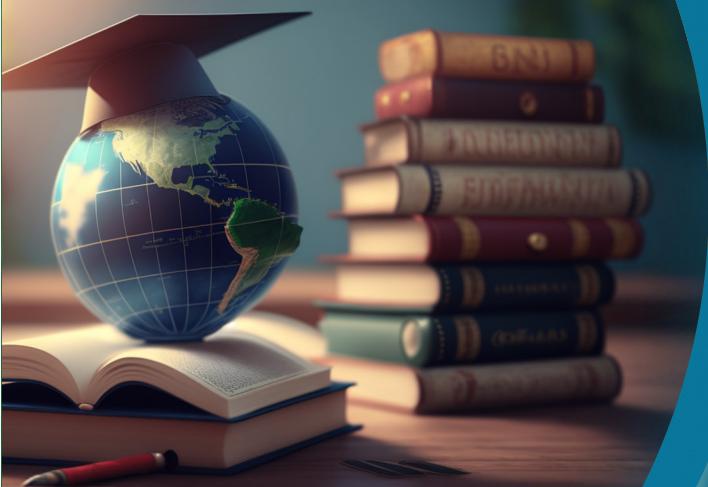




Monthly Editorial Quiz

CONSOLIDATION

January
2025



C-171/2, Block-A, Sector-15, Noida	641, Mukherjee Nagar, Opp. Signature View Apartment, New Delhi	21, Pusa Road, Karol Bagh New Delhi	Tashkent Marg, Civil Lines, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh	Tonk Road, Vasundhra Colony, Jaipur, Rajasthan	Burlington Arcade Mall, Burlington Chaura, Vidhan Sabha Marg, Lucknow	12, Main AB Road, Bhawar Kuan, Indore, Madhya Pradesh	Crystal Heights, Circular Road, Lalpur Chowk, Ranchi, Jharkhand	Jindal House, SP Verma Rd, Patna
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Practice Questions

1. With reference to mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA), consider the following statements:

1. Mitochondrial DNA is inherited only through the maternal line.
2. The mitochondrial genome encodes all proteins required for ATP production.
3. Mitochondria originated from a free-living bacterium through endosymbiosis.

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

2. In the context of the Election Commission of India's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, the term "unmapped voters" refers to voters:

- (a) Whose biometric details are not available in Aadhaar databases
- (b) Whose names or parents' names are not mapped with earlier electoral roll records
- (c) Who have migrated from one State to another
- (d) Who have not exercised their franchise in previous elections

3. With reference to India's human spaceflight programme, consider the following statements:

1. Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla became the first Indian to display the Tricolour aboard the International Space Station (ISS).
2. The Gaganyaan programme aims to send Indian astronauts to the Moon by 2027.
3. Four Indian Air Force test pilots are undergoing training under the Gaganyaan programme.

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

4. With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP), consider the following statements:

1. It aims to provide affordable generic medicines to the public.
2. Over 16,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras were operational by June 2025.
3. The scheme includes medicines, surgical items and medical devices.

5. 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

5. With reference to Section 168 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, consider the following statements:

1. It empowers Motor Accident Claims Tribunals to award compensation that appears to be "just".
2. It mandates a fixed compensation amount for every road accident fatality.
3. It allows judicial discretion in determining compensation.

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

6. The Supreme Court's observations in Samiullah vs State of Bihar (2025), describing the property transaction process as "traumatic," most directly relate to which constitutional right?

(a) Right to Equality (Article 14)
 (b) Right to Life (Article 21)
 (c) Right to Property (Article 300A)
 (d) Freedom of Trade (Article 19(1)(g))

7. With reference to the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, consider the following statements:

1. It mandates certification of identity by the District Magistrate.
2. Access to healthcare services can be denied until such certification is obtained.
3. The Act explicitly adopts a self-identification model without administrative verification.

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

8. With reference to mob violence against migrants within India, consider the following statements:

1. Public order is primarily a State subject under the Constitution.
2. Migrant workers are entitled to the same fundamental rights as permanent residents of a State.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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9. With reference to Shamilat deh, consider the following statements:

1. It refers to village common land governed by gram panchayats.
2. It has historically functioned as a livelihood buffer for landless and marginalised groups.
3. It is constitutionally classified as private property under Article 300A.

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

10. Which of the following technologies are correctly associated with climate-resilient agriculture?

1. Biofertilizers and biopesticides
2. Genome-edited crops tolerant to abiotic stress
3. AI-driven, location-specific farm advisories
4. Heavy reliance on chemical fertilisers to boost yields

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

11. With reference to India's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) framework, consider the following statements:

1. Projects linked to national security may be exempted from public consultation.
2. Ex post facto environmental clearances are fully prohibited under Indian law.
3. The scope of "strategic considerations" is clearly defined in statute.

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

12. Consider the following statements regarding gig and platform workers in India:

1. Gig and platform workers are formally defined under the new labour codes.
2. Aggregators are required to contribute 1-2% of their turnover to a social security fund for gig workers.
3. Gig workers are automatically entitled to minimum wages as per the Code on Wages 2019.

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

13. A weakening rupee negatively affects industrial growth primarily because:

- (a) It reduces export competitiveness
- (b) It increases the cost of imports in an import-dependent economy
- (c) It lowers government tax revenues
- (d) It raises domestic savings

14. With reference to the United States' National Security Strategy (NSS) 2025, consider the following statements:

1. It identifies Latin America and the Caribbean as a strategic priority region.
2. It seeks to revive the principles of the Monroe Doctrine.
3. It calls for expanding NATO's role in the Western Hemisphere.

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

15. With reference to India's trade agreements, consider the following statements:

1. India has concluded economic partnership agreements with all RCEP members except China.
2. India is a member of the RCEP.
3. The India–New Zealand FTA strengthens India's position in global value chains.

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

16. With reference to "honour killings" in India, consider the following constitutional provisions:

1. Article 14 – Equality before law and equal protection of laws
2. Article 19 – Protection of certain freedoms of individuals
3. Article 21 – Protection of life and personal liberty
4. Article 25 – Freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion

Which of the above provisions are most directly violated in cases of honour killings?

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

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17. Under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, the term “public servant” is:

- Defined independently under the Act
- Borrowed from the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988
- Drawn from the definitions provided in the IPC and other statutes referred to by the Act
- Given an expansive judicial interpretation to include elected representatives

18. Consider the following statements regarding the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) framework:

- It prescribes limits on fiscal deficit as a percentage of GDP/GSDP.
- A declining fiscal deficit trajectory is considered fiscally prudent.
- It completely prohibits States from borrowing for capital expenditure.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

19. Which of the following ratios is most directly affected by a downward revision in nominal GDP, even if absolute fiscal numbers remain unchanged?

- Tax-to-GDP ratio
- Revenue deficit
- Primary deficit
- Fiscal deficit as a percentage of GDP

20. With reference to the Nord Stream gas pipelines, the pipelines primarily facilitate the transportation of natural gas from:

- Russia to Poland via Ukraine
- Russia to Germany through the Baltic Sea
- Norway to France through the North Sea
- Azerbaijan to Europe via the Black Sea

21. With reference to the 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30) to the UNFCCC, consider the following statements:

- COP30 was hosted by Brazil at Belem in November 2025.
- Waste management was highlighted primarily for reducing carbon dioxide emissions.
- A global initiative titled “No Organic Waste (NOW)” was launched.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

22. With reference to ODF Plus under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen), consider the following statements:

- It focuses exclusively on construction of toilets in rural areas.
- It emphasises solid and liquid waste management and safe sanitation service chains.
- It aims to ensure sustainability of sanitation outcomes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

23. The Aravalli range plays a crucial environmental role because it:

- Regulates the climate of northwestern India
- Acts as a groundwater recharge zone
- Prevents the eastward spread of sand and hot winds from the Thar Desert
- Serves as a biodiversity corridor

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

24. Consider the following statements regarding Time-of-Day (ToD) tariffs in India:

- India has mandated ToD tariffs and is rapidly deploying smart meters.
- Price signals alone are sufficient to shift electricity demand away from peak periods.
- Automated demand response technologies enhance the effectiveness of ToD tariffs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

25. The Monroe Doctrine was originally articulated to:

- Oppose further European colonial intervention in the Western Hemisphere
- Promote economic integration and free trade across Latin America
- Create a collective military alliance among American states
- Contain the spread of communist influence in the Americas

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26. With reference to gig workers under India's labour codes, consider the following statements:

- Gig workers are recognised as employees for wage-related protections under the Code on Wages.
- Platforms engaging gig workers are required to contribute to a Social Security Fund.
- Working conditions of gig workers are comprehensively regulated under the OSH&WC Code.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

27. The expression "China Shock 2.0", as used in contemporary economic analysis, most appropriately refers to:

- Economy-wide disruptions in global markets caused by China's dominance in high-technology manufacturing
- Economy-wide spillover effects arising from a systemic financial crisis linked to China's real estate and debt sectors
- Economy-wide fragmentation of global value chains resulting from China's inward-looking economic retrenchment
- Economy-wide demand-side shocks triggered by a sharp and sustained contraction in China's domestic consumption

28. With reference to Left Wing Extremism (LWE) in India, consider the following statements:

- Maoist-related violent incidents have reduced by nearly 90% between 2010 and 2025.
- As of October 2025, Maoist activity is largely confined to a few districts in south Bastar.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

29. The term 'No Mapping' electors, as used by the Election Commission of India, refers to:

- Overseas electors not registered under Form 6A
- Electors whose Aadhaar details could not be verified
- Electors who could not be linked to the base electoral roll
- Newly enrolled voters without photo identity cards

30. Fiscal reckoning refers to:

- A period when governments borrow heavily to fund popular programs and electoral promises
- A situation when high government liabilities and deficits lead markets to differentiate between fiscally responsible and irresponsible borrowers
- The phase of preparing and presenting the annual government budget and financial plan
- A stage when governments implement short-term cash transfers and welfare payments to manage public finances

31. Why is the hydrogen molecule (H_2) regarded as a benchmark system for testing fundamental physical theories?

- It possesses exceptionally high molecular binding energy compared to other diatomic molecules
- It uniquely displays quantum electrodynamical effects absent in other molecular systems
- It is sufficiently simple to allow first-principles theoretical calculations, yet sufficiently rich to exhibit electron correlation
- Its nuclear framework can be treated as completely stationary, eliminating non-adiabatic effects

32. The Supreme Court's use of the concept of a "hierarchy of participation" in the Delhi riots case refers to:

- Categorising accused based on age and duration of incarceration
- Grouping accused according to their alleged level of involvement in the offence
- Distinguishing between convicted persons and undertrials
- Ranking accused based on the severity of punishment prescribed

33. Which of the following exercises involve India and the United States as participants?

- Tiger Claw
- Malabar
- Garuda
- Vajra Prahar

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

34. With reference to Krāntikāri Jantana Sarkar (KJS), consider the following statements:

- It functions as a parallel administrative structure in Maoist-controlled areas.

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2. It undertakes activities such as dispute resolution, education, and resource management.

3. It operates under constitutional recognition provided by the Sixth Schedule.

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

35. Consider the following statements regarding the Tenth Schedule of the Indian Constitution:

1. It contains provisions to disqualify legislators on grounds of defection.
2. Disqualification proceedings are initiated and decided exclusively by the Governor of the State.
3. The Speaker of the House acts as the adjudicating authority for disqualification petitions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

36. Consider the following statements about India's nuclear energy programme:

1. India's nuclear programme is largely indigenous and based on thorium fuel cycle.
2. India has operationalised fast breeder reactors for uranium use.
3. NPCIL manages all existing nuclear reactors in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

37. The United Nations has declared the year 2026 as which of the following?

(a) International Year of Grasslands
(b) International Year for Rangelands and Pastoralists
(c) International Year of Indigenous Communities
(d) International Year to Combat Desertification

38. With reference to the "right to disconnect", consider the following statements:

1. It prevents employers from penalising employees for not responding outside working hours.
2. It mandates grievance redress mechanisms for violations.
3. It completely bans after-hours communication in all sectors.

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

39. Which of the following are recognised exceptions to the prohibition on the use of force under Article 2(4) of the UN Charter?

1. Self-defence
2. Authorisation by the UN Security Council
3. Unilateral humanitarian intervention
4. Law-enforcement actions in foreign territory

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

40. With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), consider the following statements:

1. It has trained and certified over one crore candidates since its launch.
2. Wage gains from vocational training in India have been uniformly high across all sectors.
3. Informal employment absorbs the majority of vocationally trained workers.

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

41. With reference to biomaterials, consider the following statements:

1. Biomaterials are derived wholly or partly from biological sources or engineered using biological processes.
2. Drop-in biomaterials are chemically different from petroleum-based materials and require new manufacturing systems.
3. Polylactic acid (PLA) is an example of a drop-out biomaterial.

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

42. With reference to the challenges facing India's healthcare system, consider the following statements:

1. Rising consumption of ultra-processed foods has contributed to an increase in non-communicable diseases.
2. Privatisation has strengthened the public healthcare system by reducing government expenditure.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

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43. With reference to Jabarkhet Nature Reserve (JNR), consider the following statements:

1. It is India's first privately owned and operated nature reserve with conservation as its primary goal.
2. It is located near Mussoorie in Uttarakhand.
3. It functions as a tiger reserve notified under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

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

44. With reference to Article 324 of the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. It vests the Election Commission of India with control over the preparation of electoral rolls.
2. It mandates the Election Commission to prioritise the exclusion of foreigners over enrolment of citizens.
3. It provides the Election Commission independence in the conduct of elections.

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

45. With reference to NATGRID, consider the following statements:

1. NATGRID was established as a statutory authority through an Act of Parliament.
2. It integrates data from multiple sources, including telecom, travel, financial, and identity databases.
3. Access to NATGRID has been extended to police units down to the rank of Superintendent of Police.

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

46. Consider the following statements regarding India's National AMR Surveillance Network (NARS-Net):

1. It was established in 2013 to track trends of AMR across India.
2. It currently includes surveillance data from all districts of India.
3. It provides AMR data to the WHO's GLASS platform.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

47. With reference to the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue (VBYLD), consider the following statements:

1. It was launched in January 2025 by reimagining the National Youth Festival.
2. It was inspired by the Prime Minister's call to bring one lakh youth without political backgrounds into public life.
3. Its first edition culminated in an interaction between youth leaders and the Prime Minister at Bharat Mandapam.

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

48. With reference to India's climate commitments made at the Paris Summit, consider the following statements:

1. India committed to reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by 33–35% from 2005 levels by 2030.
2. India pledged to achieve 40% non-fossil fuel-based power capacity by 2030.
3. India committed to achieving absolute reductions in total greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

49. With reference to Spina Bifida in India, consider the following statements:

1. India has one of the highest prevalence rates of Spina Bifida in the world.
2. More than 25,000 children are born with Spina Bifida in India every year.
3. Most children with Spina Bifida suffer from intellectual disability.

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

50. Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act sought to achieve which of the following objectives?

1. Decriminalisation of minor and technical offences
2. Rationalisation of penalties for ease of living and doing business
3. Removal of regulatory oversight in pharmaceuticals

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

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51. With reference to fiscal transfers in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Finance Commission recommends both the vertical and horizontal distribution of tax revenues.
2. Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) enhance fiscal autonomy of States.
3. Cesses and surcharges collected by the Centre are not shared with States.

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 Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs), consider the following statements:

1. The Supreme Court initially mandated a uniform 1 km ESZ around protected areas.
2. The rule was later modified due to implementation concerns raised by States.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

53. With reference to the Labour Codes and gig workers, consider the following statements:

1. The Labour Codes make social security benefits for gig workers mandatory and enforceable.
2. Gig workers are explicitly excluded from being classified as employees.
3. Registration on the e-SHRAM portal automatically guarantees pensions and healthcare.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

54. With reference to ISRO's recent missions, consider the following statements:

1. Chandrayaan-3 made India one of the few countries with demonstrated lunar soft-landing capability.
2. Aditya-L1 was placed in a halo orbit around the Sun-Earth L1 point.
3. NISAR is a joint Earth-observation mission between ISRO and NASA.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

55. With reference to the Enforcement Directorate (ED), consider the following statements:

1. The ED functions under the administrative control of the Ministry of Finance.
2. The ED investigates offences related to money laundering under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).
3. The ED has suo motu powers to initiate investigations without any predicate offence.

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

56. The term "petrodollar system" refers to:

- (a) Mandatory participation of U.S. oil companies in international crude oil trade
- (b) The practice of pricing and settling most international oil transactions in U.S. dollars
- (c) The authority of the United States over global crude oil production and supply decisions
- (d) Maintenance of dollar-denominated oil reserves by OPEC member countries

57. With reference to the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 ("Nirbhaya Act"), consider the following statements:

1. It introduced provisions to restrict character assassination of sexual assault victims during trial.
2. It strengthened presumptions in favour of victims in certain sexual offences.
3. It completely bars the media from reporting sexual offence cases.

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. The Bab el-Mandeb Strait is strategically important because it:

- (a) Connects the Mediterranean Sea with the Red Sea
- (b) Links the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean
- (c) Separates the Arabian Peninsula from South Asia
- (d) Regulates maritime access to the Persian Gulf

59. Which of the following institutions were directly created as outcomes of the Bretton Woods Conference?

1. International Monetary Fund
2. World Bank
3. World Trade Organization
4. United Nations

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Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

60. Which of the following best explains the concern associated with a sudden and sharp depreciation of the rupee ("ripping off the band-aid" approach)?

1. Potential overshooting of the exchange rate
2. Deterioration of corporate balance sheets due to lower hedging
3. Increase in inflation through adverse terms-of-trade shock
4. Immediate improvement in export competitiveness

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

61. With reference to Wildlife Conservation in India, consider the following statements:

1. It is predominantly shaped by urban elite perspectives.
2. It often conflicts with traditional livelihoods of forest-dependent communities.
3. It fully aligns with the Forest Rights Act, 2006 in practice.

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

62. With reference to the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, consider the following statements:

1. It fixes the age of consent at 18 years.
2. It follows the principle of strict liability.
3. It recognises consent of a minor as a mitigating factor.

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

63. With reference to Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) for POCSO cases, consider the following statements:

1. They were established following Supreme Court directions in 2019.
2. They are funded through the Nirbhaya Fund.

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

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

1. It is a formal military alliance with a permanent secretariat.
2. It aims to promote a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific.
3. It includes India, Australia, Japan and the United States.

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

65. With reference to the Finance Commission's criteria for tax devolution, consider the following statements:

1. Population size carries a significant weight in horizontal devolution.
2. States with lower income levels receive higher transfers.
3. Demographic performance is ignored to ensure neutrality.

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

66. With reference to the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory body functioning under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
2. It has the power to ban films permanently on grounds of public order.
3. Its certification decisions are subject to judicial review.

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

67. The Greenwald density limit, often mentioned in the context of nuclear fusion reactors, primarily relates to which of the following?

- (a) Maximum temperature achievable in a tokamak
- (b) Maximum plasma density sustainable before disruption
- (c) Minimum confinement time needed for ignition
- (d) Threshold magnetic field strength for plasma stability

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68. Under the Cinematograph Act, the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) is mandated to examine films primarily on grounds related to:

1. Integrity of the State
2. Public order
3. Economic viability of film releases
4. Decency and morality

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

69. India's past success in reducing infant and under-five mortality is attributed to:

1. Child Survival and Safe Motherhood Initiative
2. Reproductive and Child Health Programme
3. National Health Mission

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

70. With reference to Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, consider the following statements:

1. It provides a framework for voluntary cooperation among Parties in achieving their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
2. It allows the transfer of mitigation outcomes between countries, subject to robust accounting rules.
3. It establishes a mandatory global carbon tax mechanism.

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

71. With reference to global biofuels, consider the following statements:

1. Biofuels account for about 4% of the world's transport energy demand.
2. Sugarcane, cereals, and oil crops are the primary feedstocks for biofuel production globally.
3. Nearly all biofuels are used in aviation and shipping sectors.

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

72. Consider the following statements regarding 'data dumping' in the context of global data centres:

1. Data dumping refers to the indiscriminate placement of energy- and water-intensive data centres in jurisdictions where costs can be externalised.
2. Data dumping is inherently illegal under international trade law.
3. Developing countries are at risk of data dumping due to weak zoning, regulatory enforcement, and attractive incentives.

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

73. With reference to topological materials, consider the following statements:

1. They exhibit unusual electronic properties that are robust against small disturbances.
2. They are considered promising for applications in quantum computing.
3. Their identification often relies on indirect experimental signatures at nanoscopic scales.

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

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

1. The CPI measures changes in retail prices faced by consumers over time.
2. CPI is used by the Reserve Bank of India as the sole indicator for calculating GDP growth.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

75. With reference to the right to speedy trial in India, consider the following statements:

1. The right to speedy trial is a part of the right to life and personal liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution.
2. Prolonged incarceration without commencement of trial can be a valid ground for grant of bail.
3. The right to speedy trial applies only after the trial has formally begun.

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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76. With reference to critical minerals, consider the following statements:

1. Critical minerals are essential for clean energy technologies such as batteries, electric vehicles and renewable power systems.
2. India is largely dependent on imports for most critical minerals and rare earth elements.
3. China plays a dominant role in the global processing of critical minerals.

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

77. Consider the following statements regarding women's workforce participation in India:

1. Women's enrolment is now matching or slightly exceeding male enrolment in recent years.
2. Less than 40% of women with advanced qualifications participate in the labour force.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

78. Consider the following statements regarding Aravalli ranges of India:

1. Around 70% of the Aravalli range lies within Rajasthan.
2. Rajasthan hosts more than half of the wildlife sanctuaries located in the Aravalli landscape.
3. All tiger reserves in Rajasthan fall within the Aravalli range.

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

79. Consider the following statements regarding edible insects as a food source:

1. Insects have a higher proportion of edible body mass than poultry.
2. Many insect species are rich in protein and micronutrients.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

80. The "Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence" was released by:

- (a) World Economic Forum
- (b) United Nations Environment Programme
- (c) UNESCO
- (d) OECD

81. The 'Tinkathia system', associated with the Champaran Satyagraha, required peasants to:

- (a) Grow indigo on three-fifths of their land
- (b) Pay tax in kind to the planters
- (c) Cultivate indigo on three kathas out of twenty kathas of land
- (d) Sell indigo at market prices

82. With reference to source code, consider the following statements:

1. Source code represents the core set of instructions and digital assets that drive the functioning of a software system.
2. All components of Android-based smartphone source code are completely open and publicly accessible.
3. Source code secrecy is maintained only for commercial reasons.

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

83. Consider the following statements regarding India's urban policy framework:

1. Flagship urban missions like AMRUT are predominantly metro-centric.
2. Small towns receive adequate investment in sewerage and water infrastructure.
3. Fragmented schemes and temporary fixes dominate service provision in small towns.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

84. The "freedom to practise and propagate one's religion" in India is guaranteed under:

- (a) Article 14
- (b) Article 19(1)(a)
- (c) Article 25
- (d) Article 32

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85. With reference to film certification in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) is legally empowered only to classify films for viewer suitability.
2. Ambiguous terms such as “public order” and “morality” are mentioned in the Cinematograph Act, 1952.
3. The CBFC is explicitly authorised to censor films beyond classification.

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

86. Consider the following statements regarding Female Labour Force Participation Rate (FLFPR) in India:

1. The recent rise in FLFPR is largely driven by unpaid family labour.
2. MGNREGA has consistently shown a declining share of women workers over time.

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

87. With reference to the U.S.–China trade tensions and their global implications, consider the following statements:

1. High bilateral tariffs can alter global trade flows without necessarily reducing a country’s overall trade surplus.
2. Diversification of export markets can cushion an economy from country-specific trade shocks.
3. A rising trade surplus always reflects strong domestic consumption.

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

88. Consider the following statements regarding Foreign Direct Investment (FDI):

1. FDI is a key long-term channel for technology transfer.

89. Trade and FDI are mutually exclusive in their economic impact.

90. EU cumulative FDI in India has crossed \$100 billion. 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

91. The primary objective of a Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) is to:

- (a) Eliminate all forms of taxation on foreign income
- (b) Ensure that income is taxed only in the source country
- (c) Prevent the same income from being taxed in two different jurisdictions
- (d) Promote tax competition among countries

92. With reference to India’s taxation system, consider the following statements:

1. Salaried taxpayers in India largely prepay taxes through mechanisms such as Tax Deducted at Source (TDS).
2. Consumption taxes further increase the effective tax burden on salaried individuals.

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

93. With reference to Pax Silica, consider the following statements:

1. Pax Silica refers to a geopolitical order shaped by dominance in semiconductor and advanced digital technologies.
2. It denotes a formal multilateral treaty led by the United States to regulate global technology trade.
3. Control over technology supply chains is a key feature of Pax Silica.

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

94. With reference to the India’s budgetary process, consider the following statements:

1. Article 112 of the Constitution of India requires the President to lay before both Houses of Parliament an Annual Financial Statement.
2. The expenditure ‘charged’ upon the Consolidated Fund of India is not submitted to the vote of Parliament.

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3. The President has the power to modify the proposals in the Budget before they are passed by Parliament.

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

93. With reference to the concept of 'evergreening' of patents, consider the following statements:

1. Evergreening refers to obtaining successive patents on minor modifications of an existing product without significant enhancement of efficacy.
2. The Indian patent regime permits evergreening as long as incremental innovation is demonstrated.
3. Preventing evergreening is consistent with India's obligations under the TRIPS Agreement.

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

94. With reference to the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), consider the following statements:

1. It imposes a carbon price on certain imports to align them with EU climate standards.
2. It is likely to affect India's carbon-intensive manufacturing exports.

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

95. With reference to Sarvam AI, consider the following statements:

1. Sarvam AI aims to develop indigenous large language models for Indian languages.
2. It is part of India's effort to enhance data sovereignty and reduce dependence on foreign AI platforms.
3. Sarvam AI seeks to fully automate judicial decision-making in India.

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

96. Consider the following measures that India can adopt to safeguard its energy security:

1. Diversifying crude suppliers.
2. Expanding strategic petroleum reserves.
3. Fully complying with sanctions imposed by major powers.

4. Conducting calibrated diplomacy guided by national interest.

Which of the above measures are recommended for India?

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

97. With reference to coconut cultivation in India, consider the following statements:

1. Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala together account for more than 80% of India's coconut production.
2. Coconut plantations are increasingly preferred over annual crops due to lower labour requirements.
3. Coconut cultivation in India is largely confined to coastal regions.

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

98. With reference to the Supreme Court's directions on student suicides, consider the following statements:

1. The Court invoked Article 142 of the Constitution to issue binding directions.
2. A majority of the directions relate to improved data collection and tracking of suicides in higher education institutions.
3. The directions are limited only to Central government-funded institutions.

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

99. With reference to Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, consider the following statements:

1. It requires prior approval of the government before any inquiry or investigation into decisions taken by a public servant in discharge of official functions.
2. It applies only to officers of the rank of Joint Secretary and above.
3. It was challenged on the ground that it undermines independent investigation into corruption.

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

100. With reference to Piprawaha relics, consider the following statements:

1. They are associated with the corporeal remains of the historical Buddha

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2. They were discovered during Ashoka's reign
3. They were reunited after being dispersed for over a century
4. They include gems deposited along with relics in early Buddhist practices

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

101. With reference to India's food subsidy regime, consider the following statements:

1. Food subsidy is the difference between economic cost incurred by FCI and PDS recovery.
2. More than half of India's population receives free food grains under PM Garib Kalyan Yojana.
3. India's extreme poverty rate is higher than the PDS coverage.

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

102. Consider the following statements regarding NATO's collective defence principle (Article 5):

1. An attack on one NATO member is considered an attack on all members.
2. It allows a member to invoke sanctions against another member violating NATO agreements.
3. It is applicable only if the UN Security Council authorises military action.

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

103. Consider the following statements regarding gravitons:

1. Gravitons are hypothetical quantum particles of gravity.
2. Detection of gravitational waves automatically confirms the existence of gravitons.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

104. Consider the following statements regarding the Enforcement Directorate (ED):

1. The ED administers the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002.
2. Under the PMLA, ED can arrest without warrant based on "reason to believe".

3. ED must prove guilt beyond reasonable doubt before attaching property.

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

105. The term "white spaces" in India's diplomacy refers to:

- (a) Geographical regions devoid of the presence of major powers
- (b) Areas of global governance where leadership gaps exist and coordinated action is required
- (c) Multilateral platforms where India exercises predominant influence
- (d) Domains lying outside the ambit of formal diplomatic engagement

106. With reference to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), consider the following statements:

1. It involved the revision of electoral rolls across selected States and Union Territories.
2. It led to the omission of a significant number of electors from draft rolls.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

107. With reference to Orobanche aegyptiaca, consider the following statements:

1. It is a parasitic weed that attaches to the roots of host plants.
2. It primarily affects India's rice and wheat crops.
3. Damage caused by it often becomes visible only after significant yield loss.

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

108. Which of the following factors contribute to India's limited presence in global corporate R&D?

1. Public sector dominates R&D spending
2. Weak private sector participation
3. Lack of human capital and startups

Select the correct answer:

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

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109. Match the countries/regions with the recent events:

List I	List II
(a) Venezuela	1. Regime instability and sanctions threat
(b) Iran	2. Abduction of head of state
(c) Pakistan	3. Military dominance over civilian government
(d) Europe	4. Expected to take primary defence responsibility

Select the correct answer:

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

110. **Assertion (A):** Copper scarcity could slow down global decarbonisation efforts.

Reason (R): Shortages may raise EV costs and delay charging infrastructure development.

- (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 false but R is true
- (d) A is true but R is false

111. With reference to the term "Pax Silica", consider the following statements:

- 1. It symbolically links technological supply chains with peace and prosperity.
- 2. It is centred on securing supply chains for semiconductors, AI and critical minerals.
- 3. It is a formal military alliance similar to NATO.

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

112. With reference to the cost structure of space missions, consider the following statements:

- 1. Human space missions are more expensive primarily due to life-support, redundancy, and safety requirements.
- 2. Satellite missions generally involve two-way travel between Earth and orbit.
- 3. Human missions require more complex mission planning compared to uncrewed missions.

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

113. **Assertion (A):** Trump's approach of tariffs, threats to annex territory, and disregard for NATO exemplifies neo-royalism.

Reason (R): Neo-royalism allows leaders to base foreign policy on institutionalised national interest rather than personal whims.

- (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

114. Which of the following are systemic issues in urban governance in India?

- 1. Lack of public accountability in urban authorities
- 2. Corruption and abdication of responsibility
- 3. Inadequate infrastructure and planning
- 4. Over-dependence on municipal corporations

Select the correct answer:

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

115. With reference to the constitutional provisions and conventions regarding the Governor's address to the State Legislature, consider the following statements:

- 1. Article 176 of the Constitution mandates the Governor to address the Legislature at the commencement of the first session after each general election and at the commencement of the first session of each year.
- 2. As the constitutional head of the State, the Governor is free to alter the text of the address prepared by the Council of Ministers and is not bound to read it verbatim.
- 3. Even if Article 176 were repealed, the Governor would continue to have the constitutional power to address the State Legislature under Article 175.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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116. Which of the following risks are associated with private cryptocurrencies?

1. Extreme price volatility
2. Potential for fraud
3. Erosion of public wealth

Select the correct answer:

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

117. With reference to the constitutional and statutory provisions governing the removal of judges of the higher judiciary in India, consider the following statements:

1. The term "impeachment" is used in the Constitution for the removal of both the President of India and judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts.
2. A judge of the Supreme Court or a High Court can be removed from office only on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity.
3. Under the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968, a motion for the removal of a Supreme Court or High Court judge must be signed by at least 100 Members of the Lok Sabha or 50 Members of the Rajya Sabha.
4. The Speaker of the Lok Sabha or the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha is statutorily empowered to admit or disallow a removal motion, and if the motion is disallowed, the process ends there.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

118. With reference to the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, consider the following statements:

1. It allows children aged 16–18 accused of heinous offences to be tried as adults.
2. Heinous offences are defined as those carrying a minimum punishment of seven years' imprisonment or more.
3. The transfer system was introduced based on recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

119. Match the following initiatives with their correct purposes:

Initiatives	Purpose
(a) AI Kosh	1. National supercomputing capability
(b) AIRAWAT	2. Repository of datasets and AI models
(c) Bhashini	3. Language technology platform
(d) National Supercomputing Mission	4. AI compute infrastructure

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

120. With reference to the term "water bankruptcy", as mentioned in the UN report, consider the following statements:

1. It refers to a situation where water shortages and pollution become chronic rather than temporary shocks.
2. It is caused solely by over-extraction of groundwater resources.
3. Climate change has intensified its occurrence by disrupting the water cycle.

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

121. Consider the following statements regarding malaria in India:

1. India has set a national target to achieve zero indigenous cases of malaria by 2030.
2. Five states and the northeast account for nearly 80% of the malaria burden.

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

122. Consider the following statements regarding deodar forests in the Himalayan region:

1. Their root systems help stabilize slopes and prevent landslides.
2. They are located within the Bhagirathi Eco-Sensitive Zone.
3. They can be effectively translocated to other areas to preserve ecological functions.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

123. Consider the following statements regarding the BRICS grouping:

1. BRICS bloc was originally formed as BRIC in 2006 later South Africa joined in 2010.
2. BRICS members together account for nearly 40% of the global population.
3. The New Development Bank (NDB) is a financial institution established by BRICS countries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

124. Consider the following statements regarding News Broadcasting & Digital Standards Authority (NBDSA):

1. NBDSA has the authority to penalize media outlets legally.
2. The NBDSA has called out targeting of minority communities by news channels.
3. Social media platforms have eliminated the relevance of traditional TV studios.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

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

125. Consider the following statements regarding the US influence on the Indian rupee:

1. US tariffs act as an instrument of foreign policy affecting the rupee.
2. US interest rate policy under the Federal Reserve affects global investor sentiment, impacting the rupee.
3. US domestic inflation has no impact on the rupee.

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

126. Consider the following statements regarding Chabahar Port:

1. Chabahar Port provides India direct maritime access to Afghanistan and Central Asia bypassing Pakistan.
2. India signed a 10-year contract with Iran in 2024 to develop the Shahid Beheshti terminal.

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

127. With reference to women in STEM in India, consider the following statements:

1. India recorded around 40% enrolment of women in STEM fields in 2024.
2. Women constitute more than one-third of STEM faculty positions in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

128. With reference to the Northern Sea Route (NSR), consider the following statements:

1. It can significantly reduce shipping time between East Asia and Western Europe.
2. It enhances trade and market integration between China and the Western Hemisphere.
3. China has conducted trial commercial voyages through the Northern Sea Route.
4. The route is being promoted as a shorter and potentially lower-emission shipping corridor.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

129. With reference to India's current school network, consider the following statements (UDISE 2024–25):

1. Over one lakh government schools function with only a single teacher.
2. Multi-grade teaching is largely a choice rather than a compulsion in India.
3. Nearly half of government secondary schools have fewer than 100 students.

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

130. With reference to women's labour participation in India, consider the following statements:

1. Women contribute only about 18% to India's GDP primarily due to unpaid and uncounted labour.
2. About 40% of women are in the labour force, largely in unpaid agricultural work.
3. Most women outside the labour force cite lack of education as the primary reason.

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

- India formally withdrew from RCEP in 2019 due to domestic political and sectoral concerns.
- India has entered a network of incremental trade agreements with countries like New Zealand and EFTA.
- India's trade deficit with ASEAN has been declining steadily since 2019.

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

132. With reference to India's nuclear energy strategy, consider the following statements:

- Nuclear fission produces negligible carbon emissions and is the second-largest low-carbon energy source globally after hydropower.
- India's domestic uranium resources are abundant and of high grade, reducing dependence on imports.
- Thorium has the potential to be an alternative fuel for nuclear power in India but has remained largely untapped globally.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

133. The idea of "constitutional nationalism" most closely refers to:

- Placing national unity above individual rights and constitutional safeguards
- Treating the Constitution and its values as the primary basis of India's nationhood
- Anchoring nationalism mainly in cultural and civilisational pride
- Measuring national progress chiefly through economic growth and strategic strength

134. **Assertion (A):** Ageing States may face fiscal stress despite successful population stabilisation.

Reason (R): These States face higher pension liabilities along with relatively lower fiscal transfers and political representation.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
- Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A
- A is true but R is false
- A is false but R is true

135. Consider the following statements regarding the VB-G RAM G Act:

- It guarantees 125 days of employment uniformly across all rural areas.
- Its employment guarantee can be switched off through Central notification.
- States could have extended MGNREGA to 125 days without a new Act.

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

136. Which of the following approaches is advocated for effective climate communication?

- Localising information to specific contexts and languages
- Co-creating messages with frontline actors and communities
- Relying primarily on technical indices and dashboards
- Institutionalising communication capacity within governments

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

137. The UN Convention against Cybercrime is distinct from the Budapest Convention because:

- It is open to accession by all UN member states
- It was negotiated with inputs from civil society and the private sector
- It restricts accession only to invited countries
- It was conceived through a Russian-sponsored UN resolution

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

138. **Assertion (A):** A broad-based private capital expenditure revival is unlikely without a sustained recovery in consumption and exports.

Reason (R): In an environment of global excess capacity and policy uncertainty, firms require strong demand visibility to invest.

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Select the correct answer using the code below:

- (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

139. The “Mundell–Fleming Trilemma,” often discussed in the context of India’s strategic choices, suggests that a country cannot simultaneously maintain which of the following?

1. Free capital movement
2. A fixed exchange rate
3. An independent monetary policy
4. A balanced trade budget

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

140. The “IndiaAI Mission” is structured around seven integrated pillars. In this context, which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

Pillar	Objective
1. IndiaAI Compute	Providing subsidized access to GPU infrastructure.
2. IndiaAI Innovation Centre	Building indigenous foundational AI models.
3. India AI Datasets Platform	Managing deep-tech startup financing and venture capital.

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

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

141. With reference to the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for high-efficiency solar photovoltaics (PV), consider the following statements:

1. The scheme aims to achieve India’s target of 500 GW non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030.
2. Under the PLI framework, government payouts are linked to the net worth of the company rather than specific sales targets.
3. As of mid-2025, the upstream segments (Polysilicon and Wafers) have shown significantly higher progress compared to downstream module assembly.

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

142. Consider the following statements regarding devaluation of the rupee:

1. Rising import content of exports reduces gains from devaluation.
2. Devaluation lowers inflation when imports are largely essential goods.
3. High tariffs in export markets can blunt export competitiveness gains.

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

143. With reference to fuel efficiency regulations in India, consider the following statements:

1. Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (CAFE) norms prescribe fleet-wide CO₂ emission targets for passenger cars in India.
2. Light Commercial Vehicles (LCVs) remained outside the ambit of mandatory fuel efficiency or fuel consumption standards until recently.
3. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) has proposed fuel consumption standards for LCVs to be implemented from 2027 onwards.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

144. With reference to the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM), consider the following statements:

1. The Cabinet has approved a total outlay of ₹34,300 crore for the National Critical Mineral Mission.
2. A majority share of the Mission’s total funding is provided through direct budgetary support from the Government of India.
3. Public Sector Undertakings are envisaged as strategic investors for financing a substantial portion of the Mission.

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

145. With reference to the quota-based tariff system under the India–EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA), consider the following statements:

1. Under a quota-based tariff system, concessional or reduced tariffs are allowed only up to a specified quantity of imports, beyond which higher tariffs apply.
2. The system helps protect India’s low-cost automobile manufacturers from a sudden surge of imports.

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3. It provides market access opportunities for European luxury carmakers within a defined quota.

How many statements given above is/are correct?

(a) One only (b) Two only
(c) All three (d) None

146. With reference to the challenges facing India's tourism sector, consider the following statements:

1. Branding and promotional campaigns by themselves are insufficient to overcome negative perceptions related to safety, sanitation and ease of travel.
2. Deficiencies in last-mile connectivity adversely affect the overall tourist experience.
3. In several segments, India's mid-range and luxury tourism offerings are priced higher than those of many Southeast Asian countries.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

147. Which of the following philosophical traditions emphasise(s) the non-separation of self and the world?

1. Advaita Vedanta
2. Buddhism
3. Sufism (Wahdat al-Wujud)

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

148. With reference to India's urbanisation policies, consider the following programmes:

1. Megacities Scheme
2. Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM)
3. Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)
4. Smart Cities Mission

Which of the above were launched after economic liberalisation in India?

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

149. With reference to the evolution of the internet, consider the following statements:

1. Each successive phase of the internet has reduced the volume of available information but increased its reliability.
2. The rise of AI-generated content has contributed to concerns about information quality on the internet.

3. Wikipedia represents a continuation of the early internet ethos of collaborative knowledge creation.

How many statements given above is/are correct?

(a) One only (b) Two only
(c) All three (d) None

150. With reference to India's economic performance in 2025–26, consider the following statements:

1. Inflation has declined to its lowest level in decades.
2. Gross and net non-performing assets (NPAs) of banks are at multi-decade highs.
3. Female labour force participation has shown an increasing trend.

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

151. With reference to the "divisible pool" of taxes in India, consider the following statements:

1. Taxes shared between the Union and States are recommended by the Finance Commission.
2. Cesses and surcharges levied by the Union are excluded from the divisible pool.
3. The share of States in the divisible pool is constitutionally fixed at 41%.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

152. With reference to the recent amendments to the New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019, consider the following statements:

1. Mandatory test licences for non-commercial manufacture of drugs have been replaced with a prior-intimation mechanism.
2. Prior intimation is submitted to the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation through SUGAM portal.
3. Drugs manufactured after prior intimation can be marketed without further approvals.

How many statements given above is/are correct?

(a) One only (b) Two only
(c) All three (d) None

153. With reference to India's energy engagement with countries of the Arab League, consider the following statements:

1. Countries of the Arab League together account for around three-fifths of India's crude oil imports.
2. Qatar is the largest supplier of crude oil to India.

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Practice Explanation

1.

Answer: (b)**Explanation:**

- Mitochondrial DNA is inherited almost exclusively through the maternal line, as mitochondria in the sperm are typically not transmitted to the offspring. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The mitochondrial genome encodes only a small number of proteins involved in ATP production; most mitochondrial proteins are encoded by nuclear DNA. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- Mitochondria are believed to have originated from a free-living bacterium through the process of endosymbiosis. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

2.

Answer: (b)**Explanation:**

- In the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR), "unmapped voters" are voters whose names are on the current electoral roll but **cannot be linked by EC software to older rolls**, usually the **2002 intensive revision rolls**. (such as in West Bengal).
- They must prove eligibility through documentation or hearings, as they lack a direct match for their name, parent's name, or relative's details in prior records.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

3.

Answer: (b)**Explanation:**

- In **June 2025**, Group Captain **Shubhanshu Shukla** successfully flew to the International Space Station (ISS) as the Mission Pilot for the **Axiom-4 (Ax-4)** mission. During this mission, he became the first Indian to display the Tricolour aboard the ISS while interacting with the Prime Minister. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Gaganyaan programme aims to send Indian astronauts to Low Earth Orbit, not to the Moon. A human lunar landing is targeted separately for 2040. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Four test pilots from the Indian Air Force (Group Captains Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, Ajit Krishnan, Angad Pratap, and Shubhanshu Shukla) were selected and trained for the Gaganyaan missions. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

4.

Answer: (d)**Explanation:**

- The Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) aims to make quality generic medicines affordable and accessible to the public. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- As of June 2025, over 16,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras were operational across the country. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The scheme's product basket includes medicines, surgical items, medical consumables, and medical devices. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

5.

Answer: (b)**Explanation:**

- **Section 168 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988** authorises the **Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT)** to determine and award compensation that appears to be "just" in cases of death or bodily injury arising out of motor vehicle accidents. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The provision **does not prescribe any fixed or uniform compensation amount** for all road accident fatalities. Unlike certain other transport laws (such as railways or aviation), compensation under the **Motor Vehicles Act depends on judicial assessment**. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- **Section 168 provides judicial discretion to the tribunal.** Courts apply principles evolved through case law (such as the multiplier method), but the final determination rests on what the tribunal considers fair and reasonable in the facts of each case. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

6.

Answer: (c)**Explanation:**

- In **Samiullah vs State of Bihar**, the Supreme Court examined rules that made proof of mutation a precondition for registration of property transfer deeds. By striking down these rules, the Court protected an individual's right to acquire, hold and transfer property, which is constitutionally guaranteed under Article 300A.
 - ◆ Article 300A states that no person shall be deprived of their property save by authority of law.

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- Making registration dependent on mutation — which was practically impossible to obtain in Bihar due to incomplete surveys — amounted to an unreasonable and indirect restriction on property transfer.
- Hence, option C is correct.

7.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- The Act mandates that a **transgender person must apply to the District Magistrate for a Certificate of Identity**, which officially recognizes their self-perceived gender identity. This certificate is necessary for updating official documents and accessing various welfare schemes. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Act prohibits discrimination in healthcare services. **Access to general healthcare services cannot be denied** on the basis of not having the certificate. While the **certificate may be needed for certain specific, gender-affirmative medical procedures or particular government welfare schemes**, it is not a general precondition for all healthcare access. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- While the **Act and its Rules allow for self-identification, this is not without administrative verification**. The process involves an application to the District Magistrate along with an affidavit, and potentially other documents like a psychologist's report or a residence proof, which involves administrative oversight and verification. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- Hence, option A is correct.

8.

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- Public order is listed under the **State List (List II, Seventh Schedule) of the Constitution**. Therefore, maintaining **law and order**, including preventing mob violence, is primarily the responsibility of the State governments. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Migrant workers are Indian citizens, and the Constitution guarantees them the same Fundamental Rights as any other citizen, including:
 - ◆ **Article 14** (Equality before law)
 - ◆ **Article 19** freedoms (subject to reasonable restrictions)
 - ◆ **Article 21** (Right to life and personal liberty)
- A State cannot discriminate against migrants from other States in terms of basic rights and protection. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Hence, option C is correct.

9.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Shamiat deh refers to **village common lands**, which are typically vested in and managed by gram panchayats under State laws such as the **Haryana Village Common Lands (Regulation) Act, 1961**. Shamiat deh primarily present in **Punjab, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, and Himachal Pradesh**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- Historically, shamiat deh has functioned as a livelihood buffer for landless and marginalised communities, providing access to grazing, fuel, minor forest produce, and sometimes cultivable land. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- **Article 300A protects the right to property**, but shamiat deh is not constitutionally classified as private property. It is a form of community/common property, governed by statute, not private ownership. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- Hence, option A is correct.

10.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Biofertilizers and biopesticides** are core components of climate-resilient agriculture (CRA) as they improve soil health and reduce chemical dependence. **Biofertilizers** (like Rhizobium, Azotobacter) fix atmospheric nitrogen or solubilise soil nutrients, making them available to plants sustainably. **Biopesticides** (like Bacillus thuringiensis) control pests naturally, reducing environmental pollution and chemical residues. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Genome-edited crops tolerant to abiotic stress** (drought, heat, salinity, etc.) are a key CRA strategy. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **AI-driven, location-specific farm advisories** help farmers adapt practices to local climate and soil conditions. **AI and machine learning** analyse vast amounts of data to provide tailored recommendations on optimal planting times, irrigation scheduling, and nutrient application, thus enhancing the farm's overall resilience to climate variability. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Heavy reliance on chemical fertilisers runs contrary to CRA**, which aims to reduce such dependence. **Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**
- Hence, option A is correct.

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11.

Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

- Under the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) framework, the government can exempt projects related to **“strategic considerations” (including defence)** from public consultation. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- While the Supreme Court had initially held ex post facto clearances as alien to environmental law, in 2025, it reopened the possibility for post-facto regularisation in certain cases, so they are not fully prohibited. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- The term **“strategic considerations”** is frequently used in the EIA framework to grant exemptions, **but it lacks a precise, exhaustive statutory definition.** The determination of what constitutes a “strategic” project remains largely at the discretion of the **Central Government.** This lack of clarity is a point of frequent debate, as it allows the government to categorize various infrastructure projects under this label to bypass environmental scrutiny without a specific legal checklist. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

12.

Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

- Gig and platform workers are **formally defined under the new labour codes**, specifically in the **Code on Social Security, 2020**, as workers outside traditional employer-employee relationships. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Aggregators are **required to contribute 1-2% of their annual turnover (capped at 5% of amounts paid to workers)** to a social security fund for gig and platform workers. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Gig workers are **not automatically entitled to minimum wages under the Code on Wages, 2019**; the code applies to employees with employer control, typically excluding independent gig workers. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

13.

Answer: (b)**Explanation:**

- A weakening rupee makes imports **more expensive**. Since Indian industry is heavily dependent on imported inputs such as crude oil, coal, electronics, machinery, and intermediate goods, higher import costs raise production expenses, squeeze margins, and dampen industrial growth.

- A **weakening rupee** actually **improves export competitiveness** because Indian goods become cheaper in foreign currency terms, potentially boosting exports rather than hurting them.
- There is **no direct or immediate relationship** between a weakening rupee and a fall in tax revenues. In some cases, customs duties (in rupee terms) may even rise as import values increase.
- Currency depreciation does not automatically raise domestic savings. Savings depend on **income levels, inflation, and interest rates**, not directly on exchange rate movements.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

14.

Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

- The United States' National Security Strategy (NSS) 2025 explicitly identifies **Latin America and the Caribbean** as a strategic priority. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It revives the **Monroe Doctrine**, asserting U.S. primacy in the Western Hemisphere and denying influence of outside powers (notably China). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ **Monroe Doctrine:** This 19th-century policy (reasserted in 2025) warns external powers (China/Russia) against intervening in the Western Hemisphere.
- NATO is a North Atlantic treaty; the US uses different frameworks (like the Rio Treaty) for the Americas. The 2025 NSS actually emphasizes “burden-sharing” in Europe rather than expanding NATO elsewhere. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

15.

Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

- With the India–New Zealand FTA, India has now concluded economic partnership agreements with all RCEP members except China. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- India is **not a member of RCEP**; it withdrew from the negotiations in 2019 to protect its dairy and MSME sectors from Chinese “dumping.”. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The FTA is expected to strengthen India’s integration into **global value chains**, especially through services, manufacturing inputs, and mobility provisions. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership)

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- **World's largest trade agreement, covering 15 countries:** ASEAN + China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand; accounts for ~30% of global GDP and population.
- **Aims** to reduce tariffs, harmonise rules of origin, and facilitate trade in goods, services, investment, and e-commerce.
- **India withdrew in 2019** citing concerns over trade deficits, impact on domestic manufacturing and agriculture, and inadequate safeguards.
- **Strengthens Asia-Pacific supply chains**, with China emerging as a central manufacturing and trade hub.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

16.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Article 14 (Right to Equality)** – Honour killings discriminate on the basis of caste, community, gender, and choice of partner, violating equality before law. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Article 19 (Right to Freedom)** – They infringe freedoms of expression, movement, association, and the freedom to choose a life partner. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Article 21 (Right to Life and Personal Liberty)** – Honour killings directly violate the right to life, dignity, and autonomy. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Article 25 (Freedom of Religion)** is not directly violated, as honour killings are social crimes rooted in caste and patriarchal norms, not protected religious practices. **Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

17.

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- The **POCSO Act, 2012** does not independently define the term "public servant." Under Section 2(2) of the POCSO Act, expressions not defined in the Act shall have the meanings assigned to them in the **IPC, CrPC, Juvenile Justice Act, or the Information Technology Act**.
- Among these, the **IPC (Section 21)** defines "public servant." Hence, the term is derived from the IPC and other specified laws, not from the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, unless expressly provided.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

18.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- The FRBM framework prescribes limits on **fiscal deficit as a percentage of GDP (for the Centre) and GSDP (for States)** to ensure fiscal discipline. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- A declining fiscal deficit trajectory is considered fiscally prudent, as it signals consolidation and sustainability of public finances. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The FRBM framework does not prohibit States from borrowing for capital expenditure. It allows borrowing within prescribed limits, and in fact, encourages productive capital spending. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

19.

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- When **nominal GDP is revised downward**, the denominator shrinks while the absolute fiscal deficit (numerator) remains unchanged, causing the **fiscal deficit–GDP ratio to increase automatically**.

$$\text{Fiscal Deficit–GDP Ratio} = \left(\frac{\text{Fiscal Deficit}}{\text{Gross Domestic Product (GDP)}} \right) \times 100$$

- The **tax-to-GDP ratio** may change, but it depends on tax collections as well.
 - ◆ The **Tax–GDP ratio** is the **percentage of a country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) collected as tax revenue by the government**, reflecting the **taxation capacity, compliance level, and fiscal strength** of the economy.
- **Revenue deficit and primary deficit** are absolute numbers, not ratios linked directly to GDP.
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

20.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- The **Nord Stream pipelines (Nord Stream 1 and Nord Stream 2)** are **subsea export gas pipelines running under the Baltic Sea**, which were built to transport natural gas directly from Western Russia (specifically from areas near St. Petersburg and the Yamal Peninsula) to Lubmin, in northeastern Germany.
- The primary purpose was to provide a direct and reliable supply of Russian gas to European markets, bypassing traditional transit countries such as Ukraine and Poland.

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- Hence, option B is correct.

21.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- COP30 was hosted by Brazil at Belém in November 2025. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Waste management was highlighted mainly to reduce methane emissions, not carbon dioxide. Methane from organic waste is a far more potent greenhouse gas in the short term. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- The "No Organic Waste (NOW)" global initiative was launched to cut methane emissions from organic waste. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)
- An international environmental treaty (1992, Rio Earth Summit) aimed at stabilising greenhouse gas concentrations to prevent dangerous climate change.
- Provides the framework for global climate negotiations, including COP meetings, the Kyoto Protocol, and the Paris Agreement.
- Operates on the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC).
- Seeks to balance climate action with sustainable development, especially for developing countries.
- Hence, option A is correct.

22.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- ODF Plus goes beyond toilet construction; toilets are only the starting point. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
 - ◆ It emphasizes toilet usage, cleanliness of villages, and scientific waste management beyond just toilet construction.
 - ◆ Implemented under Swachh Bharat Mission—Gramin (Phase II) to improve public health and environmental sanitation.
- ODF Plus emphasises solid and liquid waste management, behavioural change, and safe sanitation service chains. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The objective of ODF Plus is to sustain sanitation outcomes achieved under the ODF movement. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- Hence, option A is correct.

23.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- The Aravalli range performs multiple critical ecological functions like:
 - ◆ Regulates regional climate by influencing rainfall patterns and moderating temperatures in northwestern India.
 - ◆ Acts as a groundwater recharge zone, supporting aquifers in Haryana, Rajasthan, and Delhi-NCR.
 - ◆ Prevents the eastward spread of sand and hot winds from the Thar Desert, functioning as a natural barrier and the "lungs" of the NCR.
 - ◆ Serves as a biodiversity corridor, historically supporting forests, wildlife habitats, and ecological connectivity.
- Hence, all four statements are correct.
- Hence, option B is correct.

24.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- India has mandated Time-of-Day (ToD) tariffs and is rapidly rolling out smart meters, forming the backbone of a modern, flexible power system. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Price signals alone are not sufficient to shift demand, as most households and small consumers lack the time, information, and ability to manually adjust usage in real time. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

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- **Automated demand response technologies** (such as smart thermostats, EV smart charging, and appliance automation) significantly improve the effectiveness of ToD tariffs. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Time-of-Day (ToD) tariffs** are a pricing mechanism where **electricity rates fluctuate based on the time of consumption.**
 - ◆ In India, this system is a **central pillar of power sector reforms**, aiming to shift demand away from peak evening hours to periods when solar energy is abundant.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

25.

Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

- The Monroe Doctrine opposes European colonial intervention in the **Western Hemisphere**.
- **Original Purpose:** President James Monroe articulated the **doctrine in 1823** to declare the Americas closed to future European colonization and intervention, viewing any such attempts as threats to U.S. security.
- **Key Principles:** It established separate spheres: non-interference by the U.S. in Europe, recognition of existing colonies, prohibition of new colonization, and opposition to European control of independent American nations.
- While the doctrine is 203 years old, it has seen a resurgence in geopolitical discourse. In 2025, U.S. foreign policy debates frequently invoked "**Neo-Monroeism**" to counter growing **Chinese and Russian influence in Latin American** infrastructure and lithium mining.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

26.

Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

- The Code on Wages applies across sectors but **does not recognise gig workers as "employees" for wage-related protections**. Hence, minimum wages and wage conditions are not applicable to gig workers under this Code. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Platforms (aggregators) engaging gig workers are **required to make contributions to a Social Security Fund under the Code on Social Security, 2020**, as operationalised through the draft Rules. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **The OSH&WC Code is built on a traditional employer-employee compliance framework** and does not comprehensively regulate working conditions of gig

workers, especially those arising from app-mediated, algorithm-driven work. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

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

27.

Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

- "**China Shock 2.0**" refers to global trade and industrial disruptions caused by **China's growing dominance in high-technology manufacturing and export-led overcapacity** (e.g., EVs, batteries, solar panels, industrial machinery). This mirrors the original China Shock but in advanced manufacturing sectors.
- The original "**China Shock**" referred to the deflationary impact on global manufacturing labor markets following China's entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2001.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

28.

Answer: (c)**Explanation:**

- Government data indicate that Maoist-related violent incidents have declined by nearly 90% between 2010 and 2025, reflecting a significant reduction in Left Wing Extremism. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- As of October 2025, Maoist activity is largely confined to a few districts in south Bastar, with Bijapur, Narayanpur and Sukma categorised as the most affected. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) of India has set a deadline of March 31, 2026 to eliminate Left Wing Extremism (LWE), including Maoist violence, from the country.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

29.

Answer: (c)**Explanation:**

- The **Election Commission of India** undertakes extensive efforts to **clean up and digitize electoral rolls**. During this process, a "**base roll**" (**a verified reference list from a previous year, e.g., the 2002 roll**) is used.
- '**No Mapping**' electors are those whose names exist in the draft electoral roll but could not be linked to the base roll (in this case, the 2002 SIR roll used as the reference list).
- Such electors are placed in a provisional category and are required to undergo verification through claims, objections, or personal hearings before final inclusion.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

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30.

Answer: (b)**Explanation:**

- **Fiscal reckoning** occurs when accumulated deficits, rising debt, or unsustainable liabilities force financial markets, credit rating agencies, and investors to scrutinize government finances.
- It may compel the government to cut expenditures, raise revenues, or adopt corrective fiscal measures.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

31.

Answer: (c)**Explanation:**

- The hydrogen molecule (H_2) is regarded as a benchmark system because it is the **simplest stable molecule**, allowing **first-principles (ab initio) theoretical calculations**, while still exhibiting essential physical phenomena such as **electron correlation, nuclear motion, relativistic effects, and quantum electrodynamical corrections**.
- This balance makes it ideal for testing the accuracy and completeness of fundamental physical theories.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

32.

Answer: (b)**Explanation:**

- The Supreme Court used the concept of a "**hierarchy of participation**" to classify the accused based on their alleged roles and degree of involvement in the Delhi riots.
 - ◆ This categorisation formed the basis for **granting bail to some accused while denying it to others under the UAPA framework**.
- **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967:**
 - ◆ **Purpose:** Designed to **prevent unlawful activities** and associations that threaten India's **sovereignty and integrity**; it empowers the government to declare organizations as terrorist or unlawful and take action against them.
 - ◆ **Terrorism Provisions:** Includes measures to designate individuals and groups as terrorists, allowing the government to freeze their assets, monitor activities, and prosecute under stringent conditions.
 - ◆ **Legal Powers:** Grants authorities powers for **preventive detention**, extended custody, and the filing of cases without prior sanction; bail is heavily restricted, and the law emphasizes *prima facie* evidence for continued detention.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

33.

Answer: (b)**Explanation:**

- **Tiger Claw:** Tiger Claw is a joint air exercise between the United States Air Force and Singapore Air Force, focusing on fighter combat training. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Malabar:** Malabar is a multilateral naval exercise involving India, the United States, Japan, and Australia, enhancing maritime interoperability in the Indo-Pacific. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- **Garuda:** Garuda is a bilateral air exercise between India and France, involving their air forces for tactical maneuvers and simulations. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Vajra Prahar:** Vajra Prahar is a bilateral special forces exercise between the Indian Army and US Army Special Forces, focusing on counter-terrorism and joint operations. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

34.

Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

- **Krāntikāri Jantana Sarkar (KJS)** functions as a parallel administrative or "people's government" set up by Maoists in areas under their influence. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- KJS undertakes **quasi-governance functions** such as dispute resolution (people's courts), running revolutionary schools, regulating forest produce collection, land-related activities, and local resource management to consolidate support among tribal populations. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- KJS has **no constitutional recognition**. The Sixth Schedule provides autonomy to tribal areas through **Autonomous District Councils**(Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram), not to insurgent or parallel governance structures. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

35.

Answer: (b)**Explanation:**

- The Tenth Schedule ("Anti-Defection Law") was added by the **52nd Amendment Act, 1985**, to disqualify MPs/ MLAs who voluntarily give up party membership or defy party directives in a vote. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Governor has no role in disqualification proceedings**. The process is initiated and adjudicated by the Speaker of the House (for Legislative Assembly) or Chairman (for Legislative Council). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

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- The Speaker/Chairman decides whether a member is liable for disqualification under the Tenth Schedule. However, their decisions are subject to judicial review. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

36.

Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

- India's nuclear power programme is indeed **largely indigenous** and strategically designed around a three-stage plan that primarily aims to utilize India's vast **thorium reserves**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Fast breeder reactors in India are primarily operationalised for thorium utilisation, not uranium. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- NPCIL (Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited) manages all existing nuclear reactors in India. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

➤ **Three-Stage Nuclear Programme of India**

- ◆ **Stage I (PHWRs):** Uses natural uranium in Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors to produce electricity and plutonium as a by-product.
- ◆ **Stage II (Fast Breeder Reactors):** Utilises plutonium from Stage I to breed more fissile material (plutonium and U-233) while generating power.
- ◆ **Stage III (Thorium Cycle):** Employs thorium-232 to produce uranium-233, ensuring long-term energy security using India's abundant thorium reserves.

➤ **Thorium in India**

- ◆ India possesses **one of the largest thorium reserves in the world**, mainly found in monazite sands along the coastal regions of **Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, and Andhra Pradesh**.
- ◆ Thorium is **not directly fissile**, but can be converted into **uranium-233**, a high-quality nuclear fuel, forming the basis of India's third-stage nuclear programme.

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

37.

Answer: (b)**Explanation:**

- The United Nations has designated 2026 as the International Year for Rangelands and Pastoralists to highlight the ecological, economic, and social importance of rangelands and the livelihoods of pastoral communities worldwide.

➤ **Rangelands:** It is any extensive area of land that is occupied by **native herbaceous or shrubby vegetation** which is grazed by domestic or wild herbivores.

➤ **Significance:**

- ◆ Rangelands cover over **40% of the Earth's land surface** and are crucial for **carbon sequestration, ecosystem services, and climate resilience**.
- ◆ Pastoralists, who depend on livestock grazing, contribute to **livelihoods, cultural heritage, and sustainable land management**.

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

38.

Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

➤ A core aspect of the **right to disconnect** is to prevent employers from penalizing employees (e.g., through dismissal, demotion, or poor performance reviews) for not responding to work calls or emails during non-work hours. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

➤ It mandates internal company policies or the creation of an authority/committee (like the **Employees' Welfare Authority** or **Fair Work Commission**) to handle complaints, mediate disputes, and enforce the rules, which acts as a grievance redress mechanism. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

➤ The legislation generally does not impose a complete ban on after-hours communication in all sectors. Most laws and bills allow for exceptions in cases of genuine emergencies or for specific roles (like on-call staff or those working across multiple time zones), provided these conditions are clearly defined and mutually agreed upon, often with overtime pay stipulated. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

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

39.

Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

➤ **Article 2(4) of the UN Charter states:** "All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations."

➤ **Self-defence (Article 51)** is a recognised exception to the prohibition on the use of force under Article 2(4). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

➤ **Authorisation by the UN Security Council under Chapter VII** is also a recognised exception. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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- **Unilateral humanitarian intervention without Security Council authorisation** remains legally contested and not recognised as an exception. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Law-enforcement actions in foreign territory** without the consent of the State concerned are not recognised exceptions under international law. **Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

40.

Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

- Since its **launch in 2015**, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) has **trained and certified over one crore** (around 1.4 crore) candidates. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Wage gains from vocational training in India are modest and inconsistent**, especially in the informal sector; they are not uniformly high across sectors. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The informal sector absorbs the majority of vocationally trained workers, where recognition of certified skills is limited. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY 4.0, 2023–26)
 - ◆ **Objective:** To provide industry-relevant skill training and certification to enhance employability, focusing on both youth entering the workforce and upskilling existing workers.
 - ◆ **Target:** To train and certify around 1 crore candidates over the 2023–26 period, including formal and informal sector workers.
 - ◆ **Focus Areas:** Emphasis on sector-specific skills, apprenticeship integration, digital skills, and alignment with industry demands to improve job readiness and employability outcomes.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

41.

Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

- **Biomaterials are derived wholly or partly from biological sources** or are engineered using biological processes. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Drop-in biomaterials are chemically identical to petroleum-based materials** and can be used in existing manufacturing systems (e.g., bio-PET). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- ◆ **Drop-in Biomaterials:** Chemically identical to petroleum-based materials; can be used in existing manufacturing systems.
- **Polylactic acid (PLA)** is a **drop-out biomaterial**, as it is chemically different and requires new processing and end-of-life systems. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- ◆ **Drop-out Biomaterials:** Chemically different from conventional materials; require new processing or disposal systems.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

42.

Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

- Rising consumption of ultra-processed foods has driven increases in non-communicable diseases like diabetes, cardiovascular conditions, and obesity in India. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- **Privatisation has weakened the public healthcare system** by increasing out-of-pocket expenses, fragmenting services, and failing to reduce government expenditure proportionally. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Key Initiatives Addressing the Rising Consumption of Ultra-processed Foods (UPFs) in India
 - ◆ **FSSAI Regulations & Labelling:** Front-of-Pack Labelling (FoPL) and guidelines to warn consumers about foods high in fat, sugar, and salt.
 - ◆ **Awareness Campaigns:** Eat Right India promotes healthy diets and reduced consumption of ultra-processed foods.
 - ◆ **School & Public Programs:** Integration of nutritious, minimally processed meals in schemes like Mid-Day Meal and Poshan Abhiyaan.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

43.

Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

- **Jabarkhet Nature Reserve** is India's first privately owned and operated nature reserve, established primarily for wildlife and habitat conservation. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is located near Mussoorie in Uttarakhand. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Jabarkhet Nature Reserve is not a tiger reserve and is not notified under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

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➤ **Nature Reserve**

- ◆ A Nature Reserve is a **protected area set aside primarily for the conservation** of wildlife, natural habitats, and biodiversity, with minimal human interference.
- ◆ It may be **government-owned or privately managed**, and activities are regulated to prioritise ecological protection over tourism or commercial use.
- ◆ Nature reserves often serve as ecological refuges, research sites, and conservation models, complementing national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.

➤ **Hence, option A is correct.**

44.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Article 324 gives the Election Commission of India (ECI) control over the preparation and revision of electoral rolls. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Article 324 does not **mandate prioritising the exclusion of foreigners**; the constitutional focus is on enrolment of citizens. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

The primary constitutional duty flowing from Article 324 is to ensure **universal, free and fair elections**, which necessarily includes the inclusion of every eligible Indian citizen in the electoral rolls.

- ◆ While removal of ineligible persons (including non-citizens) is incidental to roll integrity, the Constitution does not authorise measures that reverse the burden of proof or cause mass disenfranchisement of citizens.
- Article 324 ensures the **ECI has institutional independence** in the conduct of elections. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

45.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- NATGRID was cleared by executive order and the **Cabinet Committee on Security**, not through an Act of Parliament. It does not have statutory backing. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- NATGRID **integrates data from multiple sources, including telecom, travel, financial, and identity databases**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- Access has been **extended to police units down to the rank of Superintendent of Police (SP)**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

46.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- India's **National AMR Surveillance Network (NARS-Net)** **was established in 2013** to determine the magnitude and trends of antimicrobial resistance across different regions of the country. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- NARS-Net does not include data from all districts of India. Its surveillance sites are limited, largely concentrated in urban and tertiary care medical colleges, and do not comprehensively represent non-urban or primary healthcare settings. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- NARS-Net provides **AMR data to the WHO's Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System (GLASS)**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**
- **Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)**
 - ◆ Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites evolve to resist medicines, making common infections harder and costlier to treat.
 - ◆ Misuse and **overuse of antibiotics in humans, animals, and agriculture** is the primary driver of AMR, necessitating a One Health approach.
 - ◆ AMR threatens public health, economic productivity, and achievement of SDGs, and is recognised by WHO as a major global health risk.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

47.

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue (VBYLD) was **launched in January 2025** by reimagining the National Youth Festival. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It was inspired by the Prime Minister's call to **bring one lakh youth without political backgrounds into public life**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The first edition **culminated at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**, with an interaction between youth leaders and the Prime Minister. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

48.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- India committed to reduce the **emissions intensity of its GDP by 33–35% over 2005 levels by 2030** as part of its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC)

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submitted ahead of the Paris Agreement. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

- India pledged that **40% of its cumulative electric power installed capacity** would be based on non-fossil fuel sources by 2030. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- India **did not commit to absolute reductions in total greenhouse gas emissions by 2030**; its targets focused on intensity reduction, renewable capacity share, and carbon sinks through forests rather than capping total emissions. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**
 - ◆ NDCs are non-binding climate action plans submitted by countries under the **Paris Agreement**, outlining targets for emission reduction, adaptation, and climate finance.
 - ◆ NDCs reflect the principle of **Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR)**, allowing countries to set targets based on national capacities and development needs.
 - ◆ NDCs are progressively **strengthened every five years** to enhance global ambition toward limiting global warming.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

49.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- India is among the countries with the **highest prevalence rates of Spina Bifida globally**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- **More than 25,000 children** are born with Spina Bifida in India every year. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- Spina Bifida does **not cause intellectual disability**; affected children generally have normal cognitive abilities. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- About Spina Bifida

Spina Bifida is a neural tube birth defect in which the spinal cord does not develop properly during early pregnancy.

 - ◆ It is largely preventable through adequate folic acid intake before and during early pregnancy.
 - ◆ In India, Spina Bifida is a significant public health concern due to high prevalence and limited early prenatal screening in many regions.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

50.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Decriminalisation of Minor and Technical Offences**: The Act eliminated 183 criminal provisions across 42 Central Acts, replacing imprisonment with monetary penalties or warnings for minor, technical, and procedural defaults. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Rationalisation of Penalties for Ease of Living and Doing Business**: The Act sought to ensure penalties were proportionate to the offence, with provisions for increased fines for repeat offences and automatic 10% increases every three years to maintain deterrence and simplify the regulatory framework. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Removal of Regulatory Oversight in Pharmaceuticals**: The Act did not remove regulatory oversight; instead, it revised fines, decriminalized some penalties, and included a compounding process under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.
- Serious violations and public health/safety related provisions remain untouched and subject to stringent punishment. The goal was to rationalize the penalties for minor procedural lapses, not remove the entire regulatory framework. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

51.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- The **Finance Commission recommends both vertical devolution** (Centre-State share of taxes) and horizontal devolution (distribution among States). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS)** often constrain States' fiscal autonomy by imposing conditionalities, rather than enhancing it. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Cesses and surcharges levied by the Centre are not part of the divisible pool** and are therefore not shared with States. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

52.

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- In a June 2022 judgement, the Supreme Court of India mandated a **uniform minimum 1 km Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ)** around all protected forests, national parks, and wildlife sanctuaries across the country. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

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➤ The rule was later modified in April 2023 due to concerns raised by the central government and several States, including Kerala, who argued that the rigid 1 km rule was “impossible to implement” and would adversely impact the livelihoods and day-to-day activities of millions of people residing around these areas. The modified order allowed for flexibility, stating that **ESZs should be “protected area-specific”** and decided on a case-by-case basis through government proposals. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

➤ **Ecologically Sensitive Zones (ESZs)**

- ◆ **Definition & Purpose:** ESZs are areas around Protected Areas (National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries) notified under the Environment Protection Act, 1986, aimed at regulating and managing human activities to minimize ecological disturbance.
- ◆ **Regulations:** Activities such as mining, industrial development, large-scale construction, and deforestation are either restricted or prohibited depending on the degree of ecological sensitivity.
- ◆ **Notification & Flexibility:** The MoEFCC defines the extent of ESZs, typically ranging from 0 to 10 km around the protected area, based on ecological and socio-economic factors.

➤ **Hence, option C is correct.**

53.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- The **Labour Codes authorise social security schemes for gig workers** but do not make them mandatory or immediately enforceable. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Gig workers are explicitly excluded from being classified as employees**, which limits their access to core labour rights. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Registration on the **e-SHRAM portal** does not automatically guarantee pensions, healthcare, or other tangible social security benefits. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

54.

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Chandrayaan-3 achieved a successful soft landing on the Moon's south pole** on 23rd August, 2023, making India the fourth country after the Soviet Union, United States, and China to demonstrate lunar soft-landing capability. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

➤ **Aditya-L1 was inserted into its targeted halo orbit around the Sun-Earth L1 point** on 6th January, 2024, and completed its first full halo orbit in 178 days. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

➤ **NISAR is a joint Earth-observation mission between ISRO and NASA**, using dual-frequency synthetic aperture radar to monitor Earth's surface changes, with launch in July 2025. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

➤ **Hence, option D is correct.**

55.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- The ED operates under the administrative control of the Department of Revenue in the Ministry of Finance, Government of India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The ED investigates money laundering offences under the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA)**, a key mandate since 2005. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **ED lacks suo motu powers** and requires a predicate offence or scheduled offence under PMLA to initiate investigations. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

56.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- The petrodollar system refers to the **arrangement under which international crude oil trade is predominantly priced and settled in U.S. dollars**, reinforcing the dollar's central role in global finance and trade.
- This system **emerged from a 1974 U.S.-Saudi agreement** where Saudi Arabia agreed to price oil exclusively in dollars, in exchange for U.S. military protection and investment opportunities for petrodollars.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

57.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- The **Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013** introduced key changes in the **Indian Evidence Act (such as Sections 53A and 146)** to prevent character assassination of sexual assault victims during trial. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Act strengthened presumptions in favour of victims in certain sexual offences**, particularly in cases involving custodial rape and abuse of authority. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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- The law does not impose a complete bar on media reporting; it specifically prohibits disclosure of the identity of sexual offence victims under Section 228A IPC, not reporting per se. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
- Hence, option A is correct.

58.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- The Bab el-Mandeb Strait is a crucial maritime chokepoint that connects the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden, providing access onward to the Indian Ocean.
- The Bab el-Mandeb strait lies between Yemen on the Arabian Peninsula and Djibouti/Eritrea on the Horn of Africa, serving as a critical maritime chokepoint approximately 20-30 km wide at its narrowest.
- It facilitates about 12% of global trade, including oil shipments from the Persian Gulf to Europe via the Suez Canal, underscoring its geopolitical significance.



- Hence, option B is correct.

59.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- The Bretton Woods Conference (1944) led to the creation of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (IBRD) to ensure global monetary stability and post-war reconstruction.
- The World Trade Organization (WTO) was established later in 1995 (originally preceded by GATT in 1947), while the United Nations was founded in 1945 through the San Francisco Conference, not Bretton Woods.
- Hence, option A is correct.

60.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- A sudden depreciation can lead to exchange rate overshooting due to market panic and speculative flows. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- With lower hedging levels, sharp currency movements can worsen corporate balance sheets, especially for firms with unhedged foreign currency liabilities. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- A rapid fall in the rupee can cause an adverse terms-of-trade shock, leading to imported inflation. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- Immediate improvement in export competitiveness is uncertain and not guaranteed due to global trade frictions and supply-side constraints. Hence, statement 4 is not correct.
- Hence, option A is correct.

61.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Wildlife conservation in India is often critiqued as being driven by urban elite perspectives that prioritise wildlife-centric goals while marginalising forest-dependent communities, their traditional knowledge, and livelihood concerns. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Conservation policies frequently conflict with traditional livelihoods of forest-dependent and indigenous communities. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- In practice, conservation does not fully align with the Forest Rights Act, 2006, as evidenced by continued displacement, criminalisation, and violations of community rights. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
- Hence, option A is correct.

62.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- The POCSO Act, 2012 defines a "child" as any person B effectively setting 18 as the age threshold for all sexual offences under the Act, including consent. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The Act establishes strict liability for sexual offences against children, meaning the prosecution does not need to prove mens rea (guilty intent) beyond the act itself, with no exceptions based on relationship or circumstances. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

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- Consent of a minor is irrelevant and not recognized as a mitigating factor; all sexual activity with children under 18 constitutes an offence regardless of perceived consent. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
- Hence, option A is correct.

63.

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) were established following Supreme Court directions issued in a 2019 suo motu case, leading to the scheme's launch in October 2019 for time-bound disposal of rape and POCSO cases. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- These courts are dedicated exclusively to cases under the **POCSO Act and Rape laws (IPC/BNS)**, ensuring time-bound trials within one year of filing.
- The **FTSC scheme is centrally sponsored and funded through the Nirbhaya Fund**, with a total outlay of ₹1952.23 crore including ₹1207.24 crore as Central Share. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Hence, option C is correct.

64.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) operates as an informal strategic forum and diplomatic partnership without a formal military alliance structure or permanent secretariat. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- The Quad's core aim is to promote a free, open, inclusive, and resilient Indo-Pacific region through cooperation on security, economic, and emerging challenges. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The Quad comprises four Indo-Pacific democracies: India, Australia, Japan, and the United States. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- Hence, option A is correct.

65.

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- Population size carries a significant weight in the Finance Commission's horizontal devolution formula. Under the 15th Finance Commission, Population (2011 census) carries a weight of 15%. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- **Income Distance** (the gap between a state's per capita income and the highest-income state) carries the highest weight (45%), ensuring poorer states get more funds. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

- Demographic performance is not ignored; it is included as a criterion to reward States that have achieved population stabilisation (Demographic Performance: 12.5%). Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
- (Other criteria include Area – 15%, Forest & Ecology – 10%, and Tax Effort – 2.5%).
- Hence, option C is correct.

66.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- The **Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)** is a statutory body constituted under the Cinematograph Act, 1952, functioning under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The **CBFC does not have the power to permanently ban films**. It can certify, suggest cuts, or refuse certification, but banning a film on grounds of public order falls within the executive and judicial domain, not the CBFC alone. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- CBFC's decisions are subject to judicial review, and filmmakers can approach courts against certification-related decisions. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- **Cinematograph (Amendment) Act, 2023**: This updated law introduced new age-based categories (UA 7+, UA 13+, UA 16+) and strict penalties for **film piracy**.
- **FCAT Abolition**: The Film Certification Appellate Tribunal (FCAT) was abolished in 2021, meaning all appeals against CBFC decisions must now go directly to the **High Courts**.
- Hence, option B is correct.

67.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- The Greenwald density limit defines the **maximum plasma density** that a tokamak can stably sustain. Exceeding this limit typically leads to **plasma instabilities and disruptions**, which can damage the reactor. It is empirically related to the plasma current and the size of the tokamak, not to temperature, confinement time, or magnetic field strength.
- **Breakthroughs**: Recent experiments have demonstrated methods to operate slightly above the Greenwald limit using specific magnetic shaping and fueling techniques, which is crucial for the efficiency of future reactors like ITER.
- Hence, option B is correct.

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68.

Answer: (b)**Explanation:**

- **Under the Cinematograph Act**, the CBFC examines films to ensure they do not violate constitutional and statutory concerns such as:
 - ◆ Integrity of the State
 - ◆ Public order
 - ◆ Decency and morality
- These align with the reasonable restrictions under **Article 19(2) of the Constitution**.
- Economic viability of film releases is not a criterion under the Act and therefore falls outside the CBFC's mandate.
- **Cinematograph (Amendment) Act, 2023**: This updated law, fully enforced by 2026, provides the CBFC with more granular **age ratings (UA 7+, UA 13+, UA 16+)** and grants the government power to check piracy, but it still maintains the same constitutional grounds for refusal of certification.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

69.

Answer: (d)**Explanation:**

- **Child Survival and Safe Motherhood (CSSM) Initiative**: Launched in **1992 with support from the World Bank and UNICEF**, this program was a major public health intervention that focused on maternal and child health services as a comprehensive package. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme**: The CSSM initiative was later integrated into the RCH programme in **1997 (RCH Phase I, followed by Phase II from 2005-2012)**. This expanded the scope of services to include a wider range of reproductive health issues alongside maternal and child care. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **National Health Mission (NHM)**: Launched in **2013**, the NHM (which subsumed the National Rural Health Mission and National Urban Health Mission) further integrated and strengthened these interventions within a comprehensive framework known as **RMNCAH+N** (Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, Adolescent Health and Nutrition). The NHM continues to drive efforts to improve child survival rates. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

70.

Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

- **Article 6** provides a framework for voluntary cooperation among Parties to help achieve their NDCs. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It allows the **transfer of mitigation outcomes (ITMOs)** between countries with safeguards such as robust accounting to prevent double counting. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Article 6 does not establish a mandatory global carbon tax mechanism. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

71.

Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

- Biofuels account for around 4% of global transport energy demand. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- **Sugarcane, cereals (such as maize), and oil crops (soybean, palm oil)** are the primary global biofuel feedstocks. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Nearly **99% of biofuels are used in road transport**, not in aviation and shipping. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA)**: Led by India, the GBA is pushing for a global 20% ethanol blending standard by 2026.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

72.

Answer: (b)**Explanation:**

- Data dumping refers to the strategic placement of energy- and water-intensive data centres where the environmental and social costs can be externalised. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Data dumping is a **governance and policy concern, not inherently illegal** under international trade law. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Developing countries with **weak zoning, regulatory enforcement, and attractive incentives** are more vulnerable to such practices. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **India's Status**: India is currently a major destination for data centres. In 2026, the government is implementing the National Data Centre Policy, which mandates energy efficiency standards to prevent "data dumping" and ensure centers utilize renewable energy.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

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73.

Answer: (d)**Explanation:**

- Topological materials feature **protected surface or edge states with unusual electronic properties**, such as spin-momentum locking, that remain robust against small perturbations like impurities or defects due to topological protection. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Their dissipationless **edge states and fault-tolerant quantum properties** make them promising for quantum computing applications, including topological qubits that resist decoherence. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Direct bulk-boundary correspondence is challenging to observe, so identification relies on indirect signatures like **angle-resolved photoemission spectroscopy (ARPES)** revealing Dirac cones or surface states at nanoscopic scales. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

74.

Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

- The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures changes in retail prices faced by consumers over time. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **CPI is not used to calculate GDP growth**, nor is it an indicator of GDP growth. GDP is calculated using production, income, and expenditure approaches, while CPI is primarily used for inflation targeting by the RBI. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

75.

Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

- The Supreme Court established in Hussainara Khatoon v. State of Bihar (1979) that the right to speedy trial is a fundamental right implicit in Article 21's guarantee of life and personal liberty. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Prolonged undertrial detention without trial commencement violates Article 21; courts have granted bail on this ground, as affirmed in cases like P. Ramachandra Rao v. State of Karnataka. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The right applies from the investigation stage through arrest, inquiry, trial, appeal, and revision, not merely after formal trial commencement, as clarified in Abdul Rehman Antulay v. R.S. Nayak (1992). **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

76.

Answer: (d)**Explanation:**

- Critical minerals are **indispensable for clean energy technologies**, including batteries, electric vehicles, wind turbines and solar power systems. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- India is **heavily import-dependent for most critical minerals** and rare earth elements. India lacks adequate domestic reserves of many critical minerals such as lithium, cobalt, nickel, rare earth elements (REEs) and graphite, which are essential for clean energy technologies. Even where reserves exist, India has limited extraction, processing and refining capacity, forcing dependence on imports. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **China dominates global processing and refining** of many critical minerals, giving it significant leverage in supply chains. China controls:
 - Around **60–70% of global rare earth processing**
 - Over **70% of lithium refining**
 - A major share of **cobalt, graphite and battery-grade materials**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

77.

Answer: (c)**Explanation:**

- Women's enrolment in higher education has surpassed men's, with female Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) at 28.5 versus 28.3 for males in 2021-22 per AISHE, and enrolment share reaching 48% overall. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Despite advanced qualifications, **less than 40% of women participate in the labour force**; for postgraduates and above, the Worker Population Ratio (WPR) stands at around 40% as per PLFS 2023-24. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

78.

Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

- Approximately **70% of the Aravalli range**, spanning about 550 km of its total 670-800 km length, lies within Rajasthan, making it the primary host state across Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Gujarat. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Rajasthan hosts the **majority (over half) of wildlife sanctuaries in the Aravalli landscape**, including key protected areas like Sariska, Kumbhalgarh, and Todgarh-

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Rampura, while others exist in Haryana and Gujarat. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- Rajasthan's tiger reserves—Ranthambore, Sariska, and Mukundra Hills—are not all within the Aravalli range; Ranthambore lies in the Vindhya-Satpura region southeast of the Aravallis. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

79.

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- Insects are consumed almost whole, with minimal inedible parts, so about 80% of their body mass is edible. Poultry has significant inedible components such as bones, feathers and organs, reducing its edible portion to around 55%. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Insects are known as "superfoods" in many cultures. Many edible insect species are rich in protein, vitamins, and micronutrients, making them nutritionally valuable. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

80.

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- The "Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence" was adopted by UNESCO in 2021 making it the first global normative framework on AI ethics.
- It originated through intergovernmental negotiations under UNESCO, and addresses ethical issues related to AI's social, environmental, cultural and human rights impacts.
- It is a non-binding global normative framework, endorsed by around 190 countries, addressing ethical concerns related to AI, including its social and environmental impacts.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

81.

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- The term "Tinkathia" derives from "Tin" (three) and "Katha" (a unit of land). Under the Tinkathia system in Bihar, peasants were legally bound by Britishers to cultivate indigo on 3 kathas out of 20 kathas of land (i.e., 3/20th of their holding), irrespective of market conditions.
- This exploitative system was a major cause of the Champaran Satyagraha (1917) led by Mahatma Gandhi.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

82.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Source code is the core set of instructions and digital assets that run a software system. It is indeed the "blueprint" or core asset that drives any software system. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- While Android has an open-source base (AOSP), smartphone manufacturers make proprietary modifications that are not publicly accessible. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Source code secrecy is maintained not only for commercial reasons but also for security reasons, to prevent exploitation by malicious actors. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

83.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Flagship urban missions such as AMRUT remain largely metro-centric, with most meaningful infrastructure investments directed towards large cities. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Small towns do not receive adequate investment in sewerage and water infrastructure; instead, they rely on limited and uneven support. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Service delivery in small towns is characterised by fragmented schemes and temporary fixes, such as tanker-based water supply and ad hoc arrangements. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

84.

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- Article 25 of the Indian Constitution guarantees freedom of conscience and the right to freely profess, practise, and propagate religion, subject to public order, morality, and health.
- Article 14 deals with equality before law.
- Article 19(1)(a) guarantees freedom of speech and expression.
- Article 32 provides the right to constitutional remedies. It is known as the "Heart and Soul" of the Constitution.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

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85.

Answer: (b)**Explanation:**

- Under the **Cinematograph Act, 1952**, the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) is meant to certify and classify films according to viewer suitability (U, UA, A, S), not to act as a censorship authority. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Section 5B(1) of the **Cinematograph Act, 1952** includes grounds for refusing certification such as "decency," "morality," and "public order."
 - ◆ These mirror the reasonable restrictions on free speech under **Article 19(2)** but are criticized for being vague, leading to subjective "censorship." **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

The CBFC is **not explicitly authorised to censor films beyond classification**; however, in practice, certification has often operated like censorship due to wide discretionary powers. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

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

86.

Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

- The recent **increase in India's Female Labour Force Participation Rate (FLFPR)** is largely attributed to a rise in unpaid family labour, especially in family farms and enterprises. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- MGNREGA Act mandates that at least **one-third** of beneficiaries shall be women. However, the share of women workers has increased over time, not declined (from about **48% in 2008–09** to nearly **58% in 2024–25**). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

87.

Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

- **High bilateral tariffs (e.g., U.S. tariffs on China)** can redirect exports to other markets, thereby altering global trade flows without necessarily reducing a country's overall trade surplus. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Diversification of export destinations** helps cushion an economy against shocks arising from trade restrictions imposed by a specific country. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **A rising trade surplus does not always indicate strong domestic consumption**; it can also result from weak domestic demand combined with strong exports. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

88.

Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is widely recognised as a **long-term source of technology transfer, managerial expertise, and productivity gains** for host economies. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Trade and FDI are not mutually exclusive.** Studies show they are often complementary — FDI can promote trade by integrating countries into global value chains. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Cumulative FDI from the European Union to India has **crossed \$100 billion** (around \$120 billion by 2024). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

89.

Answer: (c)**Explanation:**

- DTAAs are bilateral treaties (e.g., India-Mauritius, India-Singapore) designed to ensure that a taxpayer is not taxed on the same income in both the **"Source Country"** (where the money was earned) and the **"Residence Country"** (where the taxpayer lives).
- It provides relief through tax credits or exemptions and improves investment opportunities.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

90.

Answer: (c)**Explanation:**

- Salaried taxpayers in India largely prepay taxes through mechanisms like Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) on salary, interest, rent, professional fees, etc. This makes them "captive taxpayers" as taxes are deducted before they receive income. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Consumption taxes (e.g., GST, excise duties)** add to the overall effective tax burden on salaried individuals, as these are additional taxes paid on goods and services over and above their income tax. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

91.

Answer: (c)**Explanation:**

- Pax Silica refers to a **technology-driven geopolitical order**, where dominance in semiconductors and advanced digital technologies shapes global power relations. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

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- Pax Silica is **not a formal multilateral treaty** and has no legal or institutional framework led by the U.S. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Control over technology supply chains (chips, AI hardware, critical components) is a central feature of Pax Silica. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

92.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Article 112 of the Constitution mandates that the **President lay before both Houses of Parliament an Annual Financial Statement**, which is essentially the Union Budget. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- As per Article 113 of the Constitution of India, expenditure '**charged**' upon the **Consolidated Fund of India** (like the President's salary, salaries of Supreme Court judges, etc.) **does not require the vote of Parliament (but can be discussed).** Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The **President does not have the power to modify Budget proposals**; the President can only give assent to the passed demands, but the contents and modifications are entirely under Parliament's control. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

93.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Evergreening refers to the **practice of obtaining multiple patents through minor or cosmetic changes** to an existing product without a significant enhancement in therapeutic efficacy, mainly to extend monopoly rights. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Indian patent regime does not permit evergreening**. Section 3(d) of the Patents Act, 1970 explicitly prevents patenting of new forms of known substances unless they result in enhanced efficacy. Mere incremental innovation is not sufficient. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Preventing evergreening is consistent with **India's obligations under the TRIPS Agreement**, which allows member countries to adopt public health safeguards and patentability standards in national interest (TRIPS flexibilities). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

94.

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- The **Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)** is the EU's policy to put a fair price on carbon for carbon-intensive imports, preventing "carbon leakage" by matching import carbon costs with domestic EU producers under the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- CBAM is expected to impact India's carbon-intensive manufacturing exports (like steel), as these products may face higher costs while entering the EU market. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

95.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Sarvam AI focuses on building **indigenous large language models (LLMs)** with strong capabilities in **Indian languages**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It aligns with India's broader push for **data sovereignty** and reducing reliance on **foreign AI platforms**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Sarvam AI does **not** aim to fully automate judicial decision-making; it is intended as a **support tool for the legal sector**, not a replacement for human judges. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

96.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- India's approach to energy security balances diversification, resilience-building, and pragmatic diplomacy rather than rigid alignment with external geopolitical pressures:
 - ◆ India imports over 85% of its oil, with Russia supplying ~40%; diversification to UAE, Saudi Arabia, U.S., Africa reduces risks from sanctions or disruptions in single sources. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ Strategic petroleum reserve expansion to 15 MMT by 2035 provides a 25+ days buffer, mitigating short-term shocks from geopolitical events or sanctions. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ India pursues calibrated diplomacy for waivers rather than full compliance, for instance, prioritizing affordable Russian discounted oil for energy security and economic stability. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

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- ◆ National interest-guided negotiations via G20, Quad, and bilateral talks secure access to discounted supplies while building resilience against secondary sanctions. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**
- Hence, option B is correct.

97.

Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

- Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala together contribute about 82–83% of India's coconut production. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Coconut plantations are increasingly preferred because they require less continuous labour compared to annual crops, especially in a context of labour scarcity. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Coconut cultivation is not confined to coastal regions; it is also extensively grown in interior areas such as Pollachi (Tamil Nadu), parts of Karnataka, and other non-coastal regions. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- Indonesia is the largest coconut-producing country in the world. The Philippines is the second-largest producer. India ranks third globally, producing over 14 million tonnes of coconuts a year.
- **Karnataka:** India's largest coconut producer.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

98.

Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

- The Supreme Court **invoked Article 142 of the Constitution** to issue binding directions to ensure "complete justice" in the matter of student suicides. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ Article 142 empowers the Supreme Court of India to pass any order or decree necessary to do "complete justice" in any cause or matter pending before it.
- **Seven out of nine directions** relate to record-keeping, reporting, and tracking student suicides in higher education institutions. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **directions are not limited to Central government**-funded institutions; they apply to both Central and State governments and their higher education institutions. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

99.

Answer: (b)**Explanation:**

- Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 **requires prior approval of the appropriate government before any inquiry or investigation is initiated against a public servant** for decisions or recommendations made in the discharge of official functions. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Section 17A **applies to all public servants**, not only to officers of the rank of Joint Secretary and above. The rank-based classification existed earlier under Section 6A of the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946, which was struck down. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The **provision was challenged on the ground that it undermines the independence of anti-corruption investigations** by allowing the government—often an interested party—to stall or block inquiries. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988:** Enacted to combat corruption in public offices by defining offences related to bribery and misuse of official position by public servants.
 - ◆ **Key offences:** Includes **accepting or giving bribes, criminal misconduct, abuse of official position, and possession of disproportionate assets.**
 - ◆ **2018 Amendment highlights:** Introduced **Section 17A** (prior sanction for investigation related to official decisions), criminalised **bribe-giving**, and emphasised **speedy trial and attachment of tainted property.**
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

100.

Answer: (b)**Explanation:**

- The Piprawaha relics are **associated with the corporeal remains of the historical Buddha**, which makes them of exceptional religious and historical importance. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The relics were not discovered during Ashoka's reign. Ashoka's period is relevant to the spread and construction of stupas, but the Piprawaha relics were **excavated much later (in the colonial period)**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The relics were dispersed for over a century and have recently been partially reunited. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- In early Buddhist practices, gems and offerings were deposited along with relics, and the Piprawaha finds include such gems. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

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101.

Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

- The food subsidy is indeed the difference between the economic cost incurred by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) for procurement, storage, and distribution of food grains, and the amount recovered from beneficiaries under the Public Distribution System (PDS). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Under the **PM Garib Kalyan Yojana**, around **56% of India's population** receives free rice or wheat, i.e., more than half the population. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **India's extreme poverty rate (measured at \$3 per capita/day in PPP terms) is about 5.3%**, which is much lower than the PDS coverage (56%). The extreme poor are far fewer than the number of people receiving free food grains. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **PM Garib Kalyan Yojana:** It was launched to **provide free food grains to vulnerable populations** to ensure food security, especially during and after the COVID-19 period.
 - ◆ It provides **5 kg of free rice or wheat per person per month** to about 81 crore beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act (NFSA).
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

102.

Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

- NATO's Article 5 establishes that **an attack on one member is considered an attack on all members**, obliging members to take collective defence measures. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Article 5 **does not allow NATO members to impose sanctions on other members**; it deals solely with military defence obligations. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Action under **Article 5 does not require UN Security Council authorisation**. Members may respond as they deem necessary for collective defence. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

103.

Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

- Gravitons are **hypothetical quantum particles** proposed as the carriers of the gravitational force, analogous to photons for electromagnetism. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- Detection of gravitational waves does not automatically confirm the existence of gravitons. **Gravitational waves can be fully explained within classical general relativity** as ripples in spacetime, without invoking gravitons. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

104.

Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

- The **Enforcement Directorate (ED)** is the agency responsible for administering and enforcing the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Under **Section 19 of the PMLA**, the ED can **arrest a person without a warrant** based on its own recorded "reason to believe". **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The ED **does not need to prove guilt beyond reasonable doubt before attaching property**. Property can be **provisionally attached** during investigation, even **before trial or conviction**, based on the agency's satisfaction that it constitutes proceeds of crime. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

105.

Answer: (b)**Explanation:**

- "**White spaces**" are described as **gaps in global leadership**—situations where problems require coordination but no major power is able or willing to take charge.
- Areas like AI ethics, deep-sea mining, or space debris faces **white spaces** where international laws are thin, and India can step in as a "Vishwa Bandhu" to lead consensus.
- These spaces provide India an opportunity to work through coalitions and deliver global public goods.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

106.

Answer: (c)**Explanation:**

- The SIR involved intensive revision of electoral rolls across select States and Union Territories (**initially 9 states/3 UTs like Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh**) ahead of 2026 elections. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The exercise led to omission of significant numbers from draft rolls through **house-to-house verification by BLOs**,

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targeting shifted/dead/absent electors, duplicates, and suspected illegal immigrants, sparking controversy especially in border states. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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

107.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Orobanche aegyptiaca**, known as **Egyptian broomrape**, is an obligate root holoparasite that attaches to host plant roots via haustoria to extract water and nutrients, lacking chlorophyll for photosynthesis. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It primarily affects **solanaceous crops (tomato, tobacco, potato)**, **legumes (chickpea, lentil, faba bean)**, **cucurbits (watermelon)**, **sunflower, and mustard**, but not India's staple rice or wheat crops. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Damage **remains invisible underground during early attachment and growth stages**; above-ground emergence occurs only after significant nutrient drain, often causing 50%+ yield losses before detection. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

108.

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- Public sector dominates R&D Spending: Government accounts for about 64-75% of India's total R&D expenditure, compared to over 70% driven by business enterprises in developed economies like the US, China, and South Korea.
- This state-dominated model often prioritizes mission continuity over disruptive, market-driven risk-taking, which is necessary for global corporate R&D leadership. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Weak private sector participation: The private sector contributes a disproportionately low share (less than 40%) of R&D expenditure in India.
 - ◆ Indian firms often prefer technology acquisition or process optimization over investing in original, long-term research due to risk aversion and short-term profitability pressures. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Lack of human capital and startups:** While India has a vast human capital pool and a large number of startups, high-performing researchers often migrate abroad due to superior funding and infrastructure, a phenomenon known as "brain drain".

➤ Additionally, many Indian startups are imitations of global ideas rather than creators of original deep technology, which also limits the creation of globally competitive intellectual property. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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

109.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Venezuela:** U.S. action involved the abduction of President Nicolás Maduro.
- **Iran:** Facing internal unrest and threats of additional sanctions.
- **Pakistan:** Military leadership eclipsing civilian authority.
- **Europe:** U.S. NSS expects Europe to assume primary responsibility for its defence.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

110.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Copper scarcity threatens global decarbonisation, as **EVs require 3-4x more copper than ICE vehicles**, grid upgrades need massive amounts, and projected deficits (8 Mt by 2030) could delay net-zero targets. **Hence, assertion is correct.**
- Shortages would **inflate copper prices (forecast \$12k+ / tonne)**, raising EV battery/motor costs by 20-30% and delaying charger/grid infrastructure, directly bottlenecking electrification rollout. **Hence, reason is correct.**
- Thus, R explains A by identifying EV-specific and infrastructure impacts as key mechanisms linking copper constraints to slower decarbonisation progress.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

111.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Pax Silica symbolically **combines peace (Pax) and silica (semiconductor supply chains)**, indicating prosperity through secure technology ecosystems. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The initiative **focuses on securing supply chains for semiconductors, AI, and critical minerals**, especially rare earth elements. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Pax Silica is **not a military alliance like NATO**; it is an economic-technological and supply-chain coordination initiative. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

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112.

Answer: (b)**Explanation:**

- Human space missions incur significantly higher costs primarily due to **stringent life-support systems (air, water, food recycling)**, extensive redundancy for crew safety, and rigorous testing/certification requirements absent in robotic missions. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Satellite missions are typically **one-way deployments to orbit**; they lack return capability, unlike human missions, making “two-way travel” inaccurate for standard satellite operations. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Human missions demand far more **complex planning involving crew schedules, health monitoring, abort scenarios, and real-time decision-making** compared to uncrewed missions’ autonomous or pre-programmed operations. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

113.

Answer: (c)**Explanation:**

- Trump’s **use of tariffs, threats like annexing Greenland, and disregard for NATO** are examples of neo-royalism, which is the concentration of decision-making in the personal discretion of a sovereign/leader. **Hence, assertion is correct.**
- Neo-royalism **does not rely on institutionalised national interest**; rather, it bypasses institutions and allows decisions to be shaped by personal whims, grievances, or transactional instincts of the leader. **Hence, reason is not correct.**
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

114.

Answer: (d)**Explanation:**

- **Lack of Public Accountability in Urban Authorities:** Multiple agencies often operate in silos with overlapping jurisdictions, leading to a “sovereignty trap” where no single body is clearly responsible to the public for service failures. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Corruption and Abdication of Responsibility:** Systematic corruption, including bribery and nepotism, remains rampant. Abdication refers to the failure of authorities to fulfill their delegated duties, often shifting blame between state departments and local bodies. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Inadequate Infrastructure and Planning:** Rapid, unplanned urbanization has outpaced the development of essential

services like drainage, sewage, and transport, leading to frequent urban disasters like flooding. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

- **Over-dependence on Municipal Corporations:** While municipal corporations are the primary local bodies, they are often overburdened and financially crippled. They remain heavily dependent on state governments for funding and decision-making power, which stifles their autonomy and effectiveness. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

115.

Answer: (c)**Explanation:**

- Article 176 mandates such a special address at the first session after each general election and the first session of each year. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- Based on the constitutional scheme of India, the Governor’s address to the state legislature under Article 176 is fundamentally a statement of policy drafted by the Council of Ministers, headed by the Chief Minister.
 - ◆ Under Article 163, the Governor is bound to act on the “aid and advice” of the Council of Ministers, meaning the Governor does not possess the discretionary power to unilaterally alter, edit, or omit portions of the text provided to them. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**
- Even if Article 176 were repealed, the Governor would still have the power to address the Legislature under Article 175. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

116.

Answer: (c)**Explanation:**

- **Extreme Price Volatility:** Private cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin exhibit extreme price swings—often 10-20% daily—driven by speculation, regulatory news, and market sentiment, unlike stable fiat currencies. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Potential for Fraud:** Scams, rug pulls, exchange hacks, and phishing schemes thrive due to lax KYC/AML on many platforms; \$3.7B lost to crypto crime in 2022 alone. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Erosion of Public Wealth:** Mass retail losses during crashes (e.g., 2022’s \$2T wipeout) and speculative bubbles transfer wealth from novice investors to insiders/early holders, resembling Ponzi dynamics. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

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117.

Answer: (b)**Explanation:**

- The Constitution of India uses the term "**Impeachment**" **specifically and only for the removal of the President (Article 61)**. For judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts, the Constitution uses the term "**Removal**" (**Article 124(4)**). While the process is colloquially referred to as impeachment, technically and constitutionally, it is a removal proceeding. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- According to Article 124(4), a judge can be removed only on the grounds of "proved misbehaviour or incapacity." These are the only two grounds mentioned in the Constitution. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968, which regulates the procedure for removal, mandates that a removal motion must be signed by at least 100 members if introduced in the Lok Sabha, or 50 members if introduced in the Rajya Sabha. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- The Speaker (Lok Sabha) or Chairman (Rajya Sabha) has the statutory discretion to either admit the motion or refuse to admit it. If they refuse to admit the motion, the matter ends there. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

118.

Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

- The **Juvenile Justice Act, 2015** permits children aged **16–18 years**, accused of heinous offences, to be tried as adults after a preliminary assessment. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Heinous offences are defined as those with a **minimum punishment of seven years' imprisonment** or more. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The transfer system was not introduced based on the recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee; in fact, the Committee had opposed it, citing inconsistency with child rights principles. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

119.

Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

- **AI Kosh** is a **national repository of datasets and AI models**, created to provide researchers and start-ups access to high-quality, standardised data and models.

- **AIRAWAT** is India's AI-specific compute infrastructure, developed under the National Supercomputing Mission to support AI research and public-sector applications.
- **Bhashini** is a **language technology platform** aimed at enabling AI-driven translation, speech, and text services across Indian languages.
- **National Supercomputing Mission** focuses on building **national supercomputing capability** for scientific research, strategic sectors, and governance.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

120.

Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

- Water bankruptcy refers to a **condition where droughts, shortages, and pollution shift from being temporary shocks to chronic**, structural problems. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The UN report does not attribute water bankruptcy solely to groundwater over-extraction; it highlights **climate change, pollution, and unsustainable use** together. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Climate change **disrupts rainfall patterns, the water cycle, and glacier-fed river flows**, intensifying water bankruptcy. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

121.

Answer: (b)**Explanation:**

- India has set a target to **achieve zero indigenous cases of malaria by 2027**, which is ahead of the 2030 global elimination target, not 2030. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- About five states and the northeast account for **nearly 80% of India's malaria burden**, making focused interventions in these areas crucial. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The five states in India that, along with the Northeast region, account for nearly 80% of the malaria burden are:
 - ◆ Odisha
 - ◆ Chhattisgarh
 - ◆ Madhya Pradesh
 - ◆ Jharkhand
 - ◆ Maharashtra
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

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122.

Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

- Deodar (Devdar) forests have **extensive root systems that stabilise slopes**, prevent landslides, and act as natural barriers against avalanches. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- These forests are located within the Bhagirathi Eco-Sensitive Zone, which was established to protect the last pristine stretch of the Ganga. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Translocating centuries-old deodar trees is ecologically flawed, as their site-specific ecological functions—like slope stabilization, microclimate regulation, and river ecology support—cannot be replicated elsewhere. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

123.

Answer: (d)**Explanation:**

- BRICS originally consisted of **Brazil, Russia, India, China (BRIC)**, with **South Africa joining in 2010-11** before the Sanya Summit, forming the current acronym. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- BRICS members (**original 5 + expanded**) collectively represent **~42% of world population (3.3+ billion people)**, surpassing G7's share. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **New Development Bank (NDB)**, headquartered in **Shanghai**, was established by BRICS countries in 2014 at the Fortaleza Summit as an alternative to the World Bank/IMF for infrastructure funding. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

124.

Answer: (b)**Explanation:**

- NBDSA does **not have legal powers to penalize media outlets**; it is a self-regulatory body that can issue advisories, warnings, or call for corrections, but cannot impose fines or prosecute. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- NBDSA has called out targeting of minority communities by news channels, especially for content violating its ethics code on communal harmony. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Social media has **not eliminated the relevance of traditional TV studios**; it has created competition and alternative platforms, but TV studios still remain influential. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

125.

Answer: (b)**Explanation:**

- U.S. tariffs, used as foreign policy tools under Trump (e.g., 25-50% on Indian exports), widen **India's trade deficit** and **pressure the rupee toward depreciation**, as seen in 2025-26 volatility. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Federal Reserve rate policies shape global risk sentiment; hikes strengthen the dollar and trigger **FPI outflows from India (₹1.5 lakh crore in 2022)**, weakening the rupee, while cuts provide relief through inflows. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- U.S. inflation influences Fed policy and dollar strength, indirectly affecting rupee via capital flows and import costs. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

126.

Answer: (c)**Explanation:**

- Chabahar Port allows India **direct access to Afghanistan and Central Asia**, bypassing Pakistan, which makes it strategically important for regional connectivity. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In May 2024, India signed a **10-year contract with Iran to develop the Shahid Beheshti terminal** at Chabahar Port. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

127.

Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

- India recorded around **40% enrolment of women in STEM fields in 2024**, with AISHE data showing 43% in STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, Medicine) streams at higher education level. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Women constitute **less than one-third (around 13.5-16.6%) of STEM faculty positions** across Indian universities and institutes, far below enrolment rates, due to attrition and biases. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Global Comparison:** Interestingly, India's female STEM enrollment is higher than that of the US (34%) and the UK (25%), but the workforce conversion remains the primary challenge.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

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128.

Answer: (c)**Explanation:**

- The Northern Sea Route (NSR) **cuts shipping time between East Asia (e.g., Shanghai) and Western Europe (e.g., Rotterdam) by 30-40%**, reducing journeys from 35-40 days via Suez Canal to 18-25 days. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- China leverages NSR for enhanced trade connectivity between East Asia and Western markets, bypassing traditional chokepoints like Suez and Malacca straits. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- China conducted successful commercial voyages, including the 2025 "Istanbul Bridge" container ship from Zhoushan to Felixstowe (UK), marking regular Arctic route usage. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Russia promotes NSR as a shorter, lower-emission corridor with **30-40% fuel savings** and reduced CO₂ compared to longer southern routes. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

129.

Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

- As per UDISE+ 2024-25 report, Over one lakh government schools (**1,04,125 total schools**) **function with only a single teacher, educating 33.77 lakh students**, despite a 6% decline from prior years. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Multi-grade teaching is largely a compulsion in single-teacher and low-enrolment schools (common in rural India), not a choice, due to teacher shortages and infrastructure gaps. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Nearly half of government secondary schools have fewer than 100 students**, reflecting enrollment declines, mergers, and demographic shifts in many states. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

130.

Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

- Women contribute around **18% to India's GDP**, largely because a significant share of their work is unpaid care and domestic labour, which is not accounted for in national income estimates. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **About 40% of women participate in the labour force**, and a large proportion of them are engaged in unpaid agricultural and family-based work. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

➤ While education is a factor, it is not the primary reason given for women being outside the labour force. According to a 2023 Ministry of Labour report, **over 44% of women cited "childcare or personal commitments in homemaking" as the main reason**, not lack of education. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

➤ **Time Use Survey (TUS):** According to the NSO, Indian women spend roughly 299 minutes a day on unpaid domestic services, while men spend only 97 minutes.

➤ **Hence, option A is correct.**

131.

Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

➤ India formally withdrew from RCEP negotiations on **November 4, 2019**, citing concerns over widening trade deficits (especially with China), threats to domestic dairy/farmers, and lack of adequate safeguards despite 7 years of talks. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

◆ **Rules of Origin (ROO):** India is tightening "Rules of Origin" to ensure that Chinese goods aren't simply "repackaged" in ASEAN countries (like Vietnam) and sent to India at zero duty.

➤ India pursued bilateral/incremental FTAs, including **EFTA (2024 investment treaty with Switzerland/Norway)**, ongoing New Zealand negotiations, and agreements with UAE/Australia, avoiding large multilateral pacts post-RCEP. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

➤ **India's trade deficit with ASEAN has widened steadily since 2019**—from \$12.5B (2019) to \$20.8B (2024)—due to liberalized imports under India-ASEAN FTA, contradicting the declining trend claim. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

➤ **Hence, option A is correct.**

132.

Answer: (b)**Explanation:**

➤ Nuclear fission produces **near-zero operational carbon emissions** and ranks as the **second-largest low-carbon electricity source globally (after hydropower)**, contributing ~10% of low-carbon power per IEA data.

➤ India's domestic uranium resources are **limited and low-grade**, necessitating ~60% import reliance despite a three-stage program; high-grade reserves are scarce.

➤ **India holds world's largest thorium reserves (~25% global)** and pursues Advanced Heavy Water Reactor (AHWR) technology as alternative fuel, while global thorium utilization remains minimal due to proliferation concerns and uranium abundance.

➤ **Hence, option B is correct.**

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133.

Answer: (b)**Explanation:**

- Constitutional nationalism defines **Indian identity through allegiance to the Constitution's values**—justice, liberty, equality, fraternity, secularism, and democracy—rather than ethnicity, religion, or cultural supremacy. It positions the Preamble and fundamental rights as the unifying framework for India's diverse population.
- Key Features
 - ◆ **Secular Foundation:** Prioritizes constitutional ethos over religious or cultural majoritarianism, as articulated by former President Pranab Mukherjee: "From our Constitution flows our nationalism."
 - ◆ **Inclusive Nationhood:** Binds 1.4 billion people across linguistic, religious, and regional differences through shared citizenship rights and civic duties.
 - ◆ **Distinguished from Cultural Nationalism:** Rejects primordial identity politics, emphasizing Article 51A duties and constitutional morality over civilizational revivalism.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

134.

Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

- Ageing States like Kerala and Tamil Nadu face fiscal stress despite population stabilisation, as shrinking working-age populations reduce revenue buoyancy while expenditure demands rise. **Hence, assertion is correct.**
- Higher pension liabilities (30% of social spending in ageing states) coincide with lower fiscal transfers (tax devolution favors youthful states with larger populations) and reduced political weight in Parliament/Lok Sabha due to frozen seats. **Hence, reason is correct.**
- The 15th Finance Commission used 2011 census data, which Southern states feel penalizes them for successful population control.
- Reason directly explains Assertion by identifying pension pressures and suboptimal central support as core fiscal stressors in demographic transition.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

135.

Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

- While the Act proposes an increase from 100 to 125 days, it is not uniform across all rural areas. The guarantee only applies to rural areas specifically notified by the Central Government.

- Furthermore, the Act introduces a mandatory **60-day seasonal pause** during peak agricultural seasons (sowing and harvesting), during which public works are suspended, further contradicting the claim of "uniform" year-round availability. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Section 5(1) of the VB-G RAM G Act, 2025 contains a **discretionary clause that restricts the guarantee to areas "notified by the Central Government"**. This effectively creates a "switch-off" mechanism where the Centre can decide when and where the guarantee applies, transforming it from a universal right (as in MGNREGA) to an administrative privilege. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**
- Under the existing MGNREGA framework, **states already had the legal flexibility to extend the employment guarantee beyond 100 days using their own funds**. Several states had already implemented such extensions without the need for a new central Act. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

136.

Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

- Tailoring climate messages to regional languages, local impacts (floods, heatwaves), and cultural contexts builds trust and relevance, as generic global messaging fails diverse audiences. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Collaborating with frontline communities, indigenous groups, and local leaders ensures culturally resonant narratives, avoiding top-down expert-driven communication that alienates stakeholders. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Dashboards serve monitoring but alienate public engagement; effective communication prioritizes narratives, solutions, and trusted messengers over data visualization alone. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- Building dedicated communication units within environment ministries and local governments ensures sustained, coordinated messaging beyond ad-hoc campaigns. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

137.

Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

- **Open to All UN Members:** Unlike Budapest (Council of Europe initiative, 69 parties), the UN Convention is universally accessible to 193 UN states, addressing Global South exclusion. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

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- **Civil Society/Private Sector Input:** UN process involved extensive multi-stakeholder consultations beyond governmental negotiation, unlike Budapest's primarily intergovernmental drafting. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The UN Convention has no "invited countries only" restriction; accession is open post-ratification, contrasting Budapest's open protocol but regional origin. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Russian Initiative:** Russia sponsored UNGA Resolution 77/261 (2022) establishing the Ad Hoc Committee, driven by objections to Budapest's "Western bias" and data localization demands. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

138.

Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

- **India's private capex revival remains narrow (metals, renewables, PLIs),** unlikely to broaden without sustained consumption (62% GDP share) and export growth amid weak urban demand and global slowdowns. **Hence, assertion is correct.**
- **Global excess capacity (China's overproduction),** U.S. tariff threats, and policy uncertainty (GST tweaks, PLI delays) compel firms to demand visible order books before large-scale investments. **Hence, reason is correct.**
- Reason explains Assertion by linking weak demand signals and external risks to firms' investment caution.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

139.

Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

- The Mundell–Fleming Trilemma (or "impossible trinity") states that a country cannot simultaneously have all three of the following:
 - ◆ Free capital movement (capital account openness)
 - ◆ A fixed (or tightly managed) exchange rate
 - ◆ An independent monetary policy
- A "balanced trade budget" is not one of the three elements of this trilemma, so option 4 is not part of the set.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

140.

Answer: (b)**Explanation:**

- IndiaAI Compute offers researchers, startups, and academics subsidized access to approximately 38,000

GPUs through partnerships with cloud providers, enabling high-performance AI model training at reduced costs. **Hence, pair 1 is correct.**

- IndiaAI Innovation Centre prioritizes building sovereign foundational models (e.g., large language models in Indian languages) through hackathons, grants, and collaborations with IITs and private innovators. **Hence, pair 2 is correct.**
- The IndiaAI Datasets Platform (AIKosha) hosts over 3,800 diverse, ethically sourced datasets covering sectors like agriculture, healthcare, and multilingual NLP, supporting indigenous AI development. **Hence, pair 3 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

141.

Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

- The PLI scheme for high-efficiency solar PV modules is a central pillar of India's strategy to achieve **500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030**. This target was first outlined at COP26 and remains the primary driver for boosting domestic manufacturing to reduce import dependency. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Under the PLI framework, government payouts are **directly linked to specific sales targets** and the performance of the modules (efficiency and temperature coefficient).
 - ◆ While companies must meet a "minimum net worth" to be **eligible to bid** for the scheme, the actual financial incentives are disbursed based on the **incremental production and sale** of the modules over a five-year period post-commissioning. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Statement 3 is Incorrect: As of mid-2025 and early 2026, the progress is actually reversed. The downstream segment (module assembly) has shown significantly higher progress, reaching over 50-60% of its capacity targets.
 - ◆ In contrast, the **upstream segments (Polysilicon, Ingots, and Wafers)** have lagged severely due to high capital intensity and technological complexity, with achievement rates for polysilicon and wafers hovering around 10-14% of their respective targets. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

142.

Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

- **Rising Import Content:** India's exports (electronics, pharma) increasingly rely on imported inputs (components,

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APIs); devaluation raises costs, offsetting price competitiveness gains. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

➤ **Inflation:** Devaluation raises rupee costs of essential imports (oil, pulses, fertilizers), fueling imported inflation—opposite of lowering it. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

➤ **High Export Tariffs:** Tariffs in key markets (e.g., U.S. steel duties, EU green barriers) limit price reductions from cheaper rupee exports, blunting competitiveness. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

➤ **Hence, option A is correct.**

143.

Answer: (c)**Explanation:**

➤ **Fleet-wide CO₂ Targets:** CAFE standards require manufacturers to meet average CO₂ emission limits (e.g., 113 g/km currently, tightening to ~90 g/km by 2032) across their passenger car fleets under 3,500 kg GVW. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

➤ **Outside Mandatory Standards:** Light Commercial Vehicles (LCVs, typically 3.5-12 tonnes) lacked binding fuel efficiency norms until recent BEE proposals, unlike passenger cars under CAFE since 2011. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

➤ **Proposed 2027 Standards:** BEE's draft mandates fuel consumption limits for LCVs starting 2027, aligning with global trends and India's net-zero goals. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

➤ **Hence, option C is correct.**

144.

Answer: (b)**Explanation:**

➤ **Total Outlay:** The Union Cabinet approved NCMM with ₹34,300 crore total outlay over seven years (2024-25 to 2030-31), covering exploration, mining, processing, recycling, and R&D across the critical minerals value chain. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

➤ **Funding Structure:** Direct budgetary support constitutes ₹16,300 crore (nearly 48% of total), allocated via NMET, GSI, ANRF, and other schemes for domestic exploration (₹7,000 crore), overseas support, recycling, and processing parks. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

➤ **PSU Role:** Public Sector Undertakings provide the remaining ₹18,000 crore through expected investments,

acting as strategic investors for mining projects, asset acquisitions abroad, and stockpiling. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

➤ **Hence, option B is correct.**

145.

Answer: (c)**Explanation:**

➤ A quota-based tariff system (often called a **Tariff Rate Quota – TRQ**) **allows lower or zero tariffs up to a fixed quantity of imports**; once the quota is exhausted, higher normal tariffs apply. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

➤ By limiting concessional imports, **the system protects India's low-cost, mass-market automobile manufacturers** from a sudden influx of cheaper or heavily subsidised imports. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

➤ Within the defined quota, European luxury carmakers gain predictable and preferential access to the Indian market, which was a key EU demand. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

➤ **Hence, option C is correct.**

146.

Answer: (d)**Explanation:**

➤ Branding cannot compensate for ground-level deficiencies such as safety concerns, sanitation issues, and bureaucratic hassles. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

➤ **Poor last-mile connectivity** (roads, signage, transport) directly undermines the tourist experience, regardless of the quality of accommodation or attractions. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

➤ In mid-range and luxury segments, India is often less price-competitive than Southeast Asian destinations like Thailand and Vietnam. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

➤ **Hence, option D is correct.**

147.

Answer: (d)**Explanation:**

➤ **Advaita Vedanta** **propounds non-dualism (advaita)**, holding that the individual self (Atman) and ultimate reality (Brahman) are identical. The perception of separation between self and world is considered maya (illusion). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

➤ **Buddhism**, though rejecting a permanent self (anatman), emphasises **pratītyasamutpāda** (dependent origination) and **śūnyatā** (emptiness), which together imply that no entity exists independently; the self and the world arise interdependently. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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- **Sufism (Wahdat al-Wujud)** articulates the Unity of Being, where all existence is seen as manifestations of a single divine reality, dissolving the rigid distinction between the self and the cosmos. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

148.

Answer: (d)**Explanation:**

- **Megacities Scheme:** Formally known as the “Scheme for Infrastructure Development in Mega Cities,” it was launched in 1993–94. It targeted five major cities: Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad, and Bangalore. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM):** This flagship mission was launched on December 3, 2005. It aimed at reforms-driven development in 63 identified cities. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT):** Launched on June 25, 2015, this scheme replaced JNNURM and focused on providing basic services like water supply and sewerage to households. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Smart Cities Mission:** Also launched on June 25, 2015, this mission aimed to develop 100 sustainable and citizen-friendly cities using smart solutions. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

149.

Answer: (b)**Explanation:**

- Successive phases—from Web 1.0 static pages, Web 2.0 user-generated content, to Web 3.0 semantic/AI—have **exponentially increased information volume, though reliability remains mixed due to misinformation proliferation.** **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- AI tools such as ChatGPT make it easy to produce large volumes of content quickly. However, this has raised concerns about inaccurate or fabricated information (“hallucinations”), deepfakes, and the loss of authenticity online. By 2025, the spread of low-quality, AI-generated material — often called the “AI slop” problem — pushed digital platforms to introduce safeguards like watermarking and AI-content detection systems to maintain trust and credibility. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- Wikipedia embodies Web 1.0’s open-source ethos (launched 2001), evolving collaborative editing (crowdsourced verification, 6M+ English articles) as a counter to proprietary knowledge models. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

150.

Answer: (b)**Explanation:**

- India’s **CPI inflation hit record lows in FY 2025-26, averaging 1.7% April-Dec 2025 and dipping to 0.25% in Oct 2025** due to food deflation and base effects—lowest since CPI series began in 2012. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Gross NPAs fell to multi-decade lows of 2.1-2.31% (Sep-Mar 2025), net NPAs to 0.5%; PSBs improved from 9.11% (2021) to 2.58% (2025). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Female labour force participation **rose sharply to 41.7% (2023-24 from 23.3% 2017-18)**, continuing the upward trend into 2025 (35.3% Dec 2025), driven by rural gains and policy support. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

151.

Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

- Under **Article 280**, the Finance Commission recommends the principles governing the distribution of the net proceeds of taxes between the Union and the States (vertical devolution). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- As per **Article 270**, cesses and surcharges levied by the Union are not part of the divisible pool and are retained entirely by the Centre. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **41% share for States was recommended by the 15th Finance Commission.** It is not constitutionally fixed and can change with each Finance Commission. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

152.

Answer: (b)**Explanation:**

- The amendments replace the **mandatory test licence for non-commercial manufacture of drugs** (for research, testing and analysis) with a prior-intimation mechanism. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

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- The prior intimation is submitted online to the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) through the **SUGAM portal**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Drugs manufactured after prior intimation are strictly for research purposes. Marketing or commercial use still requires full regulatory approvals under the Drugs and Cosmetics framework. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
- Amendments to the New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019
 - ◆ Aim to fast-track drug R&D and improve ease of doing business, while ensuring strict adherence to documentation and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP).
 - ◆ **Low-risk bioavailability and bioequivalence studies** allowed after intimation; **high-risk drugs** still require licences but with **reduced approval time (90 to 45 days)**.
- Hence, option B is correct.

153.

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- While the **Arab League** (which includes major suppliers like Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE) has traditionally been a dominant source of energy for India, its share has significantly declined in recent years due to diversification.
- As of 2024-2025, Russia has become India's largest single supplier of crude oil, accounting for approximately 34% to 40% of total imports.
 - ◆ Consequently, the collective share of Arab League countries has fallen below three-fifths. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- Russia is currently the largest supplier of crude oil to India, followed by Iraq and Saudi Arabia while Qatar is India's largest supplier of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), accounting for over 40-60% of gas imports, but it is not a primary supplier of crude oil. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- **Arab League (League of Arab States)**
 - ◆ **Established:** 22nd March 1945 in Cairo; aims to promote political, economic, cultural and security cooperation among Arab countries.
 - ◆ **Membership:** 22 member states from West Asia and North Africa (WANA) region.
 - ◆ **Structure:** Council of the Arab League (foreign ministers), specialised ministerial councils, and a permanent Secretariat headquartered in Cairo.
 - ◆ **India-Arab League relations:** Formalised through an MoU in 2002; cooperation covers trade, energy

security, connectivity, counter-terrorism and people-to-people ties.

- Hence, option D is correct.

154.

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- The **Special Revision of Electoral Rolls (SIR)** is carried out by the Election Commission of India under its constitutional authority (**Article 324**) and the **statutory framework of the Representation of the People Act, 1950** and related rules. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- State governments have no formal role in determining the criteria for inclusion or deletion of voters. The process is conducted independently by the ECI to ensure free and fair elections. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- Objections for inclusion or deletion of names in the electoral roll must be filed through prescribed statutory forms and procedures, and false or frivolous claims can attract penalties. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- **Special Revision of Electoral Rolls (SIR):** Conducted by the Election Commission of India under the Representation of the People Act, 1950 to ensure accuracy and completeness of electoral rolls.
 - ◆ Involves addition, deletion and correction of names through prescribed forms (e.g., Form 6, 7, 8), following due verification.
 - ◆ Aims to remove ineligible entries and include eligible voters, while adhering to procedural safeguards and timelines.
- Hence, option A is correct.

155.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- India usually runs a **Current Account Deficit (CAD)** and therefore relies on capital inflows (FDI, FPI, ECBs, etc.) to maintain Balance of Payments stability. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- While depreciation may improve export competitiveness, it does not automatically boost investor confidence. In fact, sharp or persistent depreciation often signals capital outflows, macro risk, or global uncertainty, which can deter investors. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- Higher and stable export earnings generate autonomous foreign exchange, reducing reliance on volatile capital flows and enhancing external sector resilience. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- Hence, option B is correct.

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156.

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

➤ **Right to Life and Personal Liberty (Article 21):**

- ◆ Restitution of Conjugal Rights (RCR) can compel cohabitation, affecting bodily autonomy, dignity, and decisional freedom, all of which are integral to Article 21. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- **Right to Privacy (Article 21):** Post *Puttaswamy judgment*, privacy includes decisional autonomy in intimate matters. RCR intrudes into the private sphere of marital relationships. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Right to Equality (Article 14):** In practice, RCR disproportionately burdens women, reinforcing unequal power relations within marriage and leading to indirect gender discrimination. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

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