presence in the Indo-Pacific region. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- An **international airport is planned** to improve civilian and strategic connectivity. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- A **450 MVA gas and solar-based power plant** is envisaged to meet the energy needs of the proposed township and infrastructure. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- There is **no nuclear power plant** proposed under the project. **Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**
Hence, option A is correct.

98.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **Institutional capacity building** was identified as a key pillar to strengthen tourism governance and service delivery. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Development of trails and heritage sites** was proposed to diversify tourism and improve infrastructure. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Budget **did not advocate complete privatisation of tourism infrastructure.** **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Special emphasis was placed on ecologically sustainable mountain trails** in Jammu and Kashmir. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**
Hence, option B is correct.

99.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **Launched in 2021** by the **Ministry of Labour and Employment**, e-Shram creates a **national database for over 38 crore unorganized workers** (construction, gig,

domestic, etc.), issuing a unique ID for benefits like PM Garib Kalyan Yojana, pensions, and insurance.

- The **e-Shram Portal** is a **national digital database** of unorganised sector workers in India.
- It is **seeded with Aadhaar** and aims to register informal workers so they can be recognised formally and benefit from social security and welfare schemes.
- Over **30+ crore unorganised workers** have been registered on the portal, making it one of the **largest such databases globally.**
Hence, option B is correct.

100.

Ans: A

Exp:

- There is **no universally accepted international definition of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS).** The absence of consensus is one of the major reasons why negotiations under multilateral forums have stalled. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Technologically advanced states **generally prefer a higher definitional threshold**, so that only highly autonomous systems qualify as LAWS. This preserves their strategic and operational flexibility. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Countries with **limited AI capabilities or fewer strategic stakes** tend to push for stricter, legally binding regulations, as they are less concerned about constraining their own technological advancement. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
Hence, option A is correct.

101.

Ans: C

Exp:

- India has inducted **36 Rafale fighter aircraft into the Indian Air Force** under the earlier inter-governmental agreement with France. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Indian Navy is set to induct **Rafale Marine aircraft for deployment** on its aircraft carriers, strengthening carrier-based air power. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
Hence, option C is correct.

102.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023** is built around a consent-based framework that strengthens individual control over personal data.

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- The Act mandates that **personal data can be processed only after obtaining free, specific, informed and unambiguous consent** from the data principal (individual). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - Individuals have the **right to know what personal data is being processed**, the purpose of processing, and details of data sharing. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - The Act grants **individuals the right to correct inaccurate data** and request erasure of personal data under specified conditions. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - The Act **does not impose a blanket ban on cross-platform data sharing**. Such sharing is permitted subject to lawful consent and compliance requirements. It regulates data processing rather than prohibiting it outright. **Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**
- Hence, option B is correct.**

103.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The **original Section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act** included a public interest override, allowing disclosure of personal information if a larger public interest justified it. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - The **DPDP Act amendment removes this balancing test and introduces a broad restriction on disclosure of personal information**, amounting to a near-blanket prohibition. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - The amendment is widely viewed as weakening, not strengthening, the transparency framework of the RTI Act, as it dilutes the public interest safeguard. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- Hence, option B is correct.**

104.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The JCPOA was negotiated between **Iran and the P5+1** (the five permanent members of the UN Security Council — U.S., U.K., France, Russia, China — plus Germany). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The agreement did not aim to completely dismantle Iran's nuclear programme. Instead, it sought to limit and monitor Iran's nuclear activities through restrictions and inspections to prevent weaponisation. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- The United States withdrew from the JCPOA in 2018 during Donald Trump's first presidency. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Hence, option B is correct.**

105.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Seventh Schedule of the Constitution** distributes legislative powers between the Union and the States through three lists — Union List, State List, and Concurrent List (**Article 246**).
 - **Public Order (Entry 1, State List)**: Refers to maintenance of peace, law and order within the state. It excludes issues like national security and armed forces, which fall under the Union List. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - **Police (Entry 2, State List)**: States have exclusive authority over policing, including recruitment, control, and administration of the police force. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - **Criminal Law (Entry 1, Concurrent List)**: Criminal law (e.g., IPC, CrPC) is in the Concurrent List. This allows both Parliament and State Legislatures to legislate on criminal matters. In case of conflict, Union law prevails (Article 254). **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - **Defence of India (Entry 1, Union List)**: Defence, armed forces, war, and national security are exclusively under Parliament's jurisdiction. **Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**
- Hence, option A is correct.**

106.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Laffer Curve** suggests that there is an optimal tax rate at which government revenue is maximised. At 0% tax, revenue is zero; at 100% tax, revenue would also be zero (since there would be no incentive to earn taxable income). Therefore, revenue peaks at some rate in between. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Beyond a certain point, **higher tax rates may discourage work, investment, and compliance**, thereby shrinking the tax base and reducing total revenue. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Laffer Curve does not argue that lower tax rates always increase revenue. It only suggests that **if tax rates are**

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above the optimal level, reducing them may increase revenue. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

Hence, option A is correct.

107.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The Constitution (**Article 270**) mandates the sharing of certain Union taxes with the States. The exact distribution is recommended by the Finance Commission under **Article 280**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
 - Not all grants-in-aid are discretionary.
 - ◆ **Article 275** provides for statutory grants based on Finance Commission recommendations.
 - ◆ **Article 282** allows discretionary grants for public purposes. Therefore, grants are a mix of statutory and discretionary, not entirely discretionary. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
 - The Finance Commission recommends:
 - ◆ **Vertical Devolution:** Division of tax revenue between Centre and States.
 - ◆ **Horizontal Devolution:** Distribution of States' share among individual States. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- Hence, option A is correct.

108.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **"Biotech sovereignty embedded in AI"** refers to sovereign control over trusted biological data, indigenous AI models, compute infrastructure, and translational platforms across the biotech value chain. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
 - The concept is much broader than vaccine manufacturing. It includes **AI-driven drug discovery, genomics, cellular engineering, smart biomanufacturing, regulatory innovation, and delivery systems**. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
 - A core objective is to **reduce strategic dependence on foreign-controlled AI models and biotech platforms**, especially in areas like pandemic preparedness, antimicrobial resistance, and biosecurity. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- Hence, option A is correct.

109.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The Indian Constitution does not establish a strictly symmetrical federal structure. India follows a quasi-

federal system with a strong unitary bias. Certain States and regions enjoy special provisions (e.g., under the Fifth and Sixth Schedules), indicating asymmetry. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

- Under **Article 3**, Parliament has the power to alter the boundaries, area or name of a State by law. The concerned State Legislature is consulted, but its consent is not binding on Parliament. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
 - Under **Article 368**, only certain constitutional amendments affecting federal provisions require ratification by not less than one-half of the State Legislatures, not all States. Many amendments require only a special majority in Parliament. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
- Hence, option A is correct.

110.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Under **Article 356 of the Constitution of India**, the President's Rule can be imposed if the President is satisfied that the governance of a State cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution (i.e., failure of constitutional machinery). Hence, statement 1 is correct.
 - During **President's Rule**, the State Legislative Assembly may either be dissolved or kept under suspended animation. Dissolution is not mandatory. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
 - The **Proclamation of President's Rule** must be approved by both Houses of Parliament within two months from the date of issue; otherwise, it ceases to operate. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- Hence, option A is correct.

111.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **"Democratic backsliding"** refers to the incremental weakening of democratic norms and institutions within a formally democratic system. It typically involves:
 - ◆ Undermining of judicial independence
 - ◆ Curtailment of civil liberties and media freedom
 - ◆ Weakening of checks and balances
 - ◆ Concentration of power in the executive
- Hence, option B is correct.

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112.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The Constitution of India recognises certain languages in the **Eighth Schedule (currently 22 languages)**. These are often referred to as “**Scheduled Languages**.” Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The Census of India records a **large number of mother tongues separately**. These are classified and grouped, and not all mother tongues are included in the Eighth Schedule. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- Not all constitutionally recognised (Scheduled) languages are official languages of the Union. Under **Article 343, Hindi (in Devanagari script) is the Official Language of the Union, and English continues to be used for official purposes under the Official Languages Act, 1963**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

Hence, option A is correct.

113.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **MANAV (meaning “human” in Hindi) framework**, unveiled by PM Narendra Modi at the **India AI Impact Summit 2026**, outlines a human-centric approach to AI governance in India with five pillars: Moral & Ethical Systems, Accountable Governance, National Sovereignty, Accessible & Inclusive AI, and Valid & Legitimate Systems.
- **Moral and Ethical Systems**: Matches the “M” pillar, emphasizing fairness, transparency, and human oversight in AI. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- **Accountable Governance**: Matches the first “A” pillar, focusing on transparent rules, robust oversight, and institutional responsibility. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- **National Sovereignty**: Matches the “N” pillar, prioritizing data protection, domestic compute capacity, and indigenous AI development. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
- **Autonomous Military AI**: Not part of the MANAV framework, which centers on ethical civilian applications rather than military autonomy. Hence, **statement 4 is not correct**.

Hence, option A is correct.

114.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Large-aperture telescopes like the **National Large Optical-Near Infrared Telescope (NLOT, 13.7m)** and upgraded

Himalayan Chandra Telescope (3.7m) in Ladakh enable enhanced, high-resolution monitoring of transient cosmic events such as supernovae and exoplanets. Their optical-infrared capabilities provide diffraction-limited data under ideal high-altitude conditions. Hence, **assertion is correct**.

- India’s longitude (around 70-80° E) fills a critical gap between major observatories in Europe/America (west) and East Asia/Australia (east), enabling near-continuous global sky coverage. Hence, **reason is correct**.
- The **longitudinal position directly supports continuous monitoring by allowing observation of sky regions during times when they are not visible from other global sites**, thus explaining the enhancement in A.

Hence, option A is correct.

115.

Ans: A

Exp:

- India **lacks substantial domestic capacity in processing and extracting critical minerals like lithium and rare earth elements**, remaining heavily import-dependent (e.g., 100% for lithium). Efforts like auctions exist, but production and refining are nascent. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- India’s massive demand for electronics, semiconductors, and AI hardware justifies diversifying global supply chains away from China, which dominates critical mineral processing (e.g., 90% of rare earths). Joining Pax Silica supports this de-risking. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- Pax Silica explicitly targets resilient infrastructure across the “**silicon stack**”—critical minerals, semiconductors, and AI data centers—to secure supply chains against over-reliance on China. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
- **Pax Silica**: Pax Silica is a proposed alliance of like-minded countries to secure critical minerals and semiconductor supply chains.
 - ◆ It aims to reduce dependence on China in AI chips, rare earths, and advanced technologies.
 - ◆ It reflects a shift toward security-driven trade and technology partnerships.

Hence, option A is correct.

116.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Women’s Reservation Act, 2023 (106th Amendment)** explicitly states that its provisions shall take effect only

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after the first Census conducted after 2026 and the subsequent delimitation exercise, as per the inserted Articles 330A and 332A. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The Act applies **only to the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies**, not to the Rajya Sabha or state legislative councils, which are not covered under its reservation provisions. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

Hence, option A is correct.

117.

Ans: A

Exp:

- GCCs first emerged in India during the **late 1990s and early 2000s**, set up by multinationals like GE, American Express, and Citibank primarily to capitalize on lower labor costs compared to the US and Europe, alongside access to skilled talent. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **GCC 4.0 represents the latest evolution where centers handle full end-to-end product development, innovation, R&D, and proprietary IP creation, shifting from support roles to strategic business units driving digital transformation.** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Modern GCCs have transformed beyond backend support into innovation hubs **managing analytics, AI, product engineering, and global operations**, contributing over \$60 billion to India's economy with roles far exceeding basic support functions. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Hence, option A is correct.

118.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Article 105(1)** grants freedom of speech to Members of Parliament in the course of parliamentary proceedings. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Article 105(1) clearly states this freedom is **"subject to the provisions of this Constitution and to the rules and standing orders regulating the procedure of Parliament,"** making it regulated, not absolute. MPs must adhere to House rules on decorum and procedure. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

Hence, option A is correct.

119.

Ans: B

Exp:

- IEEPA authorizes the **President to regulate international economic transactions after declaring a national**

emergency in response to an "unusual and extraordinary threat" that originates "in whole or substantial part outside the United States". **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- Actions taken under IEEPA are subject to judicial scrutiny. This was notably demonstrated on February 20, 2026, when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in **Learning Resources, Inc. v. Trump** that the Act does not authorize the President to impose global tariffs, striking down such measures implemented under the Act. Federal courts have also previously issued injunctions against other IEEPA-based actions, such as sanctions on the International Criminal Court and bans on apps like TikTok. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Invoking the Act for trade restrictions, such as the (now-invalidated) global tariffs or targeted sanctions, can **significantly disrupt global trade flows and supply chains by increasing costs for importers** and forcing businesses to seek alternative markets. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Hence, option B is correct.

120.

Ans: D

Exp:

- **Lata Singh v State of Uttar Pradesh (2006):** The Supreme Court ruled that adults have the fundamental right under Article 21 to marry a partner of their choice, regardless of caste or community. It protected inter-caste couples from threats by families and interference by police, emphasizing that such threats constitute offenses.
- **Shafin Jahan v Asokan K M (Hadiya case, 2018):** The Court upheld Hadiya's marriage, striking down Kerala High Court's annulment as judicial overreach. It affirmed that an adult woman's choice of partner and religion falls within personal liberty under Article 21, rejecting parental or societal interference as patriarchal paternalism.
- **Laxmibai Chandaragi B v State of Karnataka (2021):** The Supreme Court reiterated adults' autonomy to marry despite family objections, dismissing a habeas corpus petition against a consensual marriage. It clarified that courts cannot invalidate such unions based on parental claims of undue influence without evidence.

Hence, option D is correct.

121.

Ans: B

Exp:

- AI "inference" technically describes the process where **trained models generate predictions on new data, distinct**

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from training. This gap often refers to technical challenges like deployment delays or computational differences.

- India's AI discourse highlights an "inference gap" as the divide where basic digital infrastructure exists (e.g., Jio networks, UPI), but effective AI utilization lags due to skills shortages, language barriers, rural-urban divides, and contextual adaptation needs for socio-economic applications like agriculture or healthcare.

Hence, option B is correct.

122.

Ans: C

Exp:

- **BRICS:** Both India and Brazil are founding members of BRICS (originally BRIC since 2006, expanded with South Africa in 2011), focusing on economic cooperation among emerging economies. Recent expansions include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Indonesia, but India-Brazil membership remains core. Hence, group 1 is correct.
- **IBSA Dialogue Forum:** IBSA comprises India, Brazil, and South Africa as a trilateral development dialogue for South-South cooperation on trade, technology, and poverty reduction, established in 2003. Hence, group 2 is correct.
- **G4:** G4 includes India, Brazil, Germany, and Japan seeking permanent UN Security Council seats with reforms. India and Brazil share this goal but through different bilateral partnerships, not as an exclusive common grouping. Hence, group 3 is correct.

Hence, option C is correct.

123.

Ans: A

Exp:

- India has **fewer than 10,000 psychiatrists for its 1.4 billion population**, equating to roughly 0.75 per 100,000 people, far below the WHO benchmark of 3 per 100,000. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Child and adolescent psychiatrists represent a tiny fraction of the total, with estimates suggesting fewer than **1,000 specialists nationwide amid an 85% treatment gap for youth mental health.** Most psychiatrists focus on adult care, exacerbating the crisis for young populations. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

Hence, option A is correct.

124.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Green ammonia is synthesized through the Haber-Bosch process** by combining nitrogen (separated from the air) with green hydrogen (produced via water electrolysis using renewable energy). Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Green ammonia is a **primary driver for green hydrogen adoption** because it acts as an efficient energy carrier. It is easier and cheaper to store and transport than pure hydrogen, making it a "leading application" for scaling up the green hydrogen economy. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Its application is not limited to marine fuel. While it is a promising carbon-free fuel for shipping, its largest current and future use remains in the production of sustainable fertilizers for agriculture. It is also used in power generation, industrial chemicals, and as a medium for long-distance hydrogen transport. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

Hence, option A is correct.

125.

Ans: D

Exp:

- **Section 2(2) of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 (HSA)** explicitly excludes Scheduled Tribes from its application, as supported by Supreme Court rulings 2025. Only the Central Government can extend the Act to STs via notification. Conversion does not trigger automatic application of the HSA.
- Section 2(2) of the HSA states that **it does not apply to members of any Scheduled Tribe unless the Central Government notifies** otherwise. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The **Supreme Court has clarified that the Act does not apply to Scheduled Tribes, regardless of conversion**, because they fall under the exception in Section 2(2). Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- The **authority to extend the Act rests with the Central Government (Executive branch)** via notification, not exclusively Parliament. Hence, statement 3 is not correct. Hence, option D is correct.

126.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The e-Courts Mission Mode Project was **launched in 2007 as part of the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP)** to ICT-

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enable district and subordinate courts, monitored by the Department of Justice and e-Committee of the Supreme Court. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- **Cumulative expenditure since 2011 exceeds ₹4,000 crore:** Phase II (2015-2023) alone cost ₹1,668 crore against ₹1,670 crore approved, with Phase III approved at ₹7,210 crore (2023 onwards), pushing totals well beyond this threshold. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Despite digitization covering 18,735+ courts, video conferencing, and case management via NJDG, **pendency in subordinate courts remains massive at over 45 million cases as of 2026**, showing no complete elimination. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Hence, option A is correct.

127.

Ans: A

Exp:

- India adopted universal adult franchise **immediately upon the Constitution's commencement on January 26, 1950**, without property, education, or gender qualifications that had limited earlier colonial electorates. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It is explicitly provided under **Article 326, which mandates elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies** on the basis of adult suffrage. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Article 326 itself **allows disqualifications on grounds such as:**
 - ◆ Non-residence
 - ◆ Unsoundness of mind
 - ◆ Crime
 - ◆ Corrupt or illegal practices. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Hence, option A is correct.

128.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Article 14:** Guarantees equality before law and equal protection of laws. State failure to act against mob violence, or selective enforcement, can amount to arbitrariness — violating Article 14. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Article 21:** Protects life and personal liberty. The State has a positive obligation to safeguard life. Failure to prevent lynching can amount to violation of Article 21. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- ◆ In **Tehseen S. Poonawalla v. Union of India**, the Supreme Court held that mob lynching violates **Article 14** due to arbitrariness and failure of equal protection of law.

- ◆ The Court affirmed that under **Article 21**, the State has a positive obligation to protect life, and inaction against mob violence amounts to a constitutional breach.

- ◆ It issued preventive, remedial, and punitive guidelines to ensure accountability and uphold the rule of law.

- **Article 25:** Though religious targeting may factually arise in some lynching cases, Article 25 protects religious freedom. Mob lynching per se is not automatically a violation of Article 25 unless religious practice itself is directly restricted by State action. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

- **Article 48:** A Directive Principle concerning animal husbandry and cow protection. It is non-justiciable and cannot be directly enforced in court. **Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**

Hence, option A is correct.

129.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The **India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)** was announced during the **G-20 Summit hosted by India in September 2023 (New Delhi)**. It emerged as a major connectivity initiative involving India, the Middle East, and Europe. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- IMEC aims to create a **shorter, secure, and multimodal connectivity corridor linking India to Europe via the Gulf region and Israel**. It is strategically significant because it can serve as an alternative to vulnerable maritime routes, such as disruptions affecting the Suez Canal route due to regional conflicts. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Hence, option C is correct.

130.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Global Access to Talent from India (GATI):** The GATI Foundation was launched to build structured, ethical and circular pathways for global talent mobility and overseas employment, positioning India as a global talent hub by facilitating international opportunities for Indian workers.

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It aims to enable Indian professionals to access global labour markets, create ethical recruitment frameworks, and enhance India's presence in international labour mobility ecosystems. **Hence, 1 is correctly matched with C.**

- **VAJRA Faculty Scheme:** Standing for "Visiting Advanced Joint Research," this scheme aims to facilitate the engagement of overseas scientists (including NRIs and OCIs) as adjunct or visiting faculty in Indian public-funded institutions to strengthen the domestic R&D ecosystem. **Hence, 2 is correctly matched with A.**
- **eMigrate V2.0:** This is a revamped digital portal managed by the Ministry of External Affairs to provide structured migration governance and facilitate overseas workers by ensuring safe, transparent, and legal recruitment processes. **Hence, 3 is correctly matched with B.**
Hence, option A is correct.

131.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Benjamin Netanyahu proposed the "hexagonal alliance" in February 2026 as a strategic vision for a coalition of nations around the Middle East to counter regional threats.
- It envisions partners spanning the **Mediterranean (e.g., Greece, Cyprus), West Asia (Israel, unnamed Arab states), Africa, and Asia (e.g., India)**, forming a broad regional framework. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The primary aim is to **unite against "radical axes,"** specifically the radical Shia axis (e.g., Iran-led) and emerging radical Sunni axis, through shared security and intelligence cooperation. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The proposal focuses on **deepening ties in security, economy, and technology without proposing a binding NATO-style** collective defense pact or military obligations. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
Hence, option A is correct.

132.

Ans: A

Exp:

- China is the leading refiner for **19 out of 20 important strategic minerals** analyzed by the IEA, **holding an average market share of around 70%.** **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- China does not have "nearly complete global control" over lithium mining. In fact, major mining operations are

concentrated in Australia (which accounts for nearly 50% of global lithium mine production) and Chile. China's dominance in the lithium sector is primarily in refining (processing the ore into lithium chemicals), where it controls roughly 60–70% of the market, rather than the extraction phase itself. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- While China accounted for about 50% of sintered permanent magnets twenty years ago, **its share of global production has risen to 94% today.** **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
Hence, option A is correct.

133.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The Union Health Ministry has officially announced a **nationwide HPV vaccination drive specifically targeting girls aged 14 years.** While initial considerations included the 9–14 age bracket, the current 2026 rollout focuses on girls as they turn 14 to ensure maximum preventive benefit before exposure to the virus. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Following the 2022 recommendations from the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, the Indian government has adopted a **single-dose regimen for this programme.** Scientific evidence confirmed that a single dose offers robust and durable protection comparable to multi-dose schedules in this age group. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- In India, **HPV types 16 and 18 are highly prevalent and together account for more than 80% of cervical cancer cases.** Globally, these types account for about 70%, but the burden is notably higher in the Indian context. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
Hence, option C is correct.

134.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Tariffs are indirect taxes imposed on imports.** Importers often pass on the increased cost to consumers in the form of higher prices, shifting part (or most) of the tax burden domestically. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- If tariffs are imposed on intermediate goods or raw materials, domestic producers using those inputs face **higher production costs, which can reduce competitiveness and raise final prices.** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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- **Higher tariff revenue does not necessarily reduce fiscal deficit or public debt.** The fiscal outcome depends on overall government expenditure, economic growth effects, revenue elasticity, and borrowing levels. Tariffs may even slow growth, offsetting revenue gains. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Hence, option A is correct.

135.

Ans: D

Exp:

- **Article 25** guarantees freedom of conscience and the right to freely profess, practice and propagate religion. It is expressly subject to public order, morality, health, and other Fundamental Rights. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Article 26** grants religious denominations the right to manage their own affairs in matters of religion. It is subject to public order, morality and health. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Both **Articles 25 and 26 are subject to constitutional limitations.** While Article 25 is additionally subject to other Fundamental Rights, Article 26 is limited by public order, morality and health. Courts harmonise these provisions within the broader constitutional framework. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Hence, option D is correct.

136.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Microplastics are commonly defined as **plastic particles smaller than 5 millimetres** in size. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Studies conducted in various regions of India have **detected microplastics in both locally bottled and nationally distributed brands**, indicating that contamination is not limited to a specific category of producers. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Nanoplastics**, being extremely small particles, remain largely outside routine regulatory monitoring due to technological detection limits and lack of clear regulatory definitions. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Current regulatory standards governing packaged drinking water in India **do not explicitly prescribe permissible limits for microplastics**, highlighting a regulatory gap. **Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**

Hence, option A is correct.

137.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **National Science Day** is celebrated in India every year on **February 28** to mark the day in 1928 when Indian physicist **Sir C.V. Raman announced his discovery of the Raman Effect.**
- This phenomenon describes the **change in the wavelength of light that occurs when a light beam is deflected by molecules.** The day was designated in 1986 to promote scientific temper.

Hence, option B is correct.

138.

Ans: B

Exp:

- Under **Article 19(2)** of the Constitution of India, freedom of speech and expression may be restricted on specific enumerated grounds such as:
 - ◆ Sovereignty and integrity of India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ Security of the State
 - ◆ Public order. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ Friendly relations with foreign States. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ Decency or morality
 - ◆ Contempt of court
 - ◆ Defamation
 - ◆ Incitement to an offence
- **“Protection of the government from embarrassment”** is not a constitutional ground. **Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**

Hence, option B is correct.

139.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **I2U2:** Comprising India, Israel, UAE and the U.S., it focuses on economic cooperation, food security, technology and infrastructure in West Asia. **Hence, 1 is correct.**
- **India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC):** A connectivity initiative aimed at linking India with West Asia and Europe through transport, energy and digital corridors. **Hence, 2 is correct.**
- **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad):** A strategic grouping of India, U.S., Japan and Australia, primarily focused on the Indo-Pacific region, not West Asia. **Hence, 3 is not correct.**

Hence, option B is correct.

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140.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Income mobility** refers to the **movement of households (or individuals) across income groups over time**, typically measured relative to a base-year ranking. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Static indicators such as **poverty ratio or Gini coefficient** capture inequality at a given point in time, but they do not show whether the same households remain poor or rich over time. Income mobility analysis captures these dynamic distributional shifts. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Upward mobility for some households does not automatically reduce overall income inequality.** If gains are concentrated among already better-off groups, inequality may remain unchanged or even increase. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
Hence, option A is correct.

141.

Ans: A

Exp:

1. The **National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM)** has set a **target of undertaking 1,200 exploration projects by FY2031** to strengthen domestic mineral security. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
2. **Artificial Intelligence can significantly enhance mineral prospectivity analysis** by integrating geospatial, geological, and seismic datasets, thereby improving discovery success rates and reducing exploration risks. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
3. **Mission Anveshan** is currently focused on **hydrocarbon exploration using seismic AI tools**, not exclusively on rare earth mineral discovery. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Hence, option A is correct.

142.

Ans: A

Exp:

- A **Public Interest Litigation (PIL)** can be filed directly in the **Supreme Court under Article 32** for the enforcement of Fundamental Rights. Article 32 itself is a Fundamental Right. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- High Courts have **wider writ jurisdiction under Article 226**, as they can issue writs not only for enforcement of

Fundamental Rights but also **“for any other purpose”**, including legal rights. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- If the Supreme Court declines to entertain a PIL (for example, on grounds of appropriate forum), **High Courts are not barred from hearing the matter.** In fact, the Supreme Court may direct petitioners to approach the High Court. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
Hence, option A is correct.

143.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The Abraham Accords, **signed in 2020 under U.S. mediation**, established full diplomatic ties **between Israel and the UAE, Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan**—marking a historic shift from Arab League isolation.
- **Key Features:** These bilateral agreements facilitated embassies, direct flights, trade deals, and security cooperation, bypassing the Palestinian issue that had conditioned prior Arab-Israeli normalization.
Hence, option B is correct.

144.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Under **Article 124(4)** for the Supreme Court and **Article 218** for High Courts, a judge can only be removed after an address is passed by both Houses of Parliament in the same session. This address must be supported by a special majority, defined as a majority of the **total membership of each House and a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting.** **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Constitution specifies only two grounds for the removal of a judge: **“proved misbehaviour” or “incapacity”**. These charges must be investigated and established by a three-member inquiry committee before Parliament votes on the motion. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **President cannot remove a judge solely on the advice of the Council of Ministers.** The President can only issue a removal order after a formal address has been presented by Parliament following the rigorous special majority process. This constitutional safeguard ensures the independence of the judiciary from executive interference. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
Hence, option A is correct.



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