



Monthly Editorial Quiz CONSOLIDATION

July 2025



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Practice Questions

1. Consider the following statements:

1. National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 proposes the establishment of a single overarching body for higher education called the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI).
2. HECI will have four independent verticals, including one for accreditation and one for funding.
3. Medical and legal education will also be brought under the purview of HECI.

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

2. Consider the following statements:

1. The World Bank was established in 1944 through the Bretton Woods Agreement.
2. The major reports published by the World Bank include the World Development Report and the Human Capital Index.

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

3. With reference to Western Ghats, consider the following statements:

1. The Western Ghats are generally higher in elevation and more continuous than the Eastern Ghats.
2. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the 36 biodiversity hotspots globally.
3. It stretches from the Tapi River in the north to Kanyakumari at the southern tip of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

4. Regarding the Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, consider the following statements:

1. He was born on 28th May 1883 in Bhagur, a village near Nashik, Maharashtra.
2. He founded the Abhinav Bharat Society and the Free India Society.
3. He authored a Marathi-language biography of Mazzini.

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 the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, consider the following statements:

1. It is a credit-linked subsidy scheme aimed at offering affordable housing to low- and middle-income groups across India.
2. The scheme has two components PMAY-U for urban poor and PMAY-G for rural poor implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development and by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, respectively.
3. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAY-U) was launched on 25th June 2015, with the aim of providing housing for all in urban areas by 2022.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

6. Regarding the National Emergency, consider the following statements:

1. The President can proclaim a National Emergency under Article 352 only on the written advice of the Prime Minister.
2. During a National Emergency, the Parliament can make laws on subjects in the State List.
3. Fundamental Rights under Article 19 are automatically suspended during the Emergency.

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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

7. With reference to the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Policy and Regulation, consider the following statements:

1. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is responsible for formulating FDI policy, while the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) regulates its operational aspects.
2. FDI is strictly prohibited in sectors like atomic energy generation, gambling and betting, lotteries, chit funds, real estate, and the tobacco industry.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

8. Regarding the Mitochondria, consider the following statements:

1. They are membrane-less organelles found in the cells of most eukaryotic organisms.
2. They are often referred to as the “powerhouses” of the cells.
3. They convert energy from carbohydrates, fats, and proteins into a usable form for the cell.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

9. With reference to Election Commission of India, consider the following statements:

1. They conduct elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, and the offices of the President and Vice President.
2. They have the power to enforce the Model Code of Conduct, which is legally binding under the Representation of the People Act.
3. They have no role in the conduct of elections to Panchayati Raj Institutions and Municipalities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

10. Regarding the Jagannath Temple at Puri, consider the following statements:

1. It was constructed by King Anantavarman Chodaganga Deva of the Eastern Ganga dynasty in the 12th century CE.
2. The temple follows the Dravidian style of architecture, characterized by towering gopurams and pillared halls.
3. The deity sculptures used in this temple are made of wood.

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

11. With reference to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council, consider the following statements:

1. The GST Council is a constitutional body established under Article 279A of the Constitution.
2. The Council has the authority to decide the date on which petroleum products will be brought under GST.
3. The quorum for a GST Council meeting is two-thirds of the total number of members.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

12. Regarding the 42nd Amendment Act, consider the following statements:

1. It extended the duration of Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies from five to six years.
2. It added the words “Socialist”, “Secular”, and “Integrity” to the Preamble of the Constitution.
3. It transferred subjects like education and forests from the State List to the Concurrent List.

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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

13. With reference to the International Court of Justice (ICJ), consider the following statements:

1. The ICJ consists of 15 judges elected for a term of nine years by the UN General Assembly and the Security Council voting independently.
2. No two judges of the ICJ can be nationals of the same country, and judges are not eligible for re-election.
3. The ICJ can enforce its judgments through the UN Security Council if a party fails to comply.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

14. Regarding Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, consider the following statements:

1. He was the first Indian to earn a doctorate in economics from Columbia University.
2. He resigned from the post of Law Minister in 1951 due to differences over the Hindu Code Bill.
3. He led the Mahad Satyagraha in 1927 to assert the right of Dalits to access public water tanks.

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

15. With reference to Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), consider the following statements:

1. PMI data is released monthly by S&P Global for a wide range of economies.
2. The RBI uses PMI data to forecast inflation trends and calibrate monetary policy decisions.
3. PMI has a strong correlation with GDP growth and is used by the CSO to estimate quarterly national income.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

16. Regarding the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), consider the following statements:

1. UNEP was established following the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment in 1972 and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
2. UNEP reports directly to the UN General Assembly and is part of the UN Secretariat.
3. UNEP manages the Global Environment Facility (GEF), which funds projects related to biodiversity, climate change, and land degradation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

17. With reference to Unified Payments Interface (UPI), consider the following statements:

1. UPI's cross-border functionality is enabled through bilateral agreements and does not require SWIFT integration.
2. NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) is the body responsible for UPI's global partnerships.
3. It has been adopted for cross-border payments in countries like Singapore, the UAE, and France through bilateral linkages.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

18. Regarding the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Consider the following statements:

1. The Reserve Bank of India was established in 1935 under the recommendations of the Hilton Young Commission.
2. The RBI Act, 1934, empowers the central bank to regulate the issuance of currency and maintain monetary stability in India.
3. RBI was nationalized in 1949 through an ordinance passed by the Constituent Assembly.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

19. With reference to National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), consider the following statements:

1. The Prime Minister of India serves as the ex-officio Chairperson of the NDMA.
2. NDMA has the power to enforce penalties on state governments for non-compliance with disaster preparedness guidelines.
3. India's disaster management framework under NDMA aligns with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, emphasizing proactive risk mitigation and resilience building.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

20. Consider the following information:

Organization/ Schemes	Some of its functions	It works under
1. National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD)	Screening and management of NCDs at primary healthcare level	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
2. Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAMs)	Specialized tertiary care centers for cancer treatment	Ministry of AYUSH
3. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)	Research on causes and prevention of NCDs	Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

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

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

21. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: BRICS aims to promote a multipolar world order by challenging the dominance of Western-led institutions like the G7 and the World Bank.

Statement II: BRICS has a permanent secretariat headquartered in Shanghai, China, which coordinates its annual summits and policy initiatives.

Statement III: The New Development Bank (NDB), established by BRICS, allows non-BRICS countries to become members and participate in its governance.

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

- A. Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I
- B. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement I explains Statement II
- C. Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I
- D. Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

22. Regarding the Election Commission of India (ECI), Consider the following statements:

1. The expenditure of the ECI is charged on the Consolidated Fund of India, ensuring financial independence.
2. The President of India appoints the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners based on the recommendation of a Selection Committee.

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

23. Consider the following statements regarding Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY):

1. PMMVY provides a conditional cash benefit of ₹5,000 to pregnant and lactating mothers for the first live birth, disbursed in three installments linked to health milestones.
2. Under PMMVY 2.0, additional incentives are provided for the second child if it is a girl, as per specific state guidelines.

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3. Women employed in regular government service or receiving similar maternity benefits under any law are also eligible for PMMVY benefits.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

24. Consider the following statements:

1. GST is a destination-based tax, meaning revenue accrues to the state where goods or services are consumed.
2. India currently follows a four-slab GST rate structure: 5%, 12%, 18%, and 28%.
3. The GST Council is a constitutional body chaired by the Union Finance Minister and includes representatives from all states and union territories.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

25. With reference to common diseases, consider the following information:

Disease	Cause/ Transmission	Symptoms
1. Malaria	Plasmodium parasite transmitted by female Anopheles mosquito	High fever, chills, sweating, headache
2. Tuberculosis	Mycobacterium tuberculosis bacterium transmitted via air	Persistent cough, weight loss, night sweats
3. Parkinson's Disease	Degeneration of dopamine-producing neurons in the brain	Tremors, bradykinesia, postural instability

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

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

26. With reference to the Chabahar Port, consider the following statements:

1. It provides India direct access to Afghanistan and Central Asia, bypassing Pakistan, and is integrated into the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).
2. The port is jointly developed by India, Iran, and Russia under a trilateral agreement signed in 2016.
3. It is located in Iran's Sistan-Baluchestan province, which has historically been a region of ethnic unrest and low economic development.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

27. Regarding the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), consider the following statements:

1. It has adopted a digital platform called FASTag for toll collection, which uses Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology and is mandatory for all commercial vehicles, on national highways.
2. Under the Bharatmala Pariyojana, NHAI is tasked with developing economic corridors, inter-corridor routes, and feeder routes to improve freight efficiency.
3. It has launched the 'One Vehicle, One FASTag' to discourage the use of multiple FASTags for a single vehicle and improve tolling efficiency.

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

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

28. Consider the following countries:

1. Afghanistan
2. Mozambique
3. Saudi Arabia
4. United Arab Emirates
5. Gabon
6. Thailand

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How many of the above are members of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)?

- A. Only three
- B. Only four
- C. Only five
- D. All six

29. With reference to Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY), consider the following statements:

1. The scheme provides an annual health cover of ₹5 lakh per family for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization across empanelled public and private hospitals.
2. The scheme is entirely funded by the central government and implemented uniformly across all states and union territories.
3. Under AB PM-JAY, beneficiaries are identified solely based on the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011 data, and states are not allowed to use alternate databases.

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

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

30. With reference to the Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS), consider the following statements:

Statement I: IDEAS is administered by the Ministry of External Affairs and provides concessional Lines of Credit (LOCs) to developing countries for infrastructure and capacity-building projects.

Statement II: Under IDEAS, all recipient countries are offered uniform credit terms, with a fixed interest rate of 1.5% and a repayment period of 25 years, regardless of their income classification or IMF status.

Statement III: The scheme allows co-financing of projects with multilateral institutions and mandates that all projects be executed by Indian entities selected through competitive bidding.

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

- A. Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I
- B. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement I explains Statement II

C. Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I

D. Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

31. With reference to the Bhopal Gas Tragedy (1984), consider the following statements:

1. Methyl isocyanate was the chemical involved in the Bhopal disaster.
2. The Absolute Liability legal doctrine was invoked in India post-Bhopal disaster to hold corporations strictly liable for hazardous activities.

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

32. Consider the following statements in respect of India's Balance of Payments (BoP):

1. The current account includes transactions related to trade in goods, services, income, and unilateral transfers.
2. The capital account records transactions that alter the assets or liabilities of residents vis-a-vis non-residents.
3. A BoP deficit implies that the total of the current and capital accounts is negative, necessitating a drawdown of foreign exchange reserves.

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

33. Which of the following countries are members of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)?

1. Albania
2. Croatia
3. Finland
4. Montenegro

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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34. Regarding the Employment Linked Incentive Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It will be implemented from August 2025 to July 2027 and targets 1.92 crore first-time Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO)-registered employees.
2. It provides a one-month EPF wage in two installments linked to a financial literacy program, with part deposited in a fixed savings account to encourage long-term savings.
3. All payments to the First Time Employees of the Scheme will be made through DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) mode using Aadhar Bridge Payment System (ABPS).

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

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

35. Regarding Cryptocurrency, consider the following statements:

1. It is a centralized currency regulated by the International Union of Banks.
2. Transactions with cryptocurrency are recorded on a public digital ledger called blockchain.
3. Mining is the process of using computer power to solve complex mathematical equations in order to acquire cryptocurrency.

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

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

36. Which of the following countries borders the Persian Gulf?

1. Iraq
2. Kuwait
3. United Arab Emirates

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

37. Consider the following pairs:

Treaty

1. Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)
2. Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)
3. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)

Explanation

1. Not yet in force but bans all nuclear explosions.
2. Entered into force in 1970, aims to prevent nuclear weapon spread but criticized as discriminatory.
3. Prohibits all forms of participation in nuclear weapons activities.

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

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

38. Regarding ULLAS- Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram, consider the following statements:

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme being implemented from 2022 to 2027.
2. It is designed to empower adults aged 15 years and above who missed out on formal schooling, in line with the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
3. It offers educational resources through the DIKSHA platform and ULLAS mobile/web portal, exclusively in Hindi.

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

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

39. Regarding Tuberculosis, consider the following statements:

1. It is a contagious lung infection caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, spread through the air, but preventable and curable with antibiotics.
2. Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan (PMTBMBA) is the world's largest crowd-sourcing initiative for TB patient nutrition.
3. The Ni-Kshay Mitra initiative encourages individuals, NGOs, and corporations to support TB patients with nutritional, social, or economic aid for six months.

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

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

40. The terms PRISM, PACE, CTRDH, and A2K+, often seen in the news, are best described as:

- A. Government schemes for supporting innovation, technology development, and MSMEs
- B. International trade agreements related to intellectual property rights
- C. Environmental sustainability initiatives under the United Nations
- D. Educational scholarship programs for rural students in India

41. With reference to the Emergency Provisions in the Indian Constitution, consider the following information:

Provision Type	Key Trigger Condition	Related Article
1. National Emergency	War, external aggression, or armed rebellion	Article 352
2. President's Rule	Failure of constitutional machinery in a State	Article 356
3. Financial Emergency	Threat to financial stability or credit of India or any part thereof	Article 360

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

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

42. Consider the following statements regarding the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India:

- 1. The GST Council is chaired by the Union Finance Minister and includes the Finance Ministers of all States and Union Territories with legislatures.
- 2. The 101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016, inserted Article 279A to provide for the establishment of the GST Council.

3. Petroleum products and alcohol for human consumption are currently outside the purview of GST, and their inclusion requires a constitutional amendment.

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

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

43. Regarding the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a statutory body established under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- 2. It has overriding powers over State Pollution Control Boards and other statutory bodies in matters of air quality management in the NCR.
- 3. It can impose penalties and initiate prosecution against entities violating its directions.

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

44. The report "Financing Cities of Tomorrow" is released by which of the following?

- A. World Bank
- B. United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
- C. International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- D. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

45. With reference to the Preamble of the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:

- 1. The ideals of liberty, equality, and fraternity enshrined in the Preamble are inspired by the Russian Revolution.
- 2. K.M. Munshi described the Preamble as the "horoscope of our sovereign democratic republic."
- 3. The ideal of justice—social, economic, and political—has been taken from the French Revolution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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46. With reference to the Buddhist Councils, consider the following information:

Council	Specificity	Patron
1. First Council	Compilation of Vinaya and Sutta Piṭakas	King Ajatashatru
2. Second Council	Division into Sthaviravadins and Mahasanghikas	King Kalashoka
3. Third Council	Purification of the Buddhist Sangha (monastic order)	King Ashoka
4. Fourth Council	Division into Mahayana sect and Hinayana sect	King Kanishka

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

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All four

47. With reference to Alzheimer's disease, consider the following statements:

- The earliest and most severely affected brain region in Alzheimer's disease is the hippocampus.
- Neurofibrillary tangles in Alzheimer's disease are composed of hyperphosphorylated tau protein.
- The Edrophonium test is used to confirm the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease.

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

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

48. Regarding the Genetically Modified (GM) crops in India, consider the following statements:

- Bt cotton is the only GM crop approved for commercial cultivation in India as of 2025.
- The DMH-11 GM mustard hybrid uses the barnase-barstar gene system to facilitate hybridization.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

49. With reference to India's achievements in eliminating communicable diseases, consider the following information:

Disease/Condition	Year of Elimination/Declaration	Declared By/Under the Aegis Of
1. Polio	2014	World Health Organization—South-East Asia Region
2. Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus	2015	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India
3. Trachoma	2024	National Programme for Control of Blindness and Visual Impairment
4. Kala Azar	2023	National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP)

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

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All four

50. Consider the following statements:

- Article 324 of the Constitution authorizes the Election Commission to conduct elections, and Article 326 directs that the franchise be limited to adult Indian citizens.
- The right to vote in India is a fundamental right under Article 19 of the Constitution.
- The legal framework supporting electoral roll revisions includes the Representation of the People Act, 1950, and the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960.

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

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

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51. With reference to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), consider the following statements:

1. It is the only UN body whose decisions are legally binding on member states under Chapter VII of the UN Charter.
2. The presidency of the UNSC rotates monthly among its permanent members in alphabetical order.

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

52. Regarding the Strait of Hormuz, consider the following statements:

1. It connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea.
2. It is bordered by Iran to the north and Oman to the south.
3. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) guarantees transit passage through international straits like Hormuz.

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

53. Regarding the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), consider the following statements:

1. It is regulated by the Reserve Bank of India under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.
2. It mandates the use of Aadhaar-based biometric authentication for all transactions above ₹5,000.
3. UPI transactions are settled in real time using the Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) infrastructure.

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

54. Consider the following countries:

1. Côte d'Ivoire
2. Burkina Faso
3. Togo
4. Nigeria
5. Mali

How many of the above countries share a land boundary with Ghana?

- A. Only Two
- B. Only Three
- C. Only Four
- D. All Five

55. With reference to the BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA), consider the following statements:

1. It aims to provide short-term liquidity support to BRICS members during balance of payments crises.
2. It operates independently of the International Monetary Fund and does not require IMF linkage for any support.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

56. With reference to the methodology of GDP calculation in India, consider the following statements:

1. The base year for GDP calculation is revised periodically to reflect structural changes in the economy, such as shifts in consumption patterns.
2. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) is responsible for GDP estimation.
3. The GDP deflator used in India is directly derived from the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to ensure consistency in inflation measurement.

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

57. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: MGNREGA promotes inclusive growth by enhancing livelihood security in rural areas.

Statement II: MGNREGA guarantees 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

Statement III: MGNREGA mandates that at least 50% of the works should be executed by Gram Panchayats to ensure decentralization and community participation.

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

- A. Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I
- B. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement I explains Statement II
- C. Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I
- D. Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

58. Regarding the Body Mass Index (BMI), consider the following statements:

- 1. WHO recommends lower BMI thresholds for Asian populations than average level.
- 2. It was previously known as the Quetelet index.
- 3. It is calculated by dividing weight in kilograms by height in meters squared.

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

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

59. With reference to the zoonotic diseases, consider the following information:

Disease	Causative Agent	Primary Carrier/Vector
1. Leptospirosis	Bacterial (Leptospira spp.)	Rodents and contaminated water
2. Leishmaniasis	Viral (Leishmania virus)	Mosquitoes
3. Toxoplasmosis	Protozoan (Toxoplasma gondii)	Domestic cats and contaminated meat

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

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

60. With reference to the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) in India, consider the following statements:

- 1. CRZ-I includes ecologically sensitive areas and the intertidal zone between the Low Tide Line (LTL) and High Tide Line (HTL), where no construction is generally permitted.
- 2. CRZ-III refers to rural and relatively undisturbed areas, where regulated development is allowed beyond 200 meters from the High Tide Line (HTL).
- 3. CRZ-IV includes the aquatic area from the Low Tide Line (LTL) up to 12 nautical miles seaward, where traditional fishing and related activities are prohibited.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

61. Regarding the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY), consider the following statements:

- 1. It provides collateral-free loans to non-corporate, non-farm micro and small enterprises through various financial institutions.
- 2. PMMY includes a direct subsidy component for borrowers under all three categories: Shishu, Kishor, and Tarun.
- 3. Under PMMY, the Tarun Plus category allows loans up to Rs 20 lakh for enterprises seeking expansion.

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

62. With reference to the Asian Development Bank (ADB), consider the following statements:

- 1. India is a founding member of ADB and among its top five shareholders.
- 2. It provides both sovereign and non-sovereign loans to member countries for development projects.
- 3. Energy Transition Readiness Assessment is an ADB publication assessing clean energy preparedness.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

63. Consider the following reports:

- 1. World Economic Outlook
- 2. Global Financial Stability Report
- 3. Fiscal Monitor
- 4. Human Development Report
- 5. Ease of Doing Business Report

How many of the above are published by the International Monetary Fund (IMF)?

- A. Only two
- B. Only three
- C. Only four
- D. All the five

64. Which of the following Gulf countries recently introduced a nomination-based Golden Visa?

- A. United Arab Emirates
- B. Oman
- C. Saudi Arabia
- D. Kuwait

65. Regarding the 17th BRICS Summit, consider the following statements:

- 1. It adopted the Leaders' Framework Declaration on Climate Finance to mobilize resources for developing countries
- 2. A Partnership for the Elimination of Socially Determined Diseases (Tuberculosis) to tackle health disparities was launched.
- 3. It agreed to form a BRICS Space Council for collaborative space exploration.

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

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

66. Consider the following statements:

- 1. India signed the UN Convention Against Torture (UNCAT) in 1997 but has not yet ratified it.
- 2. The DK Basu vs State of West Bengal Case, 1997, laid down guidelines to prevent custodial torture and promote transparency in arrests and detentions.

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

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

67. Regarding the National Mission on Edible Oils–Oilseeds (NMEO–Oilseeds), consider the following statements:

- 1. It has been launched by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and will be implemented over a seven-year period, from 2024-25 to 2030-31.
- 2. It aims at increasing collection and extraction efficiency from secondary sources like Cottonseed, Rice Bran, and Tree Borne Oils.
- 3. A 5-year rolling seed plan was introduced via the SATHI Portal to help states establish tie-ups with seed-producing agencies.

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

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

68. Regarding the Minimum Support Price (MSP), consider the following statements:

- 1. It is the minimum amount paid to farmers when the government buys their produce.
- 2. It was established in 1965 by setting up the Agricultural Prices Commission (APC) (later renamed as CACP) to enhance national food security.
- 3. The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) recommends MSPs for all the crops grown in India.

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

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

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69. Regarding the Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. Under the Scheme, the first-time employees will get one month's wage up to Rs 15,000/-.
2. The Government will incentivize employers, up to Rs 3000 per month, for two years, for each additional employee with sustained employment for at least six months.
3. Establishments registered with EPFO will be required to hire at least two additional employees on a sustained basis for at least six months.

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

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

70. Regarding the Aadhaar-enabled Payment System (AePS), consider the following statements:

1. It eliminates the need for OTPs, bank account details, and other financial information.
2. It was launched by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), a collaborative effort between the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Indian Banks' Association (IBA).
3. It enables interoperability among different banks and financial institutions, allowing customers to access their bank accounts through the micro-ATM of any bank.

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

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

71. Which of the following conditions must be met to be considered a voter under Article 326 of the Constitution?

1. The individual must be a citizen of India.
2. The person must be at least 21 years of age on such date as may be fixed by the appropriate law.
3. The person should not be disqualified under the Constitution or any law made by the appropriate Legislature.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

72. Which of the following is not the objectives of the recently formed Quad Critical Minerals Initiative?

1. Securing and diversifying reliable supply chains for critical minerals.
2. Recovering and reprocessing critical minerals from electronic waste.
3. Promoting the exclusive use of rare earth elements in military applications.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

73. Regarding the Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Science and Technology to boost private sector investment in basic and applied research.
2. The Governing Board of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) will provide the overall strategic direction for the RDI Scheme.
3. The scheme will primarily involve the creation of a special-purpose fund, with the funds being provided as low-interest loans.

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

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

74. With reference to the Nicobar Islands, consider the following information:

Feature	Description	Administrative/Scientific
Context		
1. Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve	Includes tropical evergreen forests and coastal mangroves, and is part of UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Programme	Administered by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
2. Indira Point	Southernmost tip of India, submerged partially after the 2004 tsunami	Lies within the territorial jurisdiction of the Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC)

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3. Shompen Tribe	A Scheduled Tribe practicing horticulture and hunting-gathering in the interior forests of Great Nicobar	Officially classified under Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs
------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

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

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

75. With reference to the Indian Monsoon system, consider the following statements:

1. The onset of the southwest monsoon over Kerala is influenced by the cross-equatorial flow of moisture-laden winds from the southern Indian Ocean, particularly the Somali Jet.
2. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) and the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) influence Indian monsoon rainfall, and a positive IOD can mitigate the negative effects of El Niño.
3. The monsoon trough shifts northward during active monsoon phases, leading to increased rainfall over the Indo-Gangetic plains and decreased rainfall over the Western Ghats.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

76. Regarding the Election Commission of India (ECI), consider the following statements:

1. The Election Commission has the constitutional authority to disqualify candidates for corrupt practices under Article 324, independent of judicial proceedings.
2. They prepare the electoral rolls for the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.
3. The Election Commission is empowered to cancel an election in a constituency if it finds evidence of large-scale rigging or booth capturing, even after polling has concluded.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

77. Consider the following statements regarding Minimum Support Price (MSP):

1. It is announced by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs based on recommendations from the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).
2. The Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) is used to ensure MSP procurement for oilseeds and pulses.
3. The MSP for sugarcane is recommended by the Department of Food and Public Distribution.

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

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

78. Consider the following countries:

1. Brazil
2. Russia
3. India
4. China
5. South Africa
6. Egypt

How many of the above are members of the BRICS organization?

- A. Only three
- B. Only four
- C. Only five
- D. All six

79. Consider the following statements regarding the constitutional provisions related to the Finance Commission:

1. It is constituted under Article 280 of the Indian Constitution and must be established every five years or earlier if deemed necessary by the President.
2. Its recommendations are mandatory for the Union Government, ensuring their full implementation.
3. It can recommend grants-in-aid to states under Article 275 of the Constitution.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

80. Consider the following statements regarding the conferring of the Classical Language status:

1. The Government of India introduced the category of Classical Languages for the first time in 2004.
2. Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali were all granted the status of Classical Languages in 2024.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

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

81. Which of the following reports are published by World Bank?

1. Global Economic Prospects
2. World Development Report
3. World Investment Report

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

82. Regarding the Gini Coefficient, consider the following statements:

1. It measures the degree of income equality in a population.
2. It is derived from the Lorenz Curve and can serve as an indicator of a country's economic development.
3. It ranges from 0, representing perfect inequality where one individual receives all the income, to 1, representing perfect equality where everyone has the same income

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

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

83. The term Stagflation, often seen in the news, is best described as:

- A. A situation characterized by simultaneous increase in prices and stagnation of economic growth
- B. A situation where economic growth accelerates, and unemployment decreases
- C. A condition where inflation is low, and economic growth is high
- D. A scenario where economic growth slows down, but employment rates rise

84. Regarding the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), consider the following statements:

1. It was created to address concerns about extremist religious groups and ethnic tensions following the dissolution of the USSR in 1991.
2. India is one of the founding members, along with China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

85. Regarding the Namami Gange Programme (NGP), consider the following statements:

1. It is a flagship programme for the rejuvenation of the Ganga River and its tributaries by reducing pollution, improving water quality, and restoring the river's ecosystem.
2. The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration acknowledged NGP as one of the Top 10 World Restoration Flagship Initiatives.
3. The National Ganga Council (NGC) is headed by the Prime Minister, with the chief ministers of the riparian states and 10 Union ministers as members.

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

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

86. Which of the following are tributaries of the Yamuna River?

1. Chambal
2. Sindh
3. Betwa
4. Ken

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Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

87. Consider the following pairs:

Provision	Explanation
1. Article 24 of the Constitution	Prohibits trafficking in human beings and forced labour.
2. Article 23 of the Constitution	Prohibits employment of children below the age of 14 in factories, mines, or any hazardous employment.
3. The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (ITPA)	Targets trafficking for sexual exploitation.
4. Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015	Addresses trafficking and exploitation of minors.

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

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

88. Regarding the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Culture, entrusted with regulating the public exhibition of films as per the Cinematograph Act 1952.
2. It comprises non-official members and a Chairman, all appointed by the Central Government, with its headquarters located in Mumbai.
3. The Advisory Panels consist of members nominated by the Central Government from diverse backgrounds, serving for a term of 2 years.

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

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

89. With reference to International Criminal Court (ICC), consider the following statements:

1. The ICC is the first permanent international court established to prosecute individuals for genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.
2. The ICC was established by the Rome Statute and is headquartered in The Hague, Netherlands.
3. India has signed and ratified the Rome Statute, making it a member of the ICC.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

90. Regarding the Inter-State Council (ISC), consider the following statements:

1. The Inter-State Council is a constitutional body established under Article 263 of the Indian Constitution.
2. The recommendations of the Inter-State Council are binding on the Union and State governments.
3. The Council is chaired by the Prime Minister and includes Chief Ministers of all States and Union Territories with legislatures.

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

91. With reference to Global Gender Gap Report 2025, consider the following statements:

1. India ranks 131st out of 148 countries in the Global Gender Gap Report 2025, with particularly low scores in economic participation and health and survival.
2. It has been published annually since 2006 by the Gender Equality Resource Center (GERC).

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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92. Regarding the National Credit Framework (NCrF), consider the following statements:

1. It is a framework for credit accumulation and transfer across all levels of education.
2. It aims to create academic equivalence between vocational education and general education.

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. Consider the following statements:

1. Aadhaar is a proof of citizenship, date of birth and domicile as per the Aadhaar Act, 2016.
2. The Aadhaar number, once issued, cannot be deactivated or omitted under any circumstances.
3. UIDAI is a statutory authority established under the Aadhaar Act, 2016, and functions under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

94. With reference to SEBI, consider the following statements:

1. It has quasi-legislative, quasi-judicial, and quasi-executive powers.
2. SEBI's decisions can not be challenged before the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT).

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. Regarding the Trade Enablement and Marketing (TEAM) Initiative, consider the following statements:

1. It has been launched under the "Raising and Accelerating MSME Productivity (RAMP)" Programme.
2. The TEAM Initiative is implemented by the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).
3. The initiative leverages the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) to promote e-commerce among MSMEs.

How many of the above statements are not correct?

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

96. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is considered a better indicator of economic growth than nominal GDP.

Statement II: Real GDP adjusts for inflation, allowing comparison of economic output across different time periods.

Statement III: Nominal GDP includes only the value of goods and services produced in the formal sector.

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

- A. Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I
- B. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement I explains Statement II
- C. Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I
- D. Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

97. With reference to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), consider the following statements:

1. It was established in 1974 under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, and later given powers under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
2. It is responsible for setting National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).
3. It is a quasi-judicial body with the power to adjudicate environmental disputes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

98. Regarding the Nehru Report (1928), consider the following statements:

1. It was the first Indian attempt to draft a constitutional framework for self-governance.
2. It proposed Dominion status for India but was opposed by leaders such as Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhas Chandra Bose, and S. Satyamurti.

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3. It opposed the idea of separate electorates for any community and instead recommended joint electorates with reserved seats for religious minorities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

99. With reference to the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS), consider the following statements:

1. It replaces the Perform, Achieve, and Trade (PAT) scheme, focusing on reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions intensity rather than energy intensity.
2. It uses a rate-based Emissions Trading System (ETS) focused on emission intensity benchmarks.
3. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) and the National Steering Committee for the Indian Carbon Market (NSICM) are responsible for managing CCTS.

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

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

100. Regarding the Indus Water Treaty, consider the following statements:

1. It divides the Indus River system, with Pakistan controlling the Western rivers (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab) and India controlling the Eastern rivers (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej).
2. It was mediated by the World Bank to resolve the Indus water disputes arising from the partition of India and Pakistan.
3. It includes a five-tier dispute resolution mechanism.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

101. Consider the following statements regarding International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT)'s role in the Green Revolution:

1. It developed semi-dwarf wheat varieties that were later adapted for Indian agro-climatic conditions.
2. Norman Borlaug, associated with CIMMYT, received the Nobel Peace Prize for his work in maize improvement.
3. The initial wheat varieties introduced in India from CIMMYT were bred for high responsiveness to chemical inputs and irrigation.

How many of the above statements are **not** correct?

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

102. With reference to the Research, Development, and Innovation (RDI) Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to provide long-term financing or refinancing with low or nil interest rates to spur private sector investment in research, development, and innovation (RDI).
2. The Department of Science and Technology (DST) is the nodal department for the implementation of the RDI Scheme.
3. It employs a two-tiered funding mechanism, where the first level is a Special Purpose Fund (SPF) that allocates funds to second-level fund managers in the form of long-term concessional loans.

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

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

103. Consider the following:

1. Rejuvenation of the Ganga River Basin
2. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)
3. National Rural Health Mission (NRHM)
4. Strengthening of State Disaster Risk Management Systems

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How many of the above projects in India have been supported by the World Bank Group?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All four

104. With reference to the following economic concepts, consider the following information:

Concept	Description	Application/ Implication in Economics
1. Lorenz Curve	Graphical representation of income or wealth distribution across a population	Used to calculate the Gini coefficient and measure inequality
2. Phillips Curve	Shows the relationship between inflation and unemployment	Used to understand trade-offs in macro-economic policy
3. Engel Curve	Illustrates how household expenditure on a good changes with income	Helps classify goods as normal, inferior, or luxury

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

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

105. With reference to World Trade Organization (WTO), consider the following statements:

1. Its highest decision-making body is the Ministerial Conference, followed by the General Council and other committees.
2. The World Trade Organization (WTO) was established in 1995 as a successor to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).
3. The Appellate Body of the WTO requires a minimum of three members to hear an appeal.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

106. Consider the following countries:

1. Canada
2. Australia
3. Germany
4. Japan
5. Italy
6. United Kingdom

How many of the above are members of the G7?

- A. Only three
- B. Only four
- C. Only five
- D. All the six

107. Consider the following statements:

1. The 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' (BBBP) scheme is a flagship initiative launched in 2015 by the Government of India to address the declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and promote the education and empowerment of the girl child.
2. It is a tri-ministerial initiative involving the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and Ministry of Education.

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

108. Regarding the Gini Index, consider the following statements:

1. The Gini Index was developed to measure income inequality within a population.
2. The Gini Index is calculated by determining the area between the Lorenz curve and the line of perfect equality, divided by the total area under the line of equality.
3. The value of the Gini Index ranges from 1 to 100, with higher values indicating more equitable income distribution.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

109. Consider the following statements regarding the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC):

1. It was established after the Finance Act of 2016 amended the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, to create a statutory framework for inflation targeting.
2. The three members of MPC are appointed by the Central Government for a term of four years and are not eligible for reappointment.
3. The decision of the MPC shall be binding on the Bank.

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

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

110. With reference to citizenship and its related constitutional provisions, consider the following information:

Provision	Description	Related Constitutional Article
1. Acquisition of citizenship by birth	A person born in India on or after January 26, 1950, is a citizen of India by birth	Article 5
2. Termination of citizenship	Citizenship can be terminated if a person voluntarily acquires citizenship of another country	Article 9
3. Parliament's power to regulate citizenship	Parliament has the authority to make laws regarding acquisition and termination of citizenship	Article 11

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

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

111. Regarding the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), consider the following statements:

1. The Gram Sabha is responsible for recommending the list of works to be undertaken under MGNREGA.
2. Payment of wages must be made within 15 days of the work being done.
3. The Ombudsman appointed under MGNREGA has the power to impose penalties on officials.

How many of the statements given above are not correct?

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

112. Regarding the National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM), consider the following statements:

1. It is implemented by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
2. The National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM) has four key components aimed at boosting the sector's growth.

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

113. Consider the following statements regarding the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012:

1. It was enacted in consequence to India's ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1992).
2. Individuals who traffic children for sexual purposes are punishable under the abetment provisions of the Act.
3. The POCSO Act was amended in 2019 to include the death penalty for those convicted of sexual crimes against children.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

114. With reference to BRICS, consider the following statements:

1. The 17th BRICS Summit was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
2. India will assume the BRICS Chairship and host the 18th BRICS Summit in 2026.
3. In 2024, Iran, UAE, Egypt, and Ethiopia joined the group, while Indonesia became a member in 2025.

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

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

115. With reference to the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), consider the following statements:

1. It is empowered to frame regulations related to food labeling, packaging, and fortification.
2. The Eat Right India movement is an initiative of the FSSAI to promote healthy eating habits.
3. FSSAI directly conducts inspections and audits of food businesses across India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

116. Regarding the AXIOM-4 mission, consider the following statements:

1. It features an international crew from the United States, India, Poland, and Hungary.
2. The Axiom-4 mission includes a key study focused on making space travel possible for insulin-dependent diabetic individuals.
3. As a part of the mission, ISRO is sending tardigrades (water bears) to the ISS to study how life can survive in extreme space conditions.

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

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

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

1. It is a measure used to track changes in the price level of a basket of consumer goods and services over time.
2. The CPI is calculated by the Ministry of Finance on a monthly basis.
3. The CPI for industrial workers is calculated separately from the general CPI to reflect sector-specific consumption patterns.

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

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

118. Consider the following statements:

1. Shivaji Maharaj's administrative system was based on decentralization and was supported by a council of ministers known as the Ashta Pradhan.
2. He maintained a navy and built coastal forts like Sindhudurg and Vijaydurg to protect maritime interests.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

119. Regarding the PoSH Act, consider the following statements:

1. It was enacted in 2013 to enforce the Vishakha guidelines on Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace.
2. Employers must set up an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) at workplaces with 10 or more employees to handle sexual harassment complaints.

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

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

120. Consider the following statements:

1. The RBI can use the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate to inject liquidity into the banking system overnight.
2. The Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) introduced by the RBI does not require collateral from banks.
3. RBI publishes the Financial Stability Report (FSR) annually to assess systemic risks in the financial sector.

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

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

121. With reference to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), consider the following statements:

1. It functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs as a central repository of information on crime and criminals in India.
2. It was established solely on the recommendations of the Tandon Committee.
3. It publishes crime statistics through its annual report "Crime in India".

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

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

122. Regarding the Election Commission of India (ECI), consider the following statements:

1. ECI is a permanent constitutional body established under Article 324 of the Constitution.
2. The Chief Election Commissioner enjoys the same status and privileges as a Supreme Court judge in terms of removal from office.

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

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

123. Consider the following statements:

1. Primary waves (P-waves) can travel through solids, liquids and gases, whereas Secondary waves (S-waves) can travel only through solids.
2. Surface waves are the fastest seismic waves and are responsible for the maximum destruction during an earthquake.
3. The magnitude of an earthquake is measured by the Richter scale, while intensity is measured by the Mercalli scale.

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

124. With reference to the international boundaries of India, consider the following information:

Boundary Segment	Description	Parties Involved
1. India–China	McMahon Line was drawn during the Simla Convention of 1914	British India, Tibet, and China
2. India–Pakistan	Line of Control (LoC) was formalized through the Simla Agreement of 1972	Bilateral agreement between India and Pakistan
3. India–Bangladesh	Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) was implemented to resolve enclave issues	United Nations facilitated the agreement and ratification process

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

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

125. Regarding the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), consider the following statements:

1. It was constituted under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003.
2. The decisions of the MPC are binding on the RBI and must be implemented immediately.
3. The MPC is mandated to maintain CPI inflation at 4% with a tolerance band of $\pm 2\%$.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

126. With reference to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), consider the following statements:

1. It was established under the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 to regulate the securities markets in India.
2. It has the power to ban individuals from accessing the securities market for violations of insider trading norms.
3. It has the authority to settle administrative and civil proceedings through a structured settlement process.

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

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

127. Regarding the Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. The RDI Scheme aims to provide long-term financing or refinancing to the private sector at low or nil interest rates.
2. The Department of Science and Technology (DST) is the nodal department for the implementation of the RDI Scheme.

3. The RDI Scheme follows a single-tier funding mechanism, with funds allocated exclusively from the Special Purpose Fund (SPF).

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

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

128. With reference to the Asian Development Bank (ADB), consider the following statements:

1. India is a founding member of the ADB and its fourth-largest shareholder.
2. The President of ADB is elected by the Board of Governors for a term of five years and can be re-elected.
3. The ADB uses a 'one dollar, one vote' system, where voting power is based on financial contributions.

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

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

129. Consider the following statements regarding the Electoral rolls in India:

1. The ECI prepares the Electoral Rolls under the Representation of the People Act (RP Act), 1950.
2. Article 327 vests the ECI with the power to supervise and control the preparation of electoral rolls and the conduct of elections.

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

130. With reference to the Gaganyaan Mission, consider the following statements:

1. It is ISRO's first manned mission to send Indian astronauts to low-earth orbit for a short duration.
2. LVM3 rocket, launch vehicle for the mission, consists of solid stage, liquid stage and cryogenic stage.
3. Vyommitra, a female humanoid robot astronaut, will fly aboard unmanned test missions ahead of the Gaganyaan mission.

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

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

131. Which of the following statements about the Black Sea is **not** correct?

- A. It is bordered by Ukraine, Russia, Georgia, Türkiye, Bulgaria, and Romania.
- B. It is connected to the Sea of Azov through the Bosphorus Strait.
- C. It is surrounded by the Caucasus Mountains in the east and the Crimean Mountains in the north.
- D. It is fed by major rivers such as the Danube, Dnieper, and Dniester.

132. Consider the following pairs:

Space Mission

Achievement

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Mangalyaan (2014) | Made India the first country to reach Mars on its first attempt |
| 2. Agnikul Cosmo (2022) | Launched Vikram-S—India's first private rocket |
| 3. Skyroot Aerospace (2022) | Inaugurated India's first private space launch pad at Sriharikota |
| 4. Bharatiya Antariksh Station (perhaps by 2035) | Will enable permanent research in low Earth orbit |

Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

133. With reference to the S-400 defence system, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is developed by Russia and is one of the world's most advanced long-range surface-to-air missile (SAM) systems.
- 2. It can intercept a wide range of aerial threats including aircraft, ballistic missiles, cruise missiles and drones.
- 3. It includes long, medium and short to medium range missiles.

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

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

134. Consider the following statements regarding Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD):

- 1. The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC) in 2015 mandated all of India's coal-fired plants to install FGD systems.
- 2. FGD systems are mainly of three main types, including dry sorbent injection, wet limestone-based system and seawater-based system.
- 3. Gypsum generated by the FGD plant would be used in fertiliser, cement, paper, textile and construction industries

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

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

135. With reference to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a major economic agreement formed between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its FTA partners.
- 2. The objective is to promote trade and investment, remove trade barriers, and enhance economic cooperation and regional supply chains among member countries.
- 3. India was initially a part of the RCEP negotiations but decided to withdraw in 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

136. Consider the following countries:

- 1. Darussalam
- 2. Canada
- 3. Peru
- 4. Vietnam

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How many of these are members of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)?

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

137. Regarding the Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY), consider the following statements:

1. It was approved in July 2025 and aims to cover 100 low-performing agricultural districts for six years.
2. The number of districts per state or UT will be based on Net Cropped Area and operational holdings with at least one district selected from each state for balanced inclusion.
3. The scheme will be implemented through a three-tier structure comprising district-level committees, state-level steering groups and national-level oversight bodies.

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

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

138. Consider the following statements regarding the Poverty and Equity Briefs (PEBs):

1. It is published biannually by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
2. Poverty estimates for India are based on the Consumption Expenditure Survey (CES) and the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey.

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

139. With reference to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), consider the following statements:

1. It was established by six founding countries, namely Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, India, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
2. The Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) is one of the two permanent bodies of the SCO.

3. The Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) is among the various collaborations of the organisation.

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

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

140. Consider the following statements regarding the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI):

1. It aims to connect Asia with Africa and Europe via land and maritime networks to enhance global connectivity and trade.
2. China-Myanmar Economic Corridor is one of the key corridors of the initiative.
3. In 2024, Brazil became the first BRICS nation to join the BRI.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

141. Which of the following statements best describes a Non-Performing Asset (NPA)?

- A. A loan account that is reclassified due to the borrower's credit score falling below a specified threshold, regardless of repayment history.
- B. A loan is considered non-performing when repayments have not been made for a minimum period of 90 days.
- C. A loan that is temporarily suspended from the bank's active portfolio due to changes in the base lending rate.
- D. A loan that continues to generate interest income but has been flagged due to a high probability of default in the future.

142. Consider the following initiatives:

1. Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA)
2. Open Radio Access Networks (Open RAN)
3. Counter Terrorism Working Group (CTWG)
4. BioExplore Initiative

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Which of the following initiatives have been launched under the framework of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD)?

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

143. Which one of the following statements best describes an Initial Public Offering (IPO)?

- A. A process through which the government borrows money by issuing sovereign bonds to institutional investors.
- B. A mechanism by which a company offers its shares to the public for the first time to raise equity capital.
- C. A contractual agreement in which a company merges with another to expand its public shareholding.
- D. A financial arrangement where banks offer loans to startups in exchange for convertible debt instruments.

144. With reference to the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), consider the following statements:

- 1. AAIB was established to fulfil India's obligations under the Convention on International Civil Aviation 1944.
- 2. AAIB investigates all accidents and serious incidents involving aircraft with all-up weight (AUW) more than 5000 kg or turbojet aircraft.
- 3. The primary objective of AAIB investigations is to assign blame and determine legal liability.

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

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

145. Consider the following statements regarding AI Action Summit 2025 held in Paris:

- 1. It builds upon the progress made at the Bletchley Park Summit in 2023 and the Seoul Summit in 2024, and is co-chaired by India.
- 2. The US and UK, along with other countries, also signed the declaration on inclusive and sustainable AI.

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

146. The "1267 Committee", often seen in the news, is related to which of the following?

- A. Monitoring nuclear non-proliferation under the IAEA
- B. Imposing sanctions on terrorist groups and individuals linked to Al-Qaeda and ISIS
- C. Regulating global trade disputes under the WTO
- D. Overseeing climate change agreements under the UNFCCC

147. With reference to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India, consider the following statements:

- 1. For a listed Indian company, an investment must be at least 10% of the post-issue paid-up equity capital to be classified as Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).
- 2. FDI is prohibited in sectors such as atomic energy, gambling and betting, and the tobacco industry.
- 3. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), under the Ministry of Finance, is the nodal agency for FDI regulation in India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

148. Paikan Reserve Forest, recently in the news, is located in which of the following States?

- A. Arunachal Pradesh
- B. Manipur
- C. Assam
- D. Nagaland

149. The Right to Privacy is protected under which Article of the Constitution of India?

- A. Article 14
- B. Article 17
- C. Article 21
- D. Article 24

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150. Consider the following statements regarding the Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme:

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme that provides farmers with soil nutrient status and fertilizer recommendations.
2. Soil samples are generally collected twice a year, post-harvest of Rabi and Kharif crops.
3. The SHC tests soil for 12 parameters, including macronutrients, micronutrients, and physical properties like pH and organic carbon.

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

151. Consider the following statements regarding the vegan milk:

1. Vegan milk is free from cholesterol and lactose, unlike bovine milk.
2. It is derived from plant sources such as soy, oats, almonds, and rice.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

152. Consider the following statements regarding Buddhism:

1. In Buddhism, the event during which the Buddha delivered his first sermon at Sarnath is known as Dharma Chakra Pravartana.
2. According to the Buddha's teachings, the four sublime states include loving-kindness (metta), compassion (karuna), sympathetic joy (mudita), and equanimity (upekkha).

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

153. With reference to the Vice-President (VP) of India, consider the following statements:

1. Article 63 of the Constitution provides that there shall be a VP of India, who is the second-highest constitutional authority after the President.
2. The voting process is conducted via proportional representation and single transferable vote, by secret ballot, overseen by a Returning Officer.
3. VP serves a term of five years but can continue in office beyond the expiry of the term until a successor assumes charge.

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

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

154. Consider the following statement regarding India's contribution to SAARC:

1. The SAARC Agreement on Trade in Services (SATIS) was first proposed by India, which came into force in 2012.
2. India launched the South Asian Satellite (SAS), providing satellite-based services to SAARC countries.
3. India is home to the South Asian University, which was established through an Inter-Governmental Agreement signed during a SAARC summit.

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

155. Consider the following statements regarding the Free Trade Agreements (FTAs):

1. It is a trade pact between two or more nations that aims to reduce or eliminate customs duties and trade barriers on goods traded between them.
2. India has not signed any FTA with Australia.

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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156. Consider the following technologies related to reducing emissions from thermal power plants:

Technology	Aim
1. Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR)	Converts harmful NO _x into harmless nitrogen gas and water vapor.
2. Electrostatic Precipitators (ESPs)	Targets particulate matter (PM), tiny particles linked to respiratory illnesses
3. Fabric Filters (Baghouses)	Pre-combustion technology aims to reduce emissions by improving coal quality

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

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

157. Which one of the following articles of the Indian Constitution grants the Supreme Court the authority to issue orders or decrees to ensure “complete justice” in any case?

- A. Article 129
- B. Article 137
- C. Article 141
- D. Article 142

158. With reference to the International Space Station (ISS), consider the following statements:

- The ISS is the largest human-made object ever to orbit Earth.
- It is a joint effort of the space agencies of the US, Russia, Europe, Japan, and Canada.
- It aims to advance the understanding of space and microgravity through scientific research.

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

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

159. Consider the following statements regarding the Consumer Price Index (CPI):

- It is published monthly by the National Statistical Office (NSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI)
- CPI is used for indexing Dearness Allowance (DA) to employees for the increase in prices.
- There are four types of CPI for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW), Agricultural Laborers (CPI-AL), Rural Labourer (CPI-RL) and Urban Non-Manual Employees (CPI-UNME).

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

160. With reference to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA), consider the following statements:

- The act was enacted to provide effective prevention of certain unlawful activities of individuals and associations, address terrorist activities, and related matters.
- The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is empowered by the UAPA to investigate and prosecute cases nationwide and the Indian citizens abroad.
- The 2019 amendment to the act empowers the government to designate individuals as terrorists.

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

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

161. Consider the following statements regarding the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM):

- The founding member countries of NAM include Yugoslavia, Egypt, India, Indonesia, and Ghana.
- The treaty under the NAM is binding on all the member countries.

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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162. Global Capability Centers (GCCs), often seen in the news, is related to which of the following?

- They are strategic units set up by multinational companies to centralize functions like IT, R&D, and serving global operations.
- They are primarily focused on local operations and cater to a specific geographical region for product development.
- They are established to perform high-end research and development activities, often in collaboration with local universities and research institutions.
- They are independent entities that provide outsourcing services to multiple clients globally, with no direct ties to any specific parent organization.

163. With reference to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), consider the following statements:

- It is a specialized UN agency established by the Chicago Convention to regulate global civil aviation.
- While the Convention defines rules on airspace sovereignty, it does not include provisions related to air freedoms for international flights.
- India is among the members of ICAO.

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

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

164. Consider the following statements regarding the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO):

- It is a vital transatlantic military and political alliance, ensuring collective security for its member countries.
- Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI) offers non-NATO countries in the broader Middle East region the opportunity to cooperate with NATO.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

165. Consider the following statements regarding the World Trade Organisation (WTO):

- It is an international organization for liberalizing trade and serves as a forum for governments to negotiate trade agreements.
- Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) is among the key agreements of the WTO.

3. Aid for Trade in Action Report is released by the organisation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

166. Which of the following countries are members of the Mineral Security Partnership (MSP)?

- India, Brazil, Sweden
- Australia, Japan, United Kingdom
- China, United States, Brazil
- India, Russia, Canada

167. Which of the following statements is/ are related to the features of Goods and Services Tax (GST)?

- It operates as a destination-based consumption tax, replacing the older origin-based taxation model.
- It is imposed at different rates with product classification guided by the GST Council.
- It has a dual framework, where the Centre (CGST) and the States (SGST) levy tax on the different transaction values.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

168. Consider the following statements regarding the Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY)?

- PMDDKY is inspired by NITI Aayog's Aspirational Districts Programme.
- The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) and the PM Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) schemes will be subsumed under the PMDDKY.
- It targets 100 underperforming districts to boost farm productivity through better irrigation, storage, and credit access.

How many of the statements given above are not correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

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169. Consider the following pairs:

Term	Explanation
1. Deflation	A decrease in the rate of inflation—prices still rise, but at a slower rate than before.
2. Disinflation	Reduction in the general price level of goods and services, often accompanied by a decrease in consumer demand and economic activity.
3. Stagflation	The economy experiences slow or no growth, high unemployment, and inflation simultaneously.
4. Shrinkflation	The quantity of a product decreases while its price remains the same or increases.

Which of the pairs given above is/are not correctly matched?

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

170. In a Himalayan tribal community, brothers marrying the same woman—locally known as Jodidara or Jajda—is a traditional polyandrous practice aimed at preventing land fragmentation. This community, recently granted Scheduled Tribe status, is traditionally governed by a local body called Khumbli.

Which of the following tribal communities is being described in the above description?

- A. Bhutia
- B. Hatti
- C. Gaddi
- D. Tharu

171. Consider the following statements:

- The WHO defines obesity as excessive fat accumulation, with a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 25 as obese.
- The WHO's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has classified excess body weight as a significant risk for several types of cancer.

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

172. With reference to regulation of air traffic in India, consider the following information:

Authorities	Responsibilities	Related Information
1. Bureau of Civil Aviation Security	Responsibilities include laying down standards and measures with respect to security of civil flights at international and domestic airports in India.	Established within the Directorate General of Civil Aviation in 1978.
2. Directorate General of Civil Aviation	Responsibilities include registration of civil aircraft, formulation of standards of airworthiness for civil aircraft registered in India.	Directorate General of Civil Aviation is a non-statutory body.
3. Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India	Regulates tariffs for the aeronautical services, determines other airport charges for services rendered at major airports and to monitor the performance standards.	It is a Statutory authority.

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

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

173. With reference to the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), consider the following statements:

- It was signed in 1960 under the aegis of the World Bank and allocates the Beas, Ravi, Indus to Pakistan and the Chenab, Sutlej, Jhelum to India.
- Under the IWT, a Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) was established with representatives from both countries, which is required to meet annually.
- The Treaty outlines a three-tier dispute resolution process involving the PIC, a Neutral Expert, and the Court of Arbitration under the World Bank's framework at first, second and third stages respectively.

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

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

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

1. The NCMM aims to reduce India's dependence on imports of critical minerals and ensure self-reliance for high-tech industries, clean energy, and national defense.
2. India is 100% import dependent for key critical minerals such as lithium, cobalt, nickel, and silicon.

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

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

175. The joint military exercises Konkan, Cobra Warrior, and Ajeya Warrior are conducted between India and which of the following countries?

- A. United States
- B. United Kingdom
- C. France
- D. Australia

176. Consider the following statements related to Atal Bhujal Yojna:

1. It is being funded by the Government of India and the World Bank on a 50:50 basis.
2. It promotes panchayat led groundwater management and behavioural change with a primary focus on demand-side management.

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

177. The phrase "Dragon-Elephant Tango" is often used to symbolize the idea of peaceful and cooperative relations between India and which of the following countries?

- A. Japan
- B. Russia
- C. China
- D. Indonesia

178. With reference to the Election Commissioners in India, consider the following statements:

1. They have a fixed tenure of 5 years.
2. The Constitution specifies the qualifications required to be appointed as members of the Election Commission.
3. As per the Constitution, after retirement, they are not eligible for any further appointment by the government.

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

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

179. Consider the following statements related to Tea Production in India as of 2024-25:

1. India is the third-largest producer of tea.
2. India consumes more than 80% of its total tea production domestically
3. Majority of the tea exported out of India is black tea.

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

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

180. A recent advancement in artificial intelligence involves a system where two neural networks compete with each other, one generating synthetic data such as realistic images or videos, and the other trying to distinguish the synthetic data from real data. Over time, both networks improve, resulting in highly convincing outputs that mimic real-world data. This technique is increasingly used in deepfakes, image generation, and AI art.

Which of the following is best described by the description given above?

- A. Convolutional Neural Networks
- B. Generative Adversarial Networks
- C. Natural Language Processing
- D. Reinforcement Learning

181. Consider the following pairs:

Traditional Handicraft Native State

- | | |
|---------------------|------------|
| 1. Rogan Painting | Gujarat |
| 2. Channapatna Toys | Tamil Nadu |
| 3. Thanjavur Dolls | Karnataka |

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Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

182. Deir al-Balah and Muwasi, recently in news, is associated with which of the following?

- A. Disputed border regions between Sudan and South Sudan
- B. Areas affected by volcanic eruptions in the Philippines
- C. Conflict-affected zones in the Gaza Strip
- D. Refugee settlements along the Belarus-Poland border

183. Consider the following statements regarding the Kargil War (1999):

- 1. It began shortly after the Lahore Declaration (1999).
- 2. Operation Vijay, Safed Sagar, Parakram and Talwar are associated with the Kargil war.
- 3. The war was fought in challenging terrain across key areas like Tololing, Tiger Hill, Drass, and Batalik.

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

184. With reference to the National Security Council, consider the following statements:

- 1. It was established in the aftermath of the Sino-Indian War.
- 2. It operates under the Strategic Policy Group (SPG), National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) and the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS).
- 3. The NSC is headed by the Prime Minister.

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

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

185. Which one of the following is **not** correct regarding the features of the BrahMos missile:

- A. It is a two-stage supersonic cruise missile that uses solid fuel in the first stage and a liquid ramjet engine in the second.
- B. The missile follows a subsonic trajectory to maintain stealth and fuel efficiency.

C. It is capable of being launched from land, air, sea, and submarine platforms.

D. It operates on the "Fire and Forget" principle, requiring no manual intervention after launch.

186. Consider the following statements regarding Mangroves:

- 1. They are commonly found in fast-flowing freshwater rivers with well-oxygenated soils and coarse sandy substrates.
- 2. Mangroves thrive only in tropical and subtropical latitudes near the equator, as they cannot withstand freezing temperatures.
- 3. The Sundarbans is the largest contiguous mangrove forest in the world, while Bhitarkanika is the second largest in India.

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

187. Regarding the contributions of M.S. Swaminathan, consider the following statements:

- 1. The fishbone canal method of mangrove restoration, later incorporated into India's Joint Mangrove Management Programme, was developed under his scientific leadership.
- 2. He drafted the Charter for Mangroves, which was later incorporated into the World Charter for Nature, adopted at the 1992 Earth Summit.

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

188. Which one of the following commissions proposed "localizing emergency provisions" under Articles 355 and 356?

- A. Sarkaria Commission (1987)
- B. Punchhi Commission (2010)
- C. National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (2000)
- D. Inter-State Council (Article 263)

189. Consider the following statements:

- 1. The India-UK Technology Security Initiative (TSI), launched in 2024, focuses on sectors like AI, semiconductors, and cybersecurity.
- 2. As of 2025, the UK has surpassed the US to become India's largest research and innovation partner.

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3. Konkan, Cobra Warrior, and Ajeya Warrior are key joint military exercises between India and the UK.

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

190. With reference to the President's rule, consider the following statements:

- Article 365 empowers the President to declare governance failure if a State disregards Union directives, leading to the invocation of Article 356.
- A proclamation of President's Rule must be approved by both Houses of Parliament within two months.
- President's Rule is initially imposed for six months and extended up to further notice.

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

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

191. With reference to the following island nations in the Indian Ocean, arrange them in the correct sequence from closest to farthest from India's westernmost point, based on their geographical distance:

- Maldives
- Seychelles
- Madagascar
- Mauritius

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

192. With reference to the Nilgai (Blue Bull), consider the following statements:

- It is the largest antelope species native to Asia.
- It is primarily diurnal.
- It exhibits year-round breeding behaviour, with a gestation period of about 8 months.

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

193. Consider the following statements related to International Court of Justice (ICJ):

- It is the only principal organ of the United Nations that is not headquartered in New York, United States.
- The Court's judgments in contentious cases are final and binding on the parties involved, and are not subject to appeal.
- Once elected, a member of the Court continues to represent their national government, and functions in an independent capacity.

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

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

194. Consider the following minerals:

- Rhenium
- Tantalum
- Titanium

How many of the above is/are mentioned in the list of Critical Minerals released by the Ministry of Mines?

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

195. "TUNGA" and "Willow", recently seen in the news for a common purpose, are associated with which of the following?

- Advanced chip technologies developed for high-performance computing and quantum processing
- Indigenous geospatial data platforms launched for rural land records digitization
- Smart irrigation systems integrating AI and IoT for precision agriculture
- Bioengineered food processing units for reducing agro-waste

196. Consider the following electoral provisions:

- Allocation of seats in the Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, and State Legislative Councils
- Delimitation of constituencies for the purpose of elections
- Preparation of electoral rolls

How many of the above are covered under the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1950?

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

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197. Consider the following statements related to NISAR Satellite:

1. It will be launched into low Earth orbit using ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle
2. It is designed to map the entire globe every 12 days to monitor changes in Earth's surface.
3. It is equipped with a dual-frequency radar system combining NASA's L-band radar and ISRO's S-band radar.

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

198. Consider the following agricultural and industrial products:

1. Sugarcane juice
2. Damaged food grains unfit for human consumption
3. Molasses
4. Rice straw

How many of the above can be used in the production of ethanol?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All four

199. The Bhore Committee (1943), which was in news, is primarily related to which of the following?

- A. Agricultural reforms in India
- B. Indian industrial policy
- C. Health and medical infrastructure
- D. Education policy and reforms

200. Consider the following pairs regarding Hydro Electric projects in the Brahmaputra Basin:

Hydro Electric Project	State
1. Chuzachen Hydroelectric Project	Sikkim
2. Doyang Hydroelectric Project	Assam
3. Umiam Hydroelectric Project	Meghalaya
4. Ranganadi Hydroelectric Project	Arunachal Pradesh

Which of the pairs given above is/are **not** correct?

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

201. Consider the following statements regarding the International Court of Justice (ICJ):

1. It is the United Nation's principal judicial body, responsible for settling legal disputes between states and providing advisory opinions on matters of international law.
2. Its judgments are final and binding with no provision for appeal.

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

202. With reference to the Chola dynasty, consider the following statements:

1. It was one of the three major Tamil dynasties, alongside the Cheras and Pandyas.
2. The empire reached its peak under Rajaraja Chola I and Rajendra Chola I, expanding across South India, Sri Lanka, and parts of Southeast Asia.
3. During the rule, the revenue system was managed by a department called Puravuvarithinaikkalam.

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

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

203. The Brihadisvara and Airavatesvara temples in India are associated with which architectural style?

- A. Dravidian Architecture
- B. Nagara Architecture
- C. Vesara Architecture
- D. Buddhist Architecture

204. Consider the following statements:

1. As of 2025, India is the 3rd largest startup ecosystem globally, after the US and China, with over 100 unicorns.
2. Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS), which facilitates collateral-free loans to startups to ensure access to credit, is among the flagship schemes of Startup India.

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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

205. With reference to Lok Adalats, consider the following statements:

1. The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, provides statutory status to Lok Adalats.
2. If parties are unsatisfied with a Lok Adalat award, they cannot appeal it but may file a case in the appropriate court by following due procedure.
3. It deals with cases such as matrimonial disputes, compoundable offences, and non-compoundable criminal offences.

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

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

206. Which Article of the Indian Constitution empowers the President, on the advice of the Council of Ministers, to refer any question of law or fact of public importance to the Supreme Court for its opinion?

- A. Article 140
- B. Article 141
- C. Article 142
- D. Article 143

207. Consider the following statements regarding the provisions related to Human Trafficking in India:

1. Article 23 of the Constitution prohibits human trafficking and forced labour.
2. Following the ratification of the UN Convention on Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC), India implemented the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2013.

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

208. With reference to the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), consider the following statements:

1. It measures long-term changes in the volume of production across key economic sectors like mining, electricity, and manufacturing.
2. It is published annually by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO).
3. It reflects production changes compared to a base year (2011-2012).

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

209. Which one of the following releases the Financial Stability Report (FSR) in India?

- A. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- B. Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- C. NITI Aayog
- D. Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)

210. Consider the following statements regarding the Gini Index:

1. It measures income inequality within a population.
2. A higher Gini value reflects a more equitable society.

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

211. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES)?

1. It has been conducted by the National Statistical Office (NSO) as part of the National Sample Survey (NSS).
2. Provides inputs for calculating Consumer Price Indices (CPI) and revising the base year for Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
3. HCES helps to measure poverty, inequality, and social well-being.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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212. Consider the following statements regarding the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA):

1. It primarily focuses on trade tariffs and Tariff Rate Quotas (TRQs).
2. India has established CEPAs with South Korea and Japan.

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

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

213. With reference to Capital Expenditure (Capex), consider the following statements:

1. It involves substantial investments aimed at generating long-term benefits.
2. The Indian government allocates capex through its annual budget.
3. It reduces liabilities via loan repayments and catalyses private investment, making it crucial for sustained economic development.

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

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

214. With reference to the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, consider the following statements:

1. It is based on the recommendations of Dr. K Kasturirangan Committee.
2. It replaced the 10+2 system with a 5+3+3+4 structure, aligning education with the developmental needs of children aged 3 to 18 years.
3. PARAKH is among the key initiatives of NEP 2020.

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

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

Answers

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1. (A) | 2. (C) | 3. (D) | 4. (D) | 5. (B) | 6. (A) | 7. (C) | 8. (B) | 9. (B) | 10. (C) |
| 11. (A) | 12. (D) | 13. (B) | 14. (D) | 15. (A) | 16. (C) | 17. (D) | 18. (A) | 19. (B) | 20. (B) |
| 21. (C) | 22. (C) | 23. (B) | 24. (D) | 25. (C) | 26. (B) | 27. (C) | 28. (C) | 29. (B) | 30. (C) |
| 31. (C) | 32. (D) | 33. (D) | 34. (C) | 35. (B) | 36. (D) | 37. (A) | 38. (A) | 39. (C) | 40. (A) |
| 41. (C) | 42. (B) | 43. (C) | 44. (D) | 45. (B) | 46. (D) | 47. (B) | 48. (C) | 49. (D) | 50. (B) |
| 51. (A) | 52. (B) | 53. (C) | 54. (B) | 55. (A) | 56. (A) | 57. (A) | 58. (C) | 59. (B) | 60. (B) |
| 61. (C) | 62. (D) | 63. (B) | 64. (A) | 65. (C) | 66. (D) | 67. (A) | 68. (A) | 69. (C) | 70. (C) |
| 71. (A) | 72. (B) | 73. (D) | 74. (C) | 75. (B) | 76. (B) | 77. (A) | 78. (D) | 79. (A) | 80. (D) |
| 81. (A) | 82. (B) | 83. (A) | 84. (A) | 85. (C) | 86. (D) | 87. (B) | 88. (B) | 89. (A) | 90. (B) |
| 91. (A) | 92. (C) | 93. (A) | 94. (A) | 95. (A) | 96. (C) | 97. (A) | 98. (D) | 99. (C) | 100. (A) |
| 101. (A) | 102. (C) | 103. (C) | 104. (C) | 105. (D) | 106. (C) | 107. (C) | 108. (A) | 109. (C) | 110. (C) |
| 111. (A) | 112. (B) | 113. (D) | 114. (D) | 115. (A) | 116. (C) | 117. (B) | 118. (C) | 119. (D) | 120. (B) |
| 121. (B) | 122. (D) | 123. (C) | 124. (B) | 125. (B) | 126. (C) | 127. (B) | 128. (C) | 129. (A) | 130. (C) |
| 131. (B) | 132. (A) | 133. (C) | 134. (D) | 135. (D) | 136. (D) | 137. (C) | 138. (C) | 139. (B) | 140. (A) |
| 141. (B) | 142. (D) | 143. (B) | 144. (A) | 145. (A) | 146. (B) | 147. (A) | 148. (C) | 149. (C) | 150. (D) |
| 151. (C) | 152. (C) | 153. (D) | 154. (B) | 155. (A) | 156. (A) | 157. (D) | 158. (C) | 159. (D) | 160. (C) |
| 161. (A) | 162. (A) | 163. (A) | 164. (C) | 165. (D) | 166. (B) | 167. (A) | 168. (D) | 169. (A) | 170. (B) |
| 171. (B) | 172. (B) | 173. (B) | 174. (C) | 175. (B) | 176. (C) | 177. (C) | 178. (D) | 179. (B) | 180. (B) |
| 181. (A) | 182. (C) | 183. (C) | 184. (B) | 185. (B) | 186. (B) | 187. (C) | 188. (B) | 189. (C) | 190. (B) |
| 191. (C) | 192. (D) | 193. (B) | 194. (C) | 195. (A) | 196. (C) | 197. (B) | 198. (D) | 199. (C) | 200. (B) |
| 201. (C) | 202. (D) | 203. (A) | 204. (C) | 205. (B) | 206. (D) | 207. (C) | 208. (A) | 209. (B) | 210. (A) |
| 211. (D) | 212. (A) | 213. (C) | 214. (D) | | | | | | |

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Practice Explanation

1.

Ans: A

Exp:

National Education Policy (NEP), 2020:

- The National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, proposes the establishment of the **Higher Education Commission of India (HECI)** as a single overarching regulatory body for higher education. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ ECI is intended to replace the existing multiple regulatory bodies and streamline the higher education landscape.
- It will have **four independent verticals**: the **National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC)**, the **General Education Council (GEC)**, the **Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC)**, and the **National Accreditation Council (NAC)**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Medical and legal education will **remain outside the purview of HECI** and be governed by their respective professional bodies. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

2.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The **World Bank** was **established in 1944** at the United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference, commonly known as the **Bretton Woods Conference**, held in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, USA. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **World Development Report (WDR)** is the flagship **annual publication** of the World Bank. It provides in-depth analysis of key development issues.
 - ◆ The **Human Capital Index (HCI)** is another major initiative by the World Bank. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - It measures the potential productivity of the next generation of workers based on health and education outcomes.

3.

Ans: D

Exp:

Western Ghats:

- The **Western Ghats** are **generally higher in elevation and more continuous than the Eastern Ghats**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The Western Ghats have an average elevation of 1,200 meters, with some peaks exceeding 2,400 meters, while the Eastern Ghats have an average elevation of around 600 meters.

- The **Western Ghats** is both a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** and one of the **36 biodiversity hotspots** in the world. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- ◆ It's a mountain range along the western coast of India, known for its rich biodiversity and unique ecosystems.

- The Western Ghats mountain range does stretch from the **Tapi River in the north to Kanyakumari (also known as Cape Comorin)** at the southern tip of India. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

4.

Ans: D

Exp:

Vinayak Damodar Savarkar:

- He was born on **28th May 1883** in Bhagur, a village near Nashik in present-day Maharashtra. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Abhinav Bharat** Society was founded by Savarkar in **1904** along with his brother Ganesh Savarkar. While studying in London, Savarkar also founded the **Free India Society in 1906**, which aimed to promote nationalist ideas among Indian students abroad. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Savarkar's "The Indian War of Independence"** drew its greatest inspiration from the Italian republican Giuseppe Mazzini. Concurrently, while working on his account of the 1857 uprising, Savarkar also authored a **Marathi-language biography of Mazzini**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ **Lala Lajpat Rai** wrote the biography of Mazzini in Urdu.

5.

Ans: B

Exp:

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY):

- The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana is a **credit-linked subsidy scheme** aimed at providing **affordable housing to low- and middle-income groups** in India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ This scheme offers interest subsidies on home loans to eligible beneficiaries to help them purchase or construct houses.
- The scheme has **two components PMAY-U for urban poor and PMAY-G for rural poor** implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and by the Ministry of Rural Development, respectively. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

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- **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAY-U)** was launched on **25th June 2015**, with the aim of providing housing for all in urban areas by 2022. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

6.

Ans: A

Exp:

- As per the 44th Amendment Act, 1978, the President can proclaim a National Emergency only upon receiving a written recommendation from the entire Union Cabinet, headed by the Prime Minister. The President does not act solely on the advice of the Prime Minister. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- ◆ This provision was introduced to prevent unilateral decisions and misuse of Emergency powers, as seen during the 1975 Emergency.
- **Under Article 353**, when a National Emergency is in operation, the Union Parliament is empowered to legislate on subjects in the State List. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ◆ This is a significant shift from the normal federal structure, where states have exclusive jurisdiction over the State List. It reflects the centralization of power during Emergency periods.
- **Article 19 is automatically suspended** during a **National Emergency under Article 358**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

7.

Ans: C

Exp:

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI):

- The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, serves as the **nodal agency for formulating and updating FDI policy**.
- ◆ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, operating under the **Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA)**, manages the operational aspects, including reporting FDI transactions, ensuring compliance with foreign exchange regulations, and monitoring inflows and outflows. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In India FDI is **strictly prohibited** in sectors like atomic energy generation, gambling and betting, lotteries, chit funds, real estate, and the tobacco industry. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

8.

Ans: B

Exp:

Mitochondria:

- Mitochondria are **membrane-bound organelles** found in the cells of most eukaryotic organisms. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Mitochondria are commonly known as the “**powerhouses of the cell**” because they generate adenosine triphosphate (ATP), the energy currency of the cell. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ◆ This energy is produced through a process called oxidative phosphorylation, which occurs in the inner mitochondrial membrane.
- Mitochondria **convert energy from carbohydrates, fats, and proteins into a usable form** for the cell. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

9.

Ans: B

Exp:

Election Commission of India (ECI):

- The ECI is a **constitutional authority** established under **Article 324** of the Constitution.
- ◆ It is responsible for conducting elections to Lok Sabha (House of the People), Rajya Sabha (Council of States), State Legislative Assemblies, Offices of the President and Vice President of India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Model Code of Conduct (MCC)** is a **set of guidelines issued by the ECI** to regulate political parties and candidates during elections. However, it is not legally binding and does not derive authority from the Representation of the People Act. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- ◆ The origin of the MCC lies in the Assembly elections of Kerala in 1960, when the State administration prepared a ‘Code of Conduct’ for political actors.
- The ECI does not conduct elections to **Panchayati Raj Institutions and Municipalities**.
- ◆ These elections are conducted by the **State Election Commissions**, which are separate constitutional bodies established under **Articles 243K and 243ZA** of the Constitution. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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10.

Ans: C

Exp:

Jagannath Temple:

- The **Jagannath Temple** at Puri was **constructed by King Anantavarman Chodaganga Deva**, a ruler of the Eastern Ganga dynasty, in the 12th century CE. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ This is the only temple in India where **Krishna, Balabhadra (Balarama) and their sister Shubhadra are worshipped together.**
- It is built in the **Kalinga style**, which is a **regional variant of the Nagara style of temple architecture**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The Kalinga style is characterized by a **curvilinear tower (shikhara)** over the **sanctum**, and includes structures like **Vimana, Jagamohana, Nata Mandapa, and Bhoga Mandapa.**
 - ◆ The Dravidian style, typical of South India, features **gopurams (gateway towers)** and **pillared halls**, which are not architectural features of the Jagannath Temple.
- The Jagannath Temple in Puri, is unique because **its deities, Jagannath, Balabhadra, and Subhadra, are made of wood**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ These wooden images are replaced with new images after every 11 or 19 years in a highly secret ceremony known as **Navakalevara** (literal meaning 'New Embodiment').

11.

Ans: A

Exp:

Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council:

- The GST Council is a **constitutional body** established under **Article 279A** of the Constitution of India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It was created by the **101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016.**
- The GST Council has the **exclusive authority to recommend the date on which petroleum products** (like crude oil, petrol, diesel, natural gas, and aviation turbine fuel) may be **brought under the GST regime**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ These products are currently excluded from GST, but the Council can decide when to include them.
- As per the **GST Council Rules**, the **quorum for a GST Council meeting is one-half of the total number of members**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

- ◆ This means that at least 50% of the members must be present for the meeting to be valid.

12.

Ans: D

Exp:

- The **42nd Amendment Act, 1976** extended the term of Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies **from five years to six years** by **amending Article 83(2) and Article 172(1)** of the Constitution. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ However, **this provision was later reversed by the 44th Amendment Act, 1978**, restoring the original five-year term.
- The 42nd Amendment added three words to the **Preamble of the Constitution** "**Socialist**", "**Secular**" and "**Integrity**". **Hence, statement 2 is correct..**
- The amendment moved **education, forests, weights and measures, and protection of wild animals and birds to the Concurrent List**, increasing central control. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

13.

Ans: B

Exp:

International Court of Justice (ICJ):

- The International Court of Justice is **composed of 15 judges** elected to **nine-year terms** of office by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council. These organs **vote simultaneously but separately**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ In order to be elected, a candidate must receive an absolute majority of the votes in both bodies.
- No two judges of the ICJ can be nationals of the same country, and judges **are eligible for re-election**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- If a party to a case fails to comply with the judgment of the ICJ, the other party may bring the matter to the UN Security Council. The Security Council may then take measures to enforce the judgment. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

14.

Ans: D

Exp:

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:

- Dr. B. R. Ambedkar was **the first Indian to earn a doctorate in economics** from Columbia University, US. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ He completed his Ph.D. in Economics in 1927.

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- Dr. Ambedkar resigned as **India's first Law Minister in 1951** due to strong opposition to the **Hindu Code Bill**, which he had drafted to reform Hindu personal laws. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ The bill aimed to provide equal rights to women in matters of inheritance, marriage, and divorce.
- The **Mahad Satyagraha** was a landmark movement led by **Ambedkar in 1927** in Mahad, Maharashtra. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ It was organized to assert the right of Dalits to access public water sources, specifically the Chowdar Tank, which was denied to them due to caste discrimination.

15.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) is a monthly economic indicator compiled by **S&P Global (formerly IHS Markit)**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It is based on surveys of purchasing managers in the manufacturing and services sectors.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** uses PMI data as a leading indicator to assess inflationary pressures (e.g., input and output price indices in PMI reports), business sentiment, and calibrate monetary policy decisions. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Although PMI often shows a **strong correlation with GDP trends**, it is **not used by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) (now part of the National Statistical Office, NSO)** to estimate quarterly national income. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ GDP estimation in India is based on comprehensive datasets such as corporate filings, tax data, agricultural output, and industrial production.
 - ◆ PMI is a private-sector survey and is not part of the official GDP computation methodology.

16.

Ans: C

Exp:

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP):

- UNEP was **established in 1972** following the **United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm**. However, the **headquarters of UNEP** is in **Nairobi, Kenya**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- UNEP is a subsidiary body of the United Nations General Assembly and is **part of the UN Secretariat and reports directly to the UN General Assembly**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ It plays a central role in coordinating the UN's environmental activities and assisting developing countries in implementing environmentally sound policies.
 - ◆ UNEP also supports the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and hosts several secretariats (e.g., for the Convention on Biological Diversity).
- The **Global Environment Facility (GEF)** is **not managed by UNEP**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ It is an **independent financial mechanism** that supports environmental projects globally. The **World Bank** serves as the **trustee of the GEF**, while UNEP is one of several implementing agencies, along with UNDP, FAO, and others.
 - ◆ UNEP helps execute GEF-funded projects but does not manage or control the fund.

17.

Ans: D

Exp:

Unified Payments Interface (UPI):

- **UPI's international expansion** is based on **bilateral agreements between India and partner countries or payment networks**. It **does not rely on Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT)**, which is a global messaging system used for traditional bank-to-bank transfers. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ Instead, UPI uses real-time payment rails and Application Programming Interface (APIs) to integrate with foreign systems.
- **NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL)** is a wholly owned **subsidiary of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, **established in 2020**. It is tasked with **internationalizing UPI and RuPay, building partnerships with foreign governments, banks, and payment networks to enable cross-border payments**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- UPI has been **integrated with payment systems in several countries** like **Singapore** (Linked with PayNow for real-time fund transfers), **UAE** (Enabled through partnerships with local banks and fintechs) and **France** (UPI acceptance has been launched at select merchant locations, especially for Indian tourists). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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18.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Hilton Young Commission**, also known as the **Royal Commission on Indian Currency and Finance**, was set up in 1926 to examine the currency system in India. It **recommended the establishment of a central bank to manage currency and credit**. Based on its recommendations, the Reserve Bank of India was established on **1st April 1935**, under the **RBI Act, 1934**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The **RBI Act, 1934** is the foundational legislation that defines the powers and functions of the Reserve Bank. It authorizes RBI to **issue banknotes, regulate the currency system, maintain monetary stability, act as the banker to the government, and control credit** and manage inflation through monetary policy tools. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- The **RBI was nationalized on 1st January 1949** through an **Act of Parliament — the Reserve Bank (Transfer to Public Ownership) Act, 1948**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.
 - ◆ The RBI, which was originally a privately owned institution, became a fully government-owned entity after independence.

19.

Ans: B

Exp:

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA):

- The **NDMA** was constituted on **27th September 2006** under the **Disaster Management Act, 2005**, is the apex statutory body for disaster management in India.
 - ◆ The **Prime Minister** serves as the **ex-officio chairperson**, with the **Cabinet Minister** as the **Vice-Chairman**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- **NDMA provides guidelines and coordinates disaster management efforts across the country**. It does not have punitive powers to impose penalties on state governments. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
 - ◆ Disaster management is a shared responsibility between the **central and state governments**. States have their own State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs).
- India's **National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP)** has been explicitly aligned with the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030**. The Sendai Framework emphasizes risk reduction, resilience building, proactive

planning and inclusive and sustainable development. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

- ◆ NDMA's approach reflects these principles, focusing on preparedness, mitigation, and capacity building rather than just response and recovery.

20.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The **National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD)** is a centrally sponsored scheme under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. It focuses on screening and early diagnosis of NCDs like diabetes, hypertension, and cancers. Hence, **information of row 1 is correctly matched**.
- **Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAMs)** are **Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs)** under the **Ayushman Bharat** scheme, aimed at delivering comprehensive primary healthcare, including screening for NCDs.
 - ◆ They are **not specialized tertiary care centers for cancer treatment** and **do not fall under the Ministry of AYUSH**. Instead, they are part of the **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**. Hence, **information of row 2 is not correctly matched**.
- **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** is India's apex body for biomedical research. It conducts extensive research on NCDs, including epidemiological studies, risk factor analysis and preventive strategies.
 - ◆ It functions under the **Department of Health Research, which is part of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**. Hence, **information of row 3 is correctly matched**.
- Hence, **option B is correct**.

21.

Ans: C

Exp:

- **BRICS** was formed to provide an alternative platform for emerging economies to influence global governance. It seeks to reform Bretton Woods institutions and promote a **multipolar world order**, countering the dominance of Western-led forums like the **G7, IMF, and World Bank**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- **BRICS does not have a permanent secretariat**. Instead, it operates through rotating presidencies and annual summits hosted by member countries. Coordination is handled by the presiding nation for that year. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

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- The **New Development Bank (NDB)**, headquartered in Shanghai, China, was established in 2014 under the Fortaleza Declaration. It has expanded its membership to include non-BRICS countries such as Bangladesh, UAE, Egypt, and Algeria (2025). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, option C is correct because Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I.**

22.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The **expenditure of the Election Commission of India (ECI)** is charged on the **Consolidated Fund of India**, ensuring its financial autonomy and independence. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ This provision makes the ECI's expenses non-votable in Parliament, similar to other constitutional bodies like the Supreme Court and Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), and exempts it from annual budgetary approvals.
- Under the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023, the **President of India appoints the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and other Election Commissioners (ECs) based on the recommendation of a Selection Committee.** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ The committee comprises the Prime Minister (Chairperson), a Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the PM, and the Leader of Opposition (or leader of the largest opposition party) in the Lok Sabha.

23.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **The Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)** provides a conditional cash benefit of **₹5,000** to pregnant and lactating mothers for the first live birth. This amount is disbursed in three installments, with each installment linked to specific health milestones. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- Under **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) 2.0**, additional incentives are provided for the **second child if it is a girl, as per specific state guidelines.** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- ◆ This incentive is ₹6,000, provided in a single installment after the child's birth and completion of universal immunization within 14 weeks.

- **Women employed in regular government service or receiving similar maternity benefits under any law are not eligible for the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) benefits.** **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

- ◆ The scheme is specifically designed for pregnant women and lactating mothers who are not receiving such benefits from their employers or under any other law.

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

24.

Ans: D

Exp:

- GST is designed as a **destination-based indirect tax**, which means the state where the final consumption occurs receives the tax revenue. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ This is different from origin-based taxation, where the producing state would receive the revenue. For example, if goods are manufactured in Maharashtra and sold in Kerala, the GST revenue goes to Kerala, the destination state.
- As of 2025, India continues to **follow a four-slab GST rate structure** of 5% (For essential goods and services), 12% and 18% (For standard goods and services) and 28% (For luxury and demerit goods). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The GST Council is established under **Article 279A** of the Constitution. It is chaired by the **Union Finance Minister** and includes the Minister of State for Finance (as a member), Finance Ministers of all States and Union Territories with legislatures. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ It is responsible for making recommendations on tax rates, exemptions, threshold limits and model laws and procedures.

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25.

Ans: C

Exp:

- **Malaria** is caused by the **Plasmodium parasite** and transmitted to humans through the bite of **infected female Anopheles mosquitoes**. The symptoms of **high fever, chills, headache and sweating** are characteristic of malaria. Hence, information of row 1 is correctly matched.
- **Tuberculosis** is caused by the **Mycobacterium tuberculosis bacterium** and is primarily **transmitted through the air** when an infected person coughs or sneezes. The symptoms of **persistent cough, weight loss, and night sweats** are typical of tuberculosis. Hence, information of row 2 is correctly matched.
- **Parkinson's disease** is a **neurodegenerative disorder** caused by the **degeneration of dopamine-producing neurons in the brain**. The symptoms of **tremors, bradykinesia (slowness of movement), and postural instability** are classic features of Parkinson's disease. Hence, information of row 3 is correctly matched.
- Hence, option C is correct.

26.

Ans: B

Exp:

Chabahar Port:

- **Chabahar Port** allows India to **bypass Pakistan and access Afghanistan and Central Asia via Iran**. It is also linked to the **International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)**, a multi-modal network of ship, rail, and road routes connecting India, Iran, Russia, Central Asia, and Europe. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The **Chabahar Port is being developed jointly by India and Iran** under a **2016 agreement**, focusing on port development and transit corridors. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
 - ◆ Russia is **not a formal partner in the Chabahar development agreement**. While Russia is a stakeholder in the broader **INSTC framework**.
- Chabahar is **located in Sistan-Baluchestan province in southeastern Iran**. This region has historically faced ethnic unrest, particularly involving the Baluchi minority, and suffers from low economic development and infrastructure deficits. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
 - ◆ Iran views the development of Chabahar as a way to stabilize and economically uplift this sensitive region.

27.

Ans: C

Exp:

National Highways Authority of India (NHAI):

- **FASTag** is an **electronic toll collection system developed by NHAI using Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology**. It enables cashless and contactless toll payments at national highway toll plazas. As per **government regulations, FASTag is mandatory for all vehicles, including commercial vehicles, on national highways**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
 - ◆ However, it is **not universally mandatory on state highways**, unless adopted by the respective state governments.
- Under the **Bharatmala Pariyojana**, NHAI is responsible for developing **economic corridors, inter-corridor routes, and feeder routes** to enhance **freight movement and logistics efficiency**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The **'One Vehicle, One FASTag'** initiative was **launched by NHAI to prevent misuse and streamline tolling operations**. It discourages the use of multiple FASTags for a single vehicle, which can cause confusion and inefficiencies in toll collection and enforcement. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

28.

Ans: C

Exp:

Organisation of Islamic Cooperation: The Organization represents the collective voice of the Muslim world, working to protect its interests. It is the **second largest organization** after the **United Nations with a membership of 57 states** spread over four continents.

- The Organization was established upon a decision of the historical summit which took place in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco on **25th September, 1969** following the criminal arson of **Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem**.
- **Afghanistan is a founding member of the OIC** (joined in 1969).
- **Mozambique is a non-Muslim majority country, but it is a full member of the OIC** due to its significant Muslim population and diplomatic alignment.
- **Saudi Arabia is a key founding member and one of the most influential countries in the OIC. It hosts the OIC headquarters in Jeddah.**

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- The UAE is a full member of the OIC.
- **Gabon is a non-Muslim majority country**, but it is a full member of the OIC, reflecting its historical and diplomatic ties with the Islamic world.
- **Thailand is not a full member of the OIC**. It holds **observer status** due to its significant Muslim population in southern provinces.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

29.

Ans: B

Exp:

Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY):

- AB PM-JAY is the **world's largest publicly funded health assurance scheme** which provides **health cover of Rs. 5 lakh per family per year** for **secondary and tertiary care hospitalization** across **empanelled public and private hospitals** to 55 crore individuals corresponding to 12.34 crore families. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **AB PM-JAY is a centrally sponsored scheme**, not entirely funded by the central government. The funding is shared between the Centre and States/UTs, 60:40 for most states, 90:10 for North-Eastern and Himalayan states, and 100% central funding for UTs without a legislature. Moreover, **implementation is not uniform. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ States have the flexibility to integrate PM-JAY with their own health insurance schemes, leading to variations in coverage and administration.
- While **SECC 2011 data is the primary basis for identifying beneficiaries**, the scheme allows states to use **alternate databases. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ These include Ration card data, National Food Security Act (NFSA) lists and State-specific health scheme databases.

30.

Ans: C

Exp:

Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS):

- The IDEAS scheme is administered by the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** through its **Development Partnership Administration (DPA-I)** division. It provides concessional

Lines of Credit (LOCs) to partner countries, primarily in Africa, South Asia, and Latin America, **for projects in transport, energy, agriculture, health, and education. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- ◆ The scheme is a key instrument of India's development diplomacy and South-South cooperation.
- **IDEAS does not offer uniform credit terms. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ Credit terms vary based on the income classification of the recipient country and its IMF debt sustainability status:
 - **Category I countries (low-income with IMF binding):** 1.5% interest, 25-year maturity, 5-year moratorium.
 - **Category II countries (low-income without IMF binding):** 1.75% interest, 20-year maturity.
 - **Category III countries (other developing):** LIBOR + 1.5% or ARR-based rates, 15-year maturity.
- **IDEAS allows co-financing with multilateral institutions** like the World Bank, AfDB, and ADB. All projects under LOCs are mandatorily executed by Indian entities, selected through **competitive bidding**, ensuring transparency and promoting Indian exports and expertise. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

31.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The **Bhopal Gas Tragedy** occurred in **1984**, when **Methyl Isocyanate (MIC)** leaked from a storage tank at the Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL) pesticide plant in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In the **aftermath of the Bhopal disaster**, Indian jurisprudence evolved to address the inadequacy of the traditional **"Strict Liability"** rule (from English law). In **M.C. Mehta v. Union of India (Oleum Gas Leak Case, 1986)**, the Supreme Court of India laid down the **principle of Absolute Liability**.
 - ◆ Under Absolute Liability, any enterprise engaged in **hazardous or inherently dangerous activity is absolutely liable to compensate for any harm caused**, regardless of fault or negligence, and without exceptions. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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32.

Ans: D

Exp:

- The current account includes transactions related to **trade in goods and services, income** (like investment income), and **unilateral transfers** (like remittances and aid). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The capital account in a country's balance of payments tracks **transactions that lead to changes in the ownership of assets and liabilities** between **residents and non-residents**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ Essentially, it reflects the flow of capital into and out of a country.
- A **balance of payments (BoP)** deficit occurs when the sum of a **country's current account and capital account is negative**, meaning that the total value of goods, services, and capital flowing out of the country **exceeds the value of what is flowing in**. This deficit necessitates a decrease in the country's foreign exchange reserves as the central bank sells foreign currency to cover the shortfall. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

33.

Ans: D

Exp:

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO):

- All four countries—Albania, Croatia, Finland, and Montenegro—are members of NATO.
- NATO was **created by 12 countries** from Europe and North America on 4 April 1949.
- Since then, 20 more countries have joined NATO through 10 rounds of enlargement (in 1952, 1955, 1982, 1999, 2004, 2009, 2017, 2020, 2023, and 2024).
- **Article 10 of the North Atlantic Treaty** sets out how countries can join the Alliance. It states that membership is open to any "European State in a position to further the principles of this Treaty and to contribute to the security of the North Atlantic area".
- Any decision to invite a country to join the Alliance is taken by the **North Atlantic Council**, NATO's principal political decision-making body, on the basis of consensus among all Allies.
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

34.

Ans: C

Exp:

Employment Linked Incentive Scheme:

- It will be implemented from August 2025 to July 2027 and targets 1.92 crore **first-time Employees'** Provident Fund Organization (EPFO)-registered employees. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It provides a **one-month EPF wage (up to ₹15,000)** in two installments—after 6 and 12 months—linked to a financial literacy program, with part deposited in a fixed savings account to encourage long-term savings. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- All payments to the First Time Employees under Part A of the Scheme will be made through **DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer)** mode using Aadhar Bridge Payment System (ABPS). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

35.

Ans: B

Exp:

Cryptocurrency:

- It is a digital or virtual currency that uses cryptography for security.
- It is a **decentralized currency**, meaning it is not controlled by any government or institution. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Transactions with cryptocurrency are recorded on a **public digital ledger** called blockchain. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ This ledger is maintained by a network of computers around the world, and each new transaction is verified and added to the blockchain by these computers.
- Users can acquire cryptocurrency through a **process called "mining,"** which involves using computer power to solve complex mathematical equations that validate and record transactions on the blockchain, in return for a certain amount of cryptocurrency. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

36.

Ans: D

Exp:

Persian Gulf:

- It is an **arm of the Arabian Sea**, between southwestern Iran and the Arabian Peninsula.

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- Bordering Countries include **Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Oman (Musandam exclave), and Iran.**
- It is connected to the Gulf of Oman in the east by the Strait of Hormuz.
 - ◆ The Strait of Hormuz is situated between Qeshm Island and the Iranian coast in the north and the Musandam Peninsula of the Arabian Peninsula in the south.



- Hence, option D is correct.

37.

Ans: A

Exp:

Nuclear Disarmament Efforts:

- **Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT):** The NPT entered into force in 1970 to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and promote disarmament. Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.

- ◆ However, it has faced criticism for being discriminatory, creating a divide between nuclear-armed and non-nuclear states.

- **Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT):** Though not yet fully in force, the CTBT bans all nuclear explosions, aiming to curb the development of new weapons. Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.
- **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW):** TPNW includes a comprehensive set of prohibitions on participating in any nuclear weapon activities. Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.

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- ◆ These include undertakings not to develop, test, produce, acquire, possess, stockpile, use or threaten to use nuclear weapons.

➤ Hence, option A is correct.

38.

Ans: A

Exp:

ULLAS(Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society)- Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram:

- It is a centrally sponsored scheme being implemented from 2022 to 2027. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- It is designed to **empower adults aged 15 years** and above who missed out on formal schooling, in line with the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- It provides access to educational resources via the **DIKSHA platform and ULLAS mobile/web portal**, supporting content in regional languages. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

39.

Ans: C

Exp:

Tuberculosis:

- It is a contagious lung infection caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, spread through the air, but preventable and curable with antibiotics. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- **Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan (PMTBMBA)**, launched in 2022, focuses on providing nutritional, diagnostic, and vocational support to improve treatment outcomes and accelerate India's TB elimination goal.
 - ◆ PMTBMBA is the **world's largest crowd-sourcing** initiative for TB patient nutrition. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The **Ni-Kshay Mitra initiative**, part of the PMTBMBA, encourages individuals, NGOs, and corporations to support TB patients with nutritional, social, or economic aid for six months. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

40.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The terms PRISM, PACE, CTRDH, and A2K+ refer to various government schemes in India **aimed at promoting innovation, technological development**, and supporting Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). Here's what each stands for:

- ◆ **PRISM:** Promoting Innovations in Individuals, Start-ups and MSMEs (PRISM) scheme supports innovators and MSMEs fostering inclusive development as outlined in the 12th Five-Year Plan (2012-2017).

- ◆ **PACE:** The Patent Acquisition and Collaborative Research and Technology Development (PACE) **supports industries in developing** and commercializing innovative technologies.

- ◆ **CTRDH:** Common Research and Technology Development Hubs (CTRDHs) provide shared infrastructure and technology support for MSMEs.

- ◆ **A2K+:** Access to Knowledge for Technology Development and Dissemination (A2K+) **promotes the dissemination** of tech and innovation information to industries and research bodies.

➤ Hence, option A is correct.

41.

Ans: C

Exp:

- A **National Emergency** under **Article 352** can be declared during **war, external aggression, or armed rebellion**, covering the whole country or part of it. Hence, information of row 1 is correctly matched.

- ◆ Proclaimed by the President on the Union Cabinet's written advice, it requires parliamentary approval within one month and can be extended every six months up to three years.

- **President's Rule under Article 356** is imposed when a **State government fails to function constitutionally**. Hence, information of row 2 is correctly matched.

- ◆ Proclaimed by the President based on the Governor's report or otherwise, it requires parliamentary approval within two months and can be extended every six months up to three years.

- A **financial Emergency** under **Article 360** is declared when **India's financial stability or credit is threatened**, either wholly or in part. Hence, information of row 3 is correctly matched.

- ◆ Proclaimed by the President, it requires parliamentary approval within one month and has no time limit. During this period, the **Centre can control state financial matters and reduce the salaries of officials and judges**. It has never been invoked in Indian history.

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42.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The **Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council**, a **constitutional body** under **Article 279A**, is chaired by the **Union Finance Minister** and includes **Finance Ministers of all States and Union Territories with legislatures**, promoting cooperative federalism in GST decision-making. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Constitution (101st Amendment) Act, 2016** inserted **Article 279A**, which provides for the **formation of the GST Council**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ This amendment also introduced **Article 246A**, giving concurrent powers to the Union and States to legislate on GST.
- **Petroleum products and alcohol for human consumption** are **excluded from GST as per the current framework**. However, their inclusion **does not require a constitutional amendment**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The **GST Council** can recommend their inclusion, and the government can bring them under GST through a notification under the existing constitutional provisions.

43.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The **CAQM** is a **statutory body**, but it was **not established under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ It was created under a separate legislation, the **Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021**.
- The **Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)** has overriding powers over State Pollution Control Boards and other statutory bodies in matters of air quality management in the **National Capital Region (NCR) and adjoining areas**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ This was established by the **Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021**. The CAQM is designed to be the central authority for air quality matters in the NCR, and its decisions and directions supersede those of other bodies in case of conflict.

- The **Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)** is empowered to **impose penalties and initiate prosecution** against entities that violate its directions or orders related to air quality management in the Delhi-NCR region. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ This includes measures like closure orders, environmental compensation, and legal action.

44.

Ans: D

Exp:

- The report **"Financing Cities of Tomorrow"** was released by the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** in 2024 to address the growing challenges of urban infrastructure financing in the face of rapid urbanization, climate change, and fiscal constraints.
- The report outlines three key strategies:
 - ◆ **New forms of urban planning** to mobilize private finance for inclusive, resilient, and sustainable infrastructure.
 - ◆ **Leveraging private investment** to strengthen cities' capacity to invest, especially in a tight fiscal environment.
 - ◆ **Mobilizing sustainable finance** through instruments like green bonds, sustainability-linked bonds, and catastrophe bonds to support long-term urban development.
- The report is part of OECD's broader agenda to **support cities and subnational governments in achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs)** and adapting to climate and digital transitions.
- **By 2050**, the global population **living in cities is projected to reach 5 billion**, growing from 3.5 billion in 2015.
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

45.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The ideals of **liberty, equality, and fraternity** in the Preamble of Indian constitution are inspired by the **French Revolution (1789–1799)**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **K.M. Munshi**, a member of the Constituent Assembly's Drafting Committee, described the Preamble as the **"horoscope of our sovereign democratic republic."** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The ideal of justice—**social, economic and political**—has been taken from the **Russian Revolution (1917)**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

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46.

Ans: D

Exp:

- The **first Buddhist council**, held in **483 BCE** shortly after the **Buddha's death**, was convened in **Rajagriha** (modern-day Rajgir) under the patronage of **King Ajatashatru**. The **Vinaya Pitaka (monastic rules)** was compiled by Upali, and the **Sutta Pitaka (discourses of the Buddha)** was compiled by Ananda. Hence, information of row 1 is correctly matched.
 - ◆ The council was **presided over by Mahakassapa**.
- The **Second Buddhist Council**, held in **Vaishali** around **383 BCE**, saw a significant division within the **Buddhist Sangha**, resulting in the formation of the **Sthaviravada and Mahasanghika schools**. King **Kalashoka of the Shishunaga dynasty** is credited with patronizing this council. Hence, information of row 2 is correctly matched.
 - ◆ This division was largely due to differing interpretations of the Vinaya (monastic discipline).
- The **Third Buddhist Council**, held in **Pataliputra (modern Patna)** around **250 BCE**, was convened under the patronage of **Emperor Ashoka of the Mauryan Empire**. Presided over by **Moggaliputta Tissa**, the council aimed to **purify the Buddhist Sangha (monastic order) of opportunistic factions and corruption**. Hence, information of row 3 is correctly matched.
 - ◆ This council is particularly significant in **Theravada Buddhism** as it is believed to have led to the **compilation of the Abhidhamma Pitaka**, contributing to the completion of the Pali Tipitaka, the foundational texts of Theravada.
- The **Fourth Buddhist Council**, held in **Kashmir** during the **reign of King Kanishka**, is significant for the division of **Buddhism into the Mahayana and Hinayana sects**. Hence, information of row 4 is correctly matched.
 - ◆ This council, convened in **Kundalvana (near Srinagar)** in **72 AD**, is traditionally associated with the **Kushan King Kanishka**. **Vasumitra** presided over the council, with **Asvaghosa** as his deputy.

47.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **Alzheimer's disease** is a progressive **neurodegenerative disorder** that gradually impairs memory, thinking skills, and eventually, the ability to carry out even the simplest tasks.

- ◆ The **hippocampus**, which is crucial for memory formation, is the **earliest and most severely affected region in Alzheimer's disease**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- In Alzheimer's disease, **neurofibrillary tangles** are **primarily composed of hyperphosphorylated tau protein**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

- ◆ This abnormal form of tau protein aggregates within neurons, forming tangles that contribute to neuronal dysfunction and neurodegeneration.

- The **Edrophonium test** is used for **diagnosing Myasthenia Gravis**. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

- ◆ While **no single definitive test confirms Alzheimer's disease**, a combination of clinical assessments, **cognitive tests, brain imaging (MRI, PET scans), and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) analysis** are used to diagnose it. Recent advancements have also introduced **blood tests, like the Lumipulse test**, which can measure specific protein ratios to aid in diagnosis.

48.

Ans: C

Exp:

- As of **2025**, **Bt cotton** is the **only genetically modified (GM) crop** that has been approved for **commercial cultivation in India**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- ◆ It was **first approved in 2002**.

- The **DMH-11 GM mustard hybrid** utilizes the **barnase-barstar gene system to enable efficient hybridization**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

- ◆ This system involves the use of two genes, **barnase and barstar**, which work together to create a male-sterile plant (barnase) and then restore fertility in the hybrid offspring (barstar). This allows for the production of high-yielding hybrid seeds.

49.

Ans: D

Exp:

- In **2014**, the **World Health Organization (WHO)** officially declared the **South-East Asia Region, including India, to be free of polio**. Hence, information of row 1 is correctly matched.

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- ◆ This significant milestone was achieved after a rigorous process and three years without any cases of wild poliovirus transmission. The **last reported case of polio in India was on 13th January 2011.**

➤ India completed validation of **maternal and neonatal tetanus elimination** in all of its **36 states and union territories** in **April 2015, much earlier than the target date of December 2015** with validation by WHO, but the implementation was led by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Hence, information of row 2 is correctly matched.**

➤ In **2024**, India was declared to have **eliminated trachoma as a public health problem by the World Health Organization (WHO).** This achievement is a significant milestone for the **National Programme for Control of Blindness and Visual Impairment (NPCBVI).** Hence, information of row 3 is correctly matched.

- ◆ The declaration came after years of focused efforts and surveillance, particularly from 2019 to 2024, to ensure the infection's eradication.

➤ **Kala Azar elimination** (defined as <1 case per 10,000 population) was **achieved in 2023 under the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP).** Hence, information of row 4 is correctly matched.

- ◆ This program is part of the larger National Health Mission (NHM) and focuses on the prevention, control, and elimination of vector-borne diseases.

50.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **Article 324** of the Constitution empowers the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** to supervise, direct, and control the entire process of elections to Parliament, State Legislatures, and the offices of the President and Vice-President. **Article 326** provides that elections to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assemblies of States shall be **based on adult suffrage**, meaning **every Indian citizen aged 18 and above has the right to vote**, subject to disqualifications. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- The **right to vote** is **not a fundamental right** under Article 19 or any other part of Part III of the Constitution. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**
- ◆ It is a **constitutional right**, derived from **Article 326**, and is governed by statutory provisions like the **Representation of the People Act, 1950.**

- The updating of electoral rolls is supported by the **Registration of Electors Rules 1960 and the Representation of the People Act 1950.** Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**

51.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **United Nations Security Council** is the **only UN body whose decisions are legally binding on member states** under Chapter VII of the UN Charter. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

- ◆ This means that when the Security Council takes action under Chapter VII, such as imposing sanctions or authorizing the use of force, member states are obligated to comply with those decisions.

- **Rule 18 of the Security Council's Provisional Rules of Procedure states:** "The **presidency of the Security Council** shall be **held in turn by all the 15 members of the Security Council** in the **English alphabetical** order of their names. Each President shall **hold office for one calendar month.**" Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**

52.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The **Strait of Hormuz** connects the **Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman** or the **Arabian Sea.** Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**

- ◆ The Gulf of Aden lies further south, beyond the Arabian Peninsula, and is connected to the Arabian Sea via the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait.

- The **northern shore of the Strait of Hormuz is bordered by Iran**, while the **southern shore is bordered by Oman**, specifically its Musandam exclave. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

- ◆ This makes the strait a strategic maritime boundary between these two nations.

- The **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)** provides for transit passage through **straits used for international navigation**, such as the **Strait of Hormuz.** Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**

- ◆ This provision is crucial for maintaining global energy security, as Hormuz is a key chokepoint for oil and gas shipments.

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53.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** is regulated by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and operated by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**. The legal foundation for UPI lies in the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**, which empowers the RBI to regulate and supervise payment systems in India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- UPI **does not require Aadhaar-based biometric authentication** for transactions above ₹5,000. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ Instead, it uses multi-factor authentication, which typically includes device binding (linking the app to a specific device), a mobile PIN (MPIN) for transaction authorization, and optional biometric or device-level security (such as fingerprint or face unlock) depending on the app and device.

- UPI transactions are settled in **real-time using the Immediate Payment Service (IMPS)** infrastructure, which enables instant money transfers between bank accounts 24x7. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

54.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **Ghana (capital Accra)** is a **West African country** bordered by Côte d'Ivoire to the west, Burkina Faso to the north, Togo to the east, and the Gulf of Guinea and the Atlantic Ocean to the south.
- Ghana, the **first Black African country south of the Sahara to gain independence in 1957**, was named after the medieval Ghana Empire.
 - ◆ It is known for its vast gold resources, it was called the Gold Coast. Cacao, introduced in the 19th century, remains a key export.
 - ◆ Since the 1990s, Ghana has seen political stability, economic recovery, and is now cited as a model for democratic governance and reform in Africa.

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➤ Hence, option B is correct.

55.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The BRICS **Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA)** aims to provide short-term liquidity support to the members through currency swaps to help mitigate the **Balance of Payments (BOP)** crisis situation and further strengthen financial stability. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The **CRA does operate** as a separate **regional financing arrangement (RFA)** and does not have a formal, automatic link to the IMF. It also doesn't operate in complete isolation. In practice, the CRA's lending operations can be influenced by the IMF, and **some RFAs have introduced a link between accessing their resources and having an IMF-supported program**. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

56.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **base year for GDP (Gross Domestic Product)** calculations is revised periodically to **reflect structural changes in the economy**, such as shifts in **consumption patterns** and the relative importance of different sectors. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
 - ◆ This revision ensures that the GDP data remains relevant and accurately reflects the current economic landscape.

- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** is responsible for **GDP estimation** in India and is planning to **revise the base year for GDP calculations from 2011-12 to 2022-23**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

- ◆ This revision is expected to be **released on 27th February 2026**.

- The **GDP deflator** in India is **not directly derived from the Consumer Price Index (CPI)**. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

- ◆ The GDP deflator reflects the price changes of all goods and services produced domestically, while the CPI tracks the prices of a specific basket of consumer goods and services.

57.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)** is designed to promote **inclusive growth by enhancing livelihood security in rural India**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in India **guarantees 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to every rural household** whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
 - ◆ The guarantee is legal and enforceable, meaning that if work is not provided within **15 days of demand**, the applicant is entitled to an unemployment allowance.

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- **MGNREGA, 2005** mandates that **at least 50% of the works should be executed by Gram Panchayats** to ensure decentralization and community participation. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

◆ The Act emphasizes bottom-up planning, where Gram Sabhas and Panchayats play a central role in identifying and executing works.

- **Hence, option A is correct because both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I.**

58.

Ans: C

Exp:

Body Mass Index (BMI):

- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** recommends **lower BMI thresholds for Asian populations** than average due to increased risk of **metabolic diseases**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Body Mass Index (BMI), **previously known as the Quetelet index**, is a simple way to check if an adult has a healthy weight. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **BMI** is calculated by **dividing a person's weight in kilograms by the square of their height in meters**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- ◆ The formula is: **BMI = weight (kg) / height (m²).**
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

59.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **Leptospirosis** is a **bacterial disease** caused by **Leptospira bacteria**, primarily **transmitted to humans through contact with the urine of infected animals**, particularly **rodents**, or indirectly through contaminated water and soil. **Hence, information of row 1 is correctly matched.**
- **Leishmaniasis** is a disease caused by a **protozoan parasite**. The parasite, belonging to the genus *Leishmania*, is **transmitted to humans through the bite of infected female sandflies**. **Hence, information of row 2 is not correctly matched.**
- **Toxoplasmosis** is a disease caused by the **protozoan parasite Toxoplasma gondii**. Humans can contract it through **contact with cat feces (especially from domestic cats)** or by consuming undercooked, **contaminated meat**. **Hence, information of row 3 is correctly matched.**

60.

Ans: B

Exp:

Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ):

- **CRZ-I includes ecologically sensitive areas** such as mangroves, coral reefs, sand dunes, and the **intertidal zone between the Low Tide Line (LTL) and High Tide Line (HTL)**.
- ◆ These areas are highly protected, and no construction is generally permitted, except for activities related to defense, disaster management, or essential public utilities. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **CRZ-III covers rural and relatively undisturbed areas**. In these zones, no development is allowed up to 200 meters from the HTL. However, regulated development such as housing for local communities and tourism-related activities may be permitted beyond 200 meters, subject to environmental safeguards. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **CRZ-IV includes the aquatic area from the LTL up to 12 nautical miles seaward**. While industrial activities and discharge of untreated waste are prohibited, **traditional fishing and allied activities are permitted**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- ◆ These activities are considered sustainable and vital for coastal livelihoods.

61.

Ans: C

Exp:

Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY):

- The Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) was **launched in 2015** to provide **collateral-free institutional credit to non-corporate, non-farm micro and small enterprises** through various financial institutions. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ◆ Loans are extended through a wide network of institutions including **Scheduled Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), Small Finance Banks, NBFCs, and Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs)**.
- **PMMY is a credit-based scheme**, it does not provide direct subsidies to borrowers under any of its categories—Shishu (up to ₹50,000), Kishor (₹50,001 to ₹5 lakh), or Tarun (₹5 lakh to ₹10 lakh). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- In the Union Budget 2024-25, a new category called **Tarun Plus** has been introduced under PMMY. It allows loans **up to ₹20 lakh to support scaling and expansion of micro enterprises** that have outgrown the original Tarun limit. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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62.

Ans: D

Exp:

Asian Development Bank:

- India is a **founding member** of the **Asian Development Bank**, which was **established in 1966**. As of 2025, **India remains one of the top five shareholders in ADB**, alongside countries like Japan, the United States, China, and Australia. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ADB provides **both sovereign loans (to governments) and non-sovereign loans (to private sector entities and public-private partnerships)** to member countries for development projects. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ India has received substantial funding from ADB for metro rail projects, highways, renewable energy, and skill development.
- The **Energy Transition Readiness Assessment** is a recent **ADB publication** that evaluates how prepared countries in Asia and the Pacific are for a clean energy transition. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ It draws inspiration from the World Economic Forum's Energy Transition Index, but adapts it to regional contexts.

63.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **Reports released by the International Monetary Fund (IMF):**
 - ◆ **World Economic Outlook (WEO):** This is the **flagship biannual report** of the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**. It provides comprehensive analysis of global economic trends, growth projections, inflation, and policy challenges across advanced, emerging, and developing economies.
 - ◆ **Global Financial Stability Report (GFSR):** This report assesses risks and vulnerabilities in global financial systems. It offers policy recommendations to strengthen financial stability and prevent systemic crises.
 - ◆ **Fiscal Monitor:** This report analyzes fiscal policy, public debt, and budgetary trends across IMF member countries. It is crucial for understanding macro-fiscal sustainability and government spending patterns.
- **Human Development Report:** This is published by the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**.
- **Ease of Doing Business Report:** This was published by the World Bank Group until it was discontinued in 2021 due to data integrity concerns.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

64.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** has recently launched a **nomination-based Golden Visa program**, making it easier for qualified individuals to obtain long-term residency without the need for large investments in property or business.
- The visa can be obtained by paying a **fee of AED 100,000 (approximately ₹23.3 lakh)**, making it more accessible to professionals and skilled individuals.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

65.

Ans: C

Exp:

17th BRICS Summit:

- India's Prime Minister took part in the 17th BRICS Summit held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, under the theme "Strengthening Global South Cooperation for More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance," and signed the Rio de Janeiro Declaration.
- BRICS adopted the **Leaders' Framework Declaration** on Climate Finance to mobilize resources for developing countries and endorsed an MoU on the BRICS Carbon Markets Partnership to enhance cooperation in carbon pricing and emissions trading. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It launched the Partnership for the Elimination of Socially Determined Diseases (Tuberculosis) to tackle health disparities. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It adopted the Leaders' Statement on Global AI Governance, concluded the Data Economy Governance Understanding, and agreed to form a **BRICS Space Council for collaborative space exploration**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

66.

Ans: D

Exp:

- India signed the UN Convention Against Torture (UNCAT) in 1997 but has not yet ratified it. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- While torture is indirectly addressed in laws like the **Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993**, there is no standalone law criminalizing it, making existing provisions vague, inadequate, and lacking stringent penalties.
- The *DK Basu vs State of West Bengal Case, 1997*, laid down guidelines to prevent custodial torture and promote transparency in arrests and detentions. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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- ◆ It affirmed that while police have the right to investigate, they are prohibited from using third-degree methods, and in cases of custodial violence by public servants, the State is also held accountable.

67.

Ans: A

Exp:

National Mission on Edible Oils–Oilseeds (NMEO–Oilseeds):

- It has been launched by the **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare** and will be implemented over a seven-year period, from 2024-25 to 2030-31. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It aims at increasing collection and extraction efficiency from **secondary sources** like Cottonseed, Rice Bran, and Tree Borne Oils. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Cutting-edge technologies, such as genome editing, will be leveraged to develop high-quality seeds and enhance productivity.
- A **5-year rolling seed plan** will be introduced via the Seed Authentication, Traceability & Holistic Inventory (SATHI) Portal. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ This will help states establish tie-ups with seed-producing agencies (FPOs, cooperatives, and seed corporations).

68.

Ans: A

Exp:

Minimum Support Price (MSP):

- It is the **guaranteed amount paid** to farmers when the government buys their produce. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It is a form of market intervention established in 1965 by setting up the Agricultural Prices Commission (APC) (later renamed as CACP) to enhance national food security. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The CACP recommends MSPs for 22 mandated crops and a fair and remunerative price (FRP) for sugarcane. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The mandated crops include 14 crops of the kharif season, 6 rabi crops, and 2 other commercial crops.

69.

Ans: C

Exp:

Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme:

- Under the Scheme, the first-time employees will get **one month's wage** (up to Rs 15,000/-). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The Government will incentivize employers, **up to Rs 3000 per month**, for two years, for each additional employee with sustained employment for at least six months. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Establishments, which are **registered with the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)**, will be required to hire at least two additional employees (for employers with less than 50 employees) or five additional employees (for employers with 50 or more employees), on a sustained basis for at least six months. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

70.

Ans: C

Exp:

Aadhaar-enabled Payment System (AePS):

- It eliminates the **need for OTPs, bank account details**, and other financial information. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The initiative was launched by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, a collaborative effort between the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Indian Banks' Association (IBA). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It enables **interoperability among different banks** and financial institutions, allowing customers to access their bank accounts through any Business Correspondent (BC) or micro-ATM of any bank. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

71.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Article 326** of the Indian Constitution lays down the conditions for being a voter in elections to the House of the People (Lok Sabha) and the Legislative Assemblies of States. The conditions mentioned in this article are:
 - ◆ **Adult Suffrage:** Elections to the House of the People and the Legislative Assemblies of States are based on adult suffrage.
 - ◆ **Citizenship:** The individual must be a citizen of India.
 - ◆ **Age:** The person must be **at least 18 years** of age on such date as may be fixed by the appropriate law.
 - ◆ **Qualification:** The person should not be disqualified under the Constitution or any law made by the appropriate Legislature.
- **Disqualifications:**
 - ◆ **Non-residence:** A person who is not a resident of the constituency.
 - ◆ **Unsoundness of mind:** A person who is deemed to be of unsound mind.
 - ◆ **Criminal Activity:** A person who has been convicted of a crime or is involved in corrupt or illegal practices.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

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72.

Ans: B

Exp:

Quad Critical Minerals Initiative:

- The Quad, consisting of India, Australia, Japan, and the United States, has launched an initiative aimed at securing critical mineral supply chains.
- The initiative responds to growing concerns over China's dominance in these vital resources, essential for new technologies.
- The Quad Critical Minerals Initiative aims to create an alternative supply chain for critical minerals used in sectors like electric vehicles, electronics, and defence.
- It will strengthen cooperation on priorities such as securing and diversifying reliable supply chains, and electronic waste (e-waste), critical minerals recovery, and reprocessing.
- This initiative underscores the Quad's commitment to enhancing security and reducing dependency on a single dominant supplier.
- Hence, option B is correct.

73.

Ans: D

Exp:

Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Scheme:

- It is an initiative of the **Ministry of Science and Technology** to **boost private sector investment** in basic and applied research to drive the development of innovative technologies and products. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The **Governing Board of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)**, chaired by the **Prime Minister**, will provide the overall strategic direction for the RDI Scheme, while the Department of Science and Technology will act as the nodal department for its implementation. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The scheme will mainly involve the **creation of a special-purpose fund** within the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), which will serve as the custodian of the funds. These **funds will be provided in the form of low-interest loans**. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

74.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The **Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve**, encompassing **tropical evergreen forests and coastal mangroves**, is part of **UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Programme** and

administered by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**. Hence, information of row 1 is correctly matched.

- ◆ It is located at the southernmost tip of the Nicobar Islands and is known for its rich biodiversity, including numerous endemic and endangered species.
- **Indira Point**, the **southernmost point of India**, is located in the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands** and is **administered by the Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC)**. Following the **2004 tsunami**, the southernmost tip of the point subsided and was **partially submerged**. Hence, information of row 2 is correctly matched.
- The **Shompen tribe**, officially recognized as a **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)** by the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs**, resides in the dense, **interior forests of Great Nicobar Island**. They are primarily known for their **hunting and gathering practices**, and also engage in **horticulture and pig rearing**. Hence, information of row 3 is correctly matched.
- ◆ The Shompen are one of the most isolated tribes in the world and are among the least studied PVTGs in India.

75.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The onset of the **southwest monsoon in Kerala** is influenced by the **cross-equatorial flow of moisture-laden winds** from the **southern Indian Ocean**, particularly the **Somali Jet**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- ◆ This **strong jet stream carries significant moisture** across the **Arabian Sea towards the Indian subcontinent**, playing a crucial role in the early arrival and intensification of the monsoon rains over Kerala and the western coast.
- The **Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)** and **El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO)** both influence the variability of monsoon rainfall, but a **positive IOD can sometimes offset the negative impact of El Niño**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- During the **active phase of the Indian monsoon**, the **monsoon trough shifts northward**, typically closer to the Himalayan foothills. This movement results in **increased rainfall over the Indo-Gangetic plains** and a **decrease in rainfall over the Western Ghats**. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- ◆ Essentially, the shift concentrates the rainfall in the northern and northeastern parts of India, while the western coastal region experiences a reduction in precipitation.

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76.

Ans: B

Exp:

Election Commission of India (ECI):

- **Article 324** of the Constitution grants the Election Commission of India (ECI) the **power of superintendence, direction, and control of elections**. However, disqualification of candidates for corrupt practices is governed by the **Representation of the People Act, 1951**, and **requires judicial proceedings**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- Under **Article 324(1)**, the **ECI is responsible** for the **preparation and revision of electoral rolls** for elections to the **Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
 - ◆ This is a core function of the Commission and is **constitutionally mandated**.
- The **ECI has the authority to countermand or cancel elections** in cases of **booth capturing, rigging, or other electoral malpractices, even after polling**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
 - ◆ This power is exercised under **Article 324** and relevant provisions of the **Representation of the People Act, 1951**.

77.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)** is an attached office under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. It **recommends MSPs** for 23 crops based on factors like cost of production, market trends, and international prices. These recommendations are then **approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)**, which officially announces the MSP. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The **Price Stabilization Fund (PSF)** was created to **manage price volatility in agricultural commodities**. It is used to **support procurement operations**, especially for **pulses and oilseeds**, when market prices fall below MSP. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
 - ◆ Agencies like NAFED and SFAC use PSF to intervene in the market and procure these crops at MSP, ensuring farmers get remunerative prices.
- Unlike other crops, **sugarcane does not fall under the MSP regime**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

- ◆ Instead, it is governed by the **Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) mechanism**. The **Department of Food and Public Distribution**, under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, **recommends the FRP for sugarcane, which is then approved by the Cabinet**.

78.

Ans: D

Exp:

BRICS:

- The acronym '**BRIC**' was coined by **British economist Jim O'Neill** in **2001** to represent the emerging economies of **Brazil, Russia, India, and China**.
 - ◆ BRIC began functioning as a formal group during the G-8 Outreach Summit in 2006, **held its first summit in Russia in 2009**, and **became BRICS with the inclusion of South Africa in 2010**.
- The **initial five BRICS members** were **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa**. In **2024**, **Iran, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Egypt, and Ethiopia** joined the group, while **Indonesia** joined in 2025.
- Hence, **option D is correct**.

79.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Article 280** of the **Constitution** provides for the **Finance Commission**. It states that the **President shall constitute a Finance Commission** every five years or at such earlier time as he considers necessary. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - ◆ The Commission is tasked with recommending the distribution of financial resources between the Union and the States.
- The **recommendations of the Finance Commission are not binding**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
 - ◆ They are advisory in nature, and the Union Government has the discretion to accept or reject them, either fully or partially.
- **Article 275** empowers the **Finance Commission** to recommend **grants-in-aid to states in need of assistance**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
 - ◆ These grants are meant to help states maintain standards of services, address fiscal imbalances, and support developmental needs.

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80.

Ans: D

Exp:

- In 2004, the Government of India, for the first time, created a new category of languages known as Classical Languages. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ◆ **Tamil was the first language to be granted the status of Classical Language** by the Government of India. This recognition was officially conferred on October 12, 2004, based on its rich literary tradition and antiquity.
- On 3rd October 2024, the Union Cabinet approved the Classical Language status for the following five languages: **Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ◆ This decision was based on recommendations from the **Linguistic Experts Committee** under the **Sahitya Akademi**, which confirmed that these languages meet the criteria for classical status: antiquity of early texts, rich literary tradition, and distinct cultural heritage.

81.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **The World Bank publishes the following reports:**
 - ◆ **Global Economic Prospects** – This is an annual report by the World Bank that provides an overview of the global economic situation, forecasts economic growth, and analyzes key developments across regions and countries.
 - ◆ **World Development Report** – This is an annual flagship report of the World Bank that focuses on a specific development issue, such as poverty, education, health, or economic growth, and provides in-depth analysis and policy recommendations.
- **World Investment Report** – This report is published by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), not the World Bank. It focuses on trends in global investment, foreign direct investment (FDI), and related issues.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

82.

Ans: B

Exp:

Gini Coefficient:

- It measures the degree of income equality in a population. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is derived from the Lorenz Curve and can serve as an indicator of a country's economic development. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- It ranges from 0, representing perfect equality where everyone has the same income, to 1, representing perfect inequality where one individual receives all the income. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

83.

Ans: A

Exp:

Stagflation:

- Stagflation means a situation characterized by simultaneous increase in prices and stagnation of economic growth.
- It is described as a situation in the economy where the **growth rate slows down**, the level of unemployment remains steadily high, and yet the inflation or price level remains high at the same time.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

84.

Ans: A

Exp:

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO):

- It is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation founded on 15th June 2001, in Shanghai, China.
- It was created to **address concerns about extremist religious groups** and ethnic tensions following the dissolution of the USSR in 1991. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It was established by six founding countries, namely Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, evolving from the Shanghai Five mechanism. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- SCO has 10 full members, namely China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan, Iran (2023), and Belarus (2024).

85.

Ans: C

Exp:

Namami Gange Programme (NGP):

- It is a flagship programme for the **rejuvenation of the Ganga River** and its tributaries by reducing pollution, improving water quality, and restoring the river's ecosystem. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Under the **Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM)**, a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) by the winning bidder handles STP development, operation, and maintenance.
- The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration acknowledged NGP as one of the Top 10 World Restoration Flagship Initiatives. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ The International Water Association awarded NGP the title of Climate Smart Utility.

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- The **National Ganga Council (NGC)** is headed by the Prime Minister, with the chief ministers of the riparian states and 10 Union ministers as members. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

86.

Ans: D

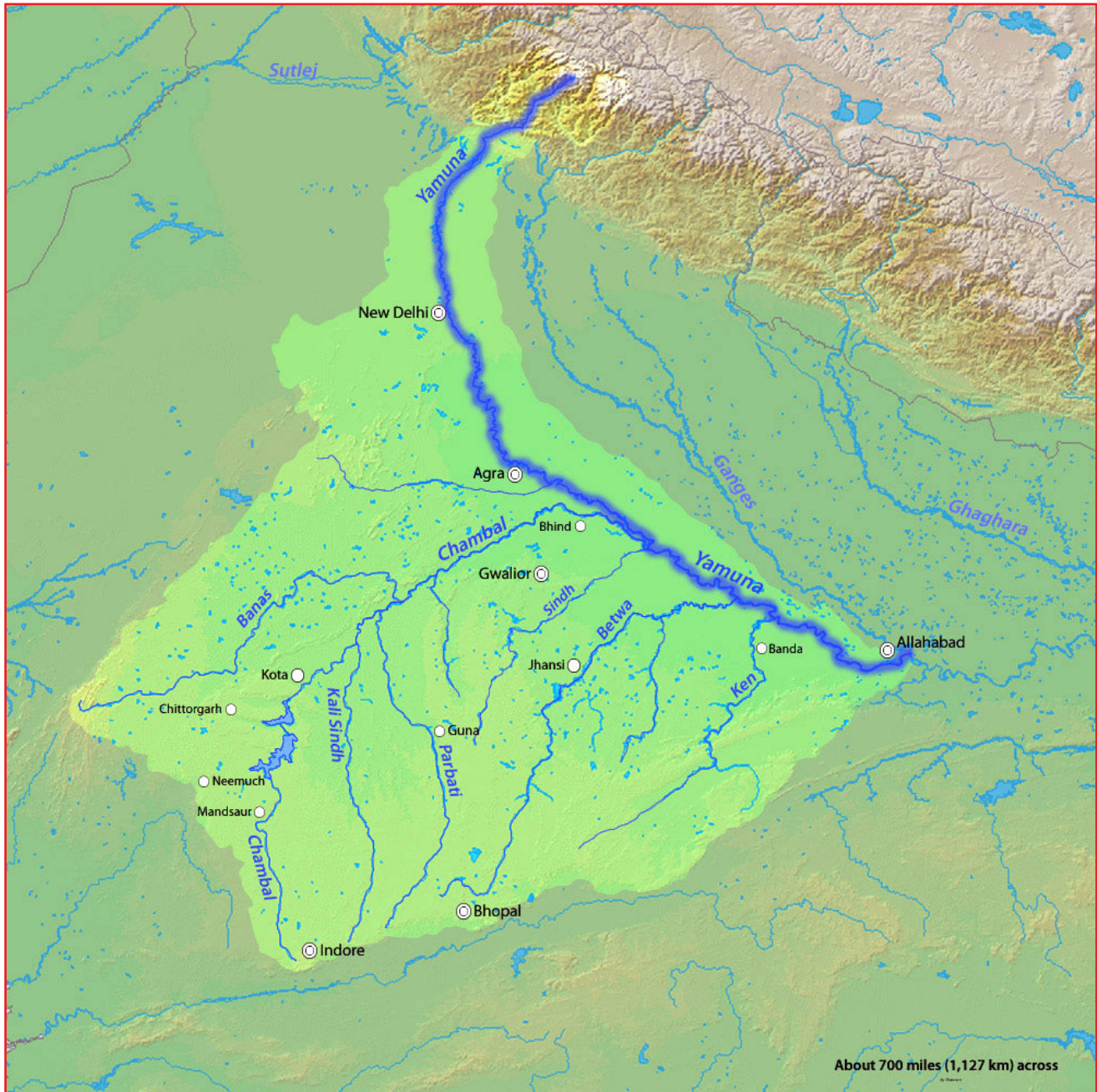
Exp:

Yamuna River:

- The Yamuna River is one of the major tributaries of the Ganges in Northern India. It forms an integral part of the

Yamuna-Ganga Plain, one of the world's most extensive alluvial plains.

- It has its source in the **Yamunotri Glacier** at an elevation of 6,387 meters on the southwestern sides of Banderpooch crests in the lower Himalayan ranges.
- It meets the Ganges at the **Sangam** (where Kumbh mela is held) in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, after flowing through Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, and Delhi.
- **Chambal, Sindh, Betwa, and Ken** are the Important Tributaries of Yamuna.



- Hence, option D is correct.

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87.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **Article 23** of the Constitution of India prohibits trafficking in human beings and forced labour. **Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
- **Article 24** prohibits employment of children below the age of 14 in any factory, mine or in any other hazardous employment. **Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
- **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita**, the statute that replaced the Indian Penal Code, 1860 (IPC), through sections 143 to 146, criminalises trafficking, slavery, and forced labour;
- The **Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976** was enacted to abolish bonded labour in India and made the practice of bondage a cognisable offence punishable by law;
- The **Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986** (as amended) prohibits the engagement of children in all occupations and the engagement of adolescents in hazardous occupations and processes; prohibits employment of children below 14 years old. Presumably, the limit will be raised progressively. However, one should look at other labour laws for any prohibition of employment of those who are older than 14 years.
- The **Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (ITPA)** targets trafficking for sexual exploitation. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**
- **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015** addresses the trafficking and exploitation of minors. **Hence, pair 4 is correctly matched.**

88.

Ans: B

Exp:

Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC):

- The CBFC is a **statutory body** operating under the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**, entrusted with regulating the public exhibition of films as per the Cinematograph Act 1952. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Films can only be publicly exhibited in India once they have **obtained certification from the CBFC**, ensuring compliance with legal requirements and standards.

- The CBFC comprises **non-official members** and a Chairman, all appointed by the Central Government, with its headquarters located in Mumbai. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Additionally, it operates nine Regional offices across India, each equipped with Advisory Panels to assist in the examination of films.
- The Advisory Panels consist of members nominated by the Central Government from diverse backgrounds, serving for a term of 2 years. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

89.

Ans: A

Exp:

International Criminal Court (ICC):

- The ICC is the **first permanent international court established** to prosecute individuals for genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The ICC was established by the **Rome Statute** and is headquartered in **The Hague, Netherlands**. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ The Rome Statute is the treaty that created the ICC, and it entered into force in 2002.
- India has **neither signed nor ratified the Rome Statute**, and is therefore **not a member of the International Criminal Court (ICC)**. **Hence statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ While India participated in the negotiations for the Statute, it ultimately **abstained from voting on its adoption**.

90.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The **Inter-State Council** is a **constitutional body** established under **Article 263 of the Indian Constitution**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ This body was created to foster cooperation and coordination between the states and the central government on matters of common interest.
- The **recommendations** of the **Inter-State Council** are **not binding** on the Union and State governments. They are **advisory in nature**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The Inter-State Council acts as a platform for discussion and coordination between the Union and the states, but its recommendations do not have the force of law.

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- The **Inter-State Council** is chaired by the **Prime Minister of India**. It also includes the **Chief Ministers of all states and Union Territories that have a legislative assembly**. Additionally, administrators of Union Territories without legislative assemblies and six Union Cabinet Ministers are also members. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

91.

Ans: A

Exp:

Global Gender Gap Report 2025:

- According to the **Global Gender Gap Report 2025**, **India ranks 131st out of 148 countries**. The report highlights that India continues to face significant challenges in **economic participation and opportunity, as well as in health and survival**, where gender gaps remain wide. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Global Gender Gap Report** has been **published annually since 2006** by the **World Economic Forum**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- ◆ It is the longest-standing index that tracks gender parity across Economic Participation, Educational Attainment, Health and Survival, and Political Empowerment.

92.

Ans: C

Exp:

National Credit Framework (NCrF):

- The **National Credit Framework (NCrF)** has been developed as a comprehensive **credit accumulation & transfer framework** encompassing elementary, school, higher, and vocational education & training. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The NCrF provides for creditization of all learning and assignment, accumulation, storage, transfer & redemption of credits, subject to assessment; removes distinction and establishes **academic equivalence between vocational & general education** while enabling mobility within & between them. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The NCrF is a meta-framework that includes three verticals which are the **National School Education Qualification Framework (NSEQF)**, **National Higher Education Qualification Framework (NHEQF)**, and **National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF)**.

93.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Aadhaar is not proof of citizenship, date of birth, or domicile under the Aadhaar Act, 2016. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- ◆ It serves as proof of identity for Indian residents. The Aadhaar Act, 2016 clarifies that the Aadhaar number does not grant any rights related to citizenship or domicile.
- The Aadhaar numbers are intended for long-term use and are not easily deactivated. They can be deactivated or omitted under certain circumstances by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- UIDAI (Unique Identification Authority of India) is indeed a **statutory authority** established under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**. It was established under the provisions of the Aadhaar Act, 2016. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

94.

Ans: A

Exp:

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI):

- SEBI is a body that possesses **quasi-legislative, quasi-judicial, and quasi-executive powers**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ◆ These powers enable it to regulate and oversee the Indian securities market effectively.
- SEBI's decisions can be challenged before the **Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT)**, which is a **statutory body established under the SEBI Act**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- ◆ SAT hears appeals against orders passed by SEBI and other financial regulators.

95.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **TEAM Initiative** was launched on **27th June 2024** as a sub-scheme under the **World Bank-supported RAMP Programme (Raising and Accelerating MSME Productivity)**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

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- ◆ It is part of the Ministry of MSME's broader strategy to enhance market access and digital enablement for micro and small enterprises.
- The implementing agency for the TEAM Initiative is **not SIDBI**. Its implementing agency is the **National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC)**, a public sector enterprise under the Ministry of MSME. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The TEAM Initiative leverages the **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)** to help MSMEs adopt digital commerce platforms and expand their market reach. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ ONDC acts as a technical partner in the initiative.

96.

Ans: C

Exp:

- **Real GDP** is widely regarded as a better indicator of economic growth than nominal GDP because it accounts for inflation. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ This allows for a more accurate assessment of changes in the volume of goods and services produced over time.
- **Real GDP is calculated by adjusting nominal GDP for inflation** using a GDP deflator. This adjustment enables economists and policymakers to compare economic output across different years without the distortion caused by changing price levels. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Nominal GDP** includes the value of all goods and services produced within a country's borders, regardless of whether they are produced in the formal or informal sector, as long as they are sold at market prices. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ It is a measure of the total value of production using current market prices, without adjusting for inflation.
- **Hence, option C is correct because Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I.**

97.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** is a statutory organisation. It was **constituted in September, 1974** under the **Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974**.

It was further entrusted with the powers and functions under the **Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- **CPCB is the nodal agency** responsible for **setting and revising the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ It also monitors air quality across India and publishes data through platforms like the **National Air Quality Index (AQI)**.
- **CPCB is not a quasi-judicial body**. It is a **technical and regulatory body** that performs **advisory, monitoring, and enforcement functions**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ CPCB can **recommend action and issue directions** under laws like the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**, but it cannot adjudicate disputes or pass binding judgments like a court or tribunal.

98.

Ans: D

Exp:

- The **Nehru Report (1928)** was the first Indian attempt to draft a constitutional framework **for self-governance**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It was drafted by a committee headed by Motilal Nehru in response to the **Simon Commission**, which had no Indian members.
- The **Nehru Report proposed Dominion status** for India, but at the **December 1928 Calcutta Congress session**, leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhash Bose, and Satya Murthy opposed it, advocating for full independence. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **Nehru Report opposed separate electorates** for any community, proposing instead **joint electorates with reserved seats for religious minorities** at both the Centre and in provinces where they were in the minority, such as the United Provinces, Central Provinces, and Bombay. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

99.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The **Indian Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS)** replaced the **Perform, Achieve, and Trade (PAT)** scheme, shifting the **focus from reducing energy intensity to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions intensity**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

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- ◆ The CCTS is a market-based mechanism designed to reduce GHG emissions through carbon pricing and trading.
- India's **Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS)** does utilize a **rate-based Emissions Trading System (ETS)** that focuses on emission intensity benchmarks. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ This means that instead of setting a cap on total emissions, the scheme sets performance standards (benchmarks) for specific sectors based on their emission intensity, which is the amount of greenhouse gas emitted per unit of output.
- The **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)** and the **National Steering Committee for the Indian Carbon Market (NSCICM)** are key bodies involved in **managing India's Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS)**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ The BEE acts as the administrator of the CCTS, while the NSCICM provides overall oversight and guidance.

100.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The Indus Water Treaty divides the Indus River system, with Pakistan controlling the Western rivers (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab) and India controlling the Eastern rivers (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Indus Waters Treaty, signed in 1960**, was mediated by **the World Bank** to resolve Indus water disputes between India and Pakistan concerning the waters of the **Indus River system**, which arose after the partition of India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The treaty provides a **three-tier dispute resolution mechanism: Permanent Indus Commission** (for regular communication and minor issues), **Neutral Expert** (for technical disputes), and **Court of Arbitration** (for legal and interpretative disputes). **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

101.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **CIMMYT (International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center)** developed **semi-dwarf wheat varieties** that were **later adapted for Indian agro-climatic conditions**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- ◆ These varieties, including Sonalika and Kalyansona, were introduced in India in the mid-1960s as part of the Green Revolution, leading to significant increases in wheat production.
- **Norman Borlaug**, a key figure at CIMMYT (International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center), was **awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970** for his **contributions to world peace** through advancements in **food production, specifically in wheat**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ He is widely recognized as the **"father of the Green Revolution"** for developing **high-yielding, semi-dwarf wheat varieties** that helped avert widespread famine in South Asia and other developing regions.
- The **initial high-yielding wheat varieties** introduced to India from CIMMYT (International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center) were specifically **bred to be highly responsive to chemical fertilizers, irrigation, and other inputs**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ This characteristic, while contributing to significant yield increases, also meant these varieties were more vulnerable to pests and diseases without the use of pesticides and fungicides.

102.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The **RDI Scheme**, approved by the Union Cabinet in **July 2025**, is designed to spur **private sector investment in research, development, and innovation**. It provides **long-term financing or refinancing at low or nil interest rates**, especially for sunrise and strategic sectors. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** is the **nodal department** for implementing the RDI Scheme. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ **Strategic oversight** is provided by the **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)**, chaired by the Prime Minister.
- The **RDI Scheme** will have a **two-tiered funding mechanism**. At the first level, there will be a **Special Purpose Fund (SPF)** established within the **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)**, which will act as the custodian of funds. From the SPF funds shall be allocated to a variety of 2nd level fund managers. This will be mainly in the **form of long-term concessional loans**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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103.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The World Bank has been a **key partner in the Namami Gange Programme**, particularly through the **Ganga River Basin Project**. It has provided **financial and technical assistance** for pollution control, riverfront development, and institutional strengthening.
- The **World Bank** has supported **rural road connectivity** in India under **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)** through multiple phases. It has funded projects aimed at improving all-weather road access in remote and economically backward regions.
- **National Rural Health Mission (NRHM)** is primarily a **Government of India initiative** under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**. While the World Bank has supported health sector reforms in India (e.g., in states like Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh), it has **not been a direct funder of NRHM as a central scheme**.
- The World Bank has **actively supported disaster risk reduction and resilience-building** in India. Projects include technical assistance, capacity building, and infrastructure support in states like Odisha, Uttarakhand, and Kerala.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

104.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The **Lorenz Curve** is a graphical tool used in welfare economics to depict the **distribution of income or wealth within a population**. It plots the **cumulative percentage** of total income received by cumulative percentages of the population. The **Gini coefficient**, a measure of inequality, is derived from the area between the **Lorenz Curve** and the line of perfect equality. **Hence, information of row 1 is correctly matched.**
- The Phillips Curve shows an inverse **relationship between inflation and unemployment**, particularly in the short run. It is used to understand the **trade-offs policymakers** face: reducing unemployment may lead to higher inflation and vice versa. In the long run, the curve becomes vertical at the natural rate of unemployment, incorporating concepts like NAIRU (Non-Accelerating Inflation Rate of Unemployment). **Hence, information of row 2 is correctly matched.**

- The **Engel Curve** illustrates how **household expenditure on a particular good changes as income changes**. It helps classify goods as normal goods (expenditure increases with income), inferior goods (expenditure decreases as income rises) and luxury goods (expenditure increases more than proportionally with income). **Hence, information of row 3 is correctly matched.**

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

105.

Ans: D

Exp:

- The **WTO's highest decision-making body** is the **Ministerial Conference**, followed by the **General Council** and other councils and committees. **Ministerial conferences** are typically **held every two years**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **World Trade Organization (WTO)** was **established in 1995** as a successor to the **General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)**, to provide a more structured and formalized framework for international trade negotiations and dispute resolution. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **Appellate Body** of the **World Trade Organization (WTO)** requires a minimum of **three members to hear an appeal**.
 - ◆ This is stipulated in the **Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU)**, the governing document for the WTO's dispute settlement system. The Appellate Body is a standing body of seven persons, but a **division of three members is selected to hear each individual appeal**.

106.

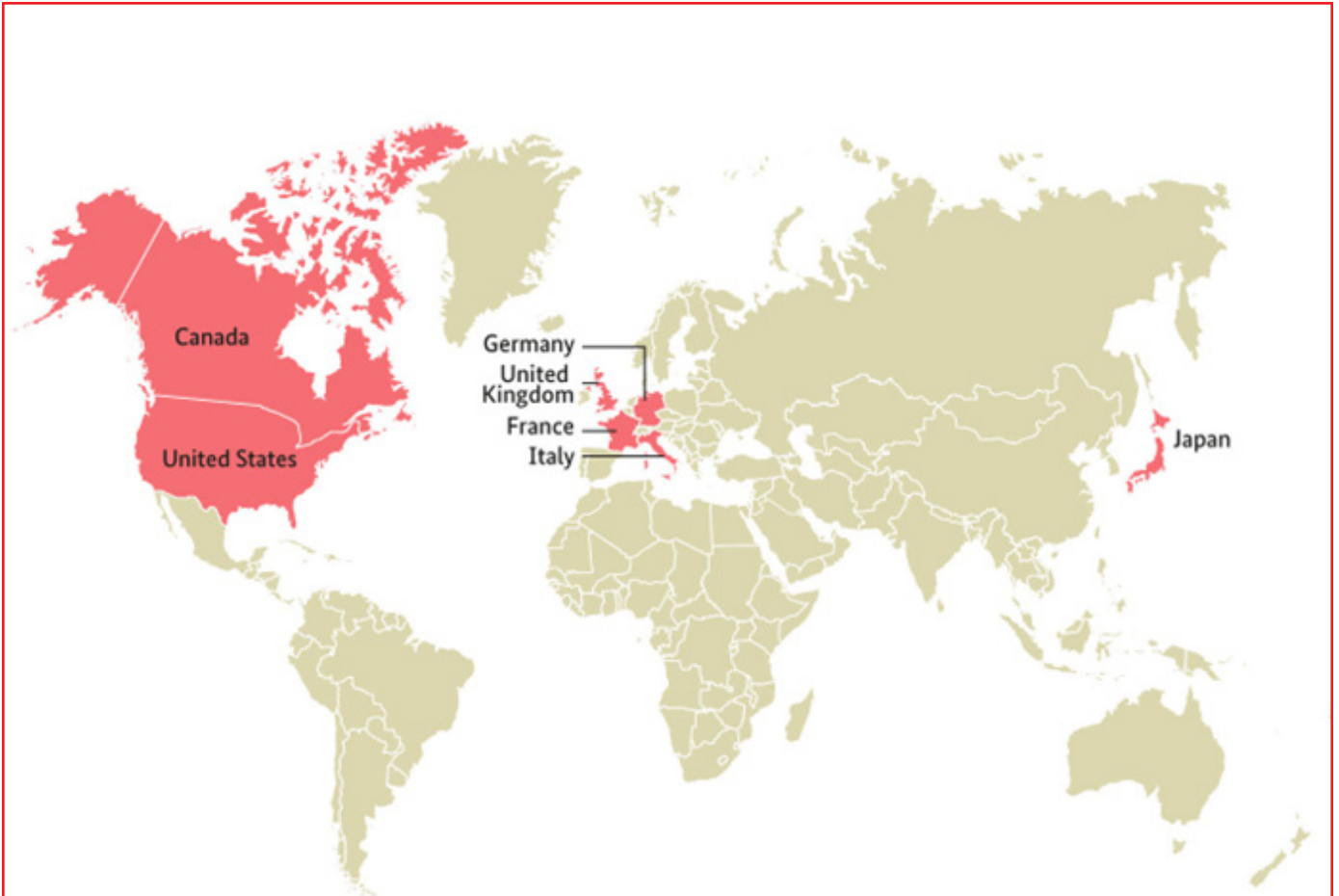
Ans: C

Exp:

- The **Group of Seven (G7)** is an informal forum that brings together **Italy, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America**.
 - ◆ The European Union also participates in the Group and is represented at the summits by the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission.
- The Group was created for economic and financial cooperation following the **1973 energy crisis**, with the **first Summit held in 1975** in Rambouillet, France.

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➤ Hence, option C is correct.

107.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' (BBBP) scheme is a flagship initiative launched in **2015** by the Government of India to address the declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and promote the education and empowerment of the girl child. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' (BBBP)** is a tri-ministerial initiative involving the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and Ministry of Education. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Hence, option C is correct.

108.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Gini index**, or **Gini coefficient**, was **developed in 1912** by **Italian statistician Corrado Gini**. It measures **income inequality** within a population. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

➤ The **Gini index (or Gini coefficient)** is calculated by determining the **area between the Lorenz curve and the line of perfect equality**, then dividing that area by the total area under the line of perfect equality. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- ◆ This ratio, which ranges from 0 to 1, represents the degree of inequality in a distribution. A value of 0 indicates perfect equality, while a value of 1 represents perfect inequality.

➤ The Gini Index **ranges from 0 to 1 (or 0% to 100%)** and **higher values indicate less equitable income distribution**, meaning greater inequality. A Gini Index of 0 represents perfect equality, while a value of 1 (or 100%) represents perfect inequality. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

109.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 (RBI Act)** has been amended by the **Finance Act, 2016**, to provide for a **statutory and institutionalised framework** for a Monetary Policy Committee, for maintaining **price stability**, while keeping in mind the objective of growth. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

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- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is a 6-member body, consisting of 3 members from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and 3 external experts appointed by the Government of India for a **period of 4 years** and shall **not be eligible for re-appointment**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- The decision of the Monetary Policy Committee shall be binding on the Bank. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
 - ◆ The MPC **independently decides the policy repo rate and other monetary policy tools**. This autonomy is crucial for maintaining central bank independence and ensuring that monetary policy is not influenced by short-term political considerations.

110.

Ans: C

Exp:

- In India, **citizenship by birth** is primarily governed by the **Citizenship Act of 1955**, which states that **anyone born in India on or after 26th January 1950**, is a citizen by birth. **Article 5 of the Constitution** states that every person who has their domicile in India and was either born in India or has Indian parentage shall be a citizen of India at the commencement of the Constitution. Hence, **information of row 1 is correctly matched**.
- **Article 9** clearly states that **no person shall be a citizen of India** if they have **voluntarily acquired citizenship of another country**. Hence, **information of row 2 is correctly matched**.
- **Article 11** empowers **Parliament** to make laws regarding the **acquisition, termination, and other matters related to citizenship**. This article provides the constitutional basis for the **Citizenship Act, 1955**, and its subsequent amendments. Hence, **information of row 3 is correctly matched**.

111.

Ans: A

Exp:

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA):

- The **Gram Sabha** plays a **central role in MGNREGA implementation**. It is responsible for **recommending the list of works to be undertaken in the Gram Panchayat area**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - ◆ This ensures community participation and transparency in planning.
- As per **MGNREGA** guidelines, **wage payments must be made within 15 days of the closure of the muster roll**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

- ◆ Delays in payment are subject to compensation, and the Standing Committee has highlighted issues with delayed wage disbursement.
- The **Ombudsman under MGNREGA** is empowered to receive complaints, conduct inquiries, and recommend corrective actions, including disciplinary proceedings. However, the Ombudsman **does not have direct power to impose penalties**; they can only recommend action to the competent authority. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

112.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The **National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM)** was **launched in March 2020** for a period of five years, covering 2020–21 to 2025–26. The mission is implemented by the **Ministry of Textiles**, not the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
 - ◆ The Ministry of Textiles is responsible for policy formulation, planning, and execution of the mission.
- The National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM) has **four key components** aimed at boosting the sector's growth. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
 - ◆ These are:
 - Research, Innovation, and Development: Supports R&D for new materials and processes.
 - Promotion and Market Development: Promotes technical textile adoption and international collaborations.
 - Export Promotion: Boosts exports through a dedicated export council.
 - Education, Training, and Skill Development: Focuses on education, skill training, and internships in technical textiles.

113.

Ans: D

Exp:

- The POCSO Act was enacted to address sexual exploitation and abuse of children, defining a child as **anyone below 18 years**.
 - ◆ It was enacted in consequence to India's ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1992). Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The Act is **gender-neutral, protecting both boys and girls from sexual abuse**. It provides for interim compensation by Special Courts and immediate relief through the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) for urgent needs.

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- People who **traffic children for sexual purposes** are **punishable under the provisions relating to abetment in the Act**. The Act prescribes stringent punishment graded as per the gravity of the offence, with a maximum term of rigorous imprisonment for life, and fine. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It was **amended in 2019** to include the **death penalty** as a possible punishment for aggravated penetrative sexual assault on children in certain circumstances. Specifically, if such an assault results in the child's death or leaves them in a persistent vegetative state, the death penalty can be imposed. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

114.

Ans: D

Exp:

- The **17th BRICS Summit** was held in **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**, under the theme **"Strengthening Global South Cooperation for More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance,"** and signed the Rio de Janeiro Declaration. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- India will assume the **BRICS Chairship** and host the **18th BRICS Summit in 2026**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The initial five **BRICS members** were **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa**. In **2024, Iran, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Egypt, and Ethiopia** joined the group while **Indonesia** joined in 2025. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

115.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** is empowered to frame **regulations related to food labeling, packaging, and fortification**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ This is part of its broader mandate to ensure the safety and quality of food products in India.
- The **"Eat Right India"** movement is an initiative of the FSSAI aimed at promoting healthy eating habits. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ It's a comprehensive effort to transform India's food system to ensure safe, healthy, and sustainable food for all citizens.
- **FSSAI does not directly conduct inspections and audits of food businesses**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ These responsibilities are delegated to **State Food Safety Authorities**, including Food Safety Officers and Designated Officers at the district level. FSSAI provides guidelines, training, and coordination, but enforcement is primarily a state-level function.

116.

Ans: C

Exp:

- Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4) is the **4th private spaceflight to the ISS**, operated by Axiom Space, a US-based space company, using the SpaceX Crew Dragon spacecraft.
 - ◆ With this, **Shubhanshu Shukla** will become the 2nd Indian to travel to space (after Rakesh Sharma in 1984) and the 1st Indian to set foot on the ISS.
- Axiom Space's **14-day mission aboard the ISS will conduct scientific experiments**, tech demonstrations, and educational outreach, advancing its goal to build the first commercial space station and transition from ISS reliance to an independent orbital platform.
 - ◆ It features an **international crew** comprising members from the United States, India, Poland, and Hungary. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Axiom-4 mission includes a key study **focused on making space travel possible for insulin-dependent diabetic individuals**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ Currently, such patients are excluded from astronaut selection due to challenges in managing blood sugar levels in microgravity.
- As a part of the mission, ISRO is also sending **tardigrades—microscopic, water-dwelling organisms known for surviving extreme conditions—to the ISS**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ Commonly called water bears, they are studied in space to explore how life can endure extraterrestrial environments.

117.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** is a measure that **tracks changes in the prices of a fixed basket of consumer goods and services over time**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It essentially reflects how much more or less consumers are paying for the same goods and services, and is a key indicator of inflation or deflation.
- In India, the **CPI is compiled and released by the National Statistical Office (NSO)**, which operates under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**. The NSO calculates the CPI on a monthly basis. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

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- The **CPI for industrial workers (CPI-IW)** is calculated **separately from the general CPI to reflect the unique consumption patterns** and spending habits of industrial workers. This ensures that the index accurately represents the inflation experienced by this specific group. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

118.

Ans: C

Exp:

- **Shivaji Maharaj** implemented a **decentralized administration** supported by the **Ashta Pradhan**, a council of eight ministers, each handling key areas like administration, finance, intelligence, military, foreign affairs, justice, religion, and documentation. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Shivaji built a **strong navy to protect the Konkan coast** and counter threats from the Portuguese, Siddis of Janjira, and other maritime powers. Key coastal forts include **Sindhudurg** (built on an island near Malvan, it served as a naval base) and **Vijaydurg** (a strategically located fort on the western coast). His naval strategy ensured maritime security, trade protection, and territorial control. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

119.

Ans: D

Exp:

PoSH Act:

➤ **About:**

- ◆ It was enacted by the Government of India to address the issue of sexual harassment in workplaces and ensure a safe and conducive environment for women.
- ◆ The **Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013**—commonly known as the **PoSH Act**—was enacted to give effect to the Vishakha guidelines. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

➤ **Background:**

- ◆ The genesis of the PoSH Act lies in the landmark 1997 Supreme Court judgment in **Vishakha and Others v. State of Rajasthan**, which formulated the **Vishakha Guidelines** to safeguard women from sexual harassment.
- ◆ These guidelines, based on constitutional principles (such as Article 15, which prohibits discrimination on grounds of sex) and international conventions (like the **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)**, which India ratified in 1993, served as the foundation for the Act.

➤ **Sexual Harassment:**

- ◆ The Act defines sexual harassment in broad terms, including unwelcome physical contact, sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, sexually colored remarks, showing pornography, and any other unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, whether physical, verbal, or non-verbal.
- Employers are required to **constitute an ICC at each workplace with 10 or more employees** to receive and address complaints of sexual harassment. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

120.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** can utilize the **Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)** rate to **inject liquidity into the banking system overnight**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The MSF is a tool for scheduled commercial banks to borrow from the RBI when they face a shortage of funds and have exhausted all other options, including borrowing under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF).
- The **Standing Deposit Facility (SDF)** introduced by the RBI is a **collateral-free mechanism** for banks to **park their excess liquidity with the central bank**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- RBI publishes the **Financial Stability Report (FSR)** **twice a year** to evaluate the health of the Indian financial system and identify potential risks. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ This report assesses both domestic and global factors that could impact financial stability in India.

121.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** was established in **1986** under the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**. Its primary function is to act as a central repository of information on crime and criminals to assist law enforcement agencies in investigations and policy formulation. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The establishment of NCRB was based on **recommendations** from the **Tandon Committee**, the **National Police Commission (1977–1981)**, and the **MHA's Task Force (1985)**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

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- ◆ These committees emphasized the need for a centralized crime data system to improve policing and criminal justice.
- **NCRB** publishes the annual “**Crime in India**” report, which is the most authoritative source of crime statistics in the country. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- ◆ It includes data on various categories such as IPC crimes, cyber crimes, crimes against women and children, and more.

122.

Ans: D

Exp:

- The **Election Commission of India** is a **permanent constitutional body**, established under **Article 324 of the Indian Constitution**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ This article grants the Election Commission the power to oversee and conduct elections to the **Parliament, state legislatures, and the offices of the President and Vice-President**.
- The **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)** of India **can only be removed from office in the same manner and on the same grounds as a Supreme Court judge**. This means that the CEC enjoys the same constitutional protections and privileges regarding removal as a Supreme Court judge. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

123.

Ans: C

Exp:

- **Primary waves (P-waves)** are compressional waves and can travel through solids, liquids, and gases. **Secondary waves (S-waves)** are **shear waves** and **can travel only through solids** because liquids and gases do not support shear stress. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Surface waves (Love and Rayleigh waves)** are the **slowest among seismic waves** but **cause the most destruction** due to their high amplitude and long duration. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The fastest waves are **P-waves**, followed by **S-waves**, and **then surface waves**.
- The **Richter scale** is used to measure the **magnitude of an earthquake**, which refers to the energy released at the earthquake's source, while the **Mercalli scale** measures the **intensity of an earthquake**, which refers to the effects of the earthquake on the earth's surface and structures, as felt by people. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

124.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The **McMahon Line** was drawn during the Simla Convention of 1914, involving British India, Tibet, and China. China did not sign the final agreement. **Hence, information in row 1 is correctly matched.**
- The **Line of Control (LoC)** between India and Pakistan was formalized through the Simla Agreement of 1972, a bilateral agreement signed by both nations. **Hence, information in row 2 is correctly matched.**
 - ◆ This agreement converted the 1971 ceasefire line into the LoC, emphasizing that neither side would unilaterally alter it.
- The **India-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement (LBA)**, implemented in 2015, aimed to resolve long-standing border disputes, particularly concerning enclaves (territories surrounded by the other country's land). **The agreement involved the exchange of 162 enclaves, with India gaining 51 and Bangladesh gaining 111.** While the LBA was ratified by both countries, the process was facilitated by a 2011 protocol that addressed adverse possessions and the status quo of land ownership. **Hence, information in row 3 is not correctly matched.**
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

125.

Ans: B

Exp:

Monetary Policy Committee (MPC):

- The MPC was established under the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934**, through an amendment in 2016. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The FRBM Act focuses on fiscal discipline and managing the government's budget.
- The **decisions** made by the **MPC** of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are **binding on the RBI** and **must be implemented**. This is explicitly stated in **Section 452B of the amended RBI Act**, which mandates that the MPC's decisions on policy rates are binding on the Bank. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **MPC** of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is tasked with **maintaining the Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation rate** at 4%, with a permissible band of **plus or minus 2%**. This means the MPC aims to keep inflation within the range of 2% to 6%. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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126.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** was established under the **Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992** to regulate the securities markets in India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The objectives of the SEBI are to protect the interest of the investors and to regulate and promote development of securities markets in India.
- SEBI has the **power to ban individuals from accessing the securities market** as a consequence of **violating insider trading regulations. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ This power is one of the enforcement measures SEBI can take to deter insider trading and maintain market integrity.
- SEBI does **have the authority to settle administrative and civil proceedings** through a **structured settlement process**. This process is governed by the **SEBI (Settlement Proceedings) Regulations, 2018**, which outline the terms and procedures for settling proceedings initiated for violations of securities laws. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

127.

Ans: B

Exp:

Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Scheme:

- The **RDI Scheme** aims to provide **long-term financing or refinancing** to the private sector at **low or zero interest rates. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** will serve as the **nodal department for implementation of the RDI Scheme. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The RDI Scheme features a two-tier funding model. A Special Purpose Fund (SPF) within **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)** will manage the funds, which will be allocated to second-level fund managers. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ These managers will provide long-term concessional loans, low or zero-interest loans for R&D projects, and equity funding, particularly for startups. Contributions to Deep-Tech or other RDI-focused Funds of Funds may also be considered.

128.

Ans: C

Exp:

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- India is a **founding member** of the ADB and its **fourth-largest shareholder. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **President of the Asian Development Bank (ADB)** is elected by the **Board of Governors** for a **five-year term** and **can be re-elected. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ The President also serves as the chairperson of the Board of Directors and manages the ADB's operations.
- The **voting power of ADB** is primarily **determined by the number of shares a member country holds**, which in turn is based on their capital subscription to the bank.
 - ◆ The ADB uses a 'one dollar, one vote' system, where voting power is based on financial contributions. Japan and the US hold nearly one-third of the votes, followed by China, India, and Australia. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

129.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Electoral Rolls:** An Electoral Roll (also known as a Voter List or Electoral Register) is the official list of all eligible and registered voters within a specific constituency.
 - ◆ It is used to **verify voter identities** and ensure a fair and transparent electoral process during elections.
 - ◆ The Electoral Rolls are prepared by the ECI under the **Representation of the People Act (RP Act), 1950. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It excludes non-citizens (Section 16) and includes citizens aged 18 or above who are ordinarily resident in the constituency (Section 19).
- **Constitutional Basis:** Article 324 vests the ECI with the power to supervise and control the preparation of electoral rolls and conduct of elections. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ **Article 326** guarantees universal adult suffrage, allowing citizens aged 18 and above to vote, unless disqualified by law due to criminal conviction, unsound mind, or corruption.

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130.

Ans: C

Exp:

Gaganyaan Mission:

- It is ISRO's first manned mission to send Indian astronauts to **low-earth orbit** (400 km) for a short duration. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ Indian Air Force pilots Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, Ajit Krishnan, Angad Pratap and Shubhanshu Shukla have been selected for the Gaganyaan mission.
- It is a demonstration mission which will test various technologies required for human spaceflight, which remains the most complicated form of spaceflight, and demonstrate India's familiarity with their production, qualification, and use.
- The **Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3) rocket** is identified as the launch vehicle for Gaganyaan mission.
 - ◆ It **consists of** solid stage, liquid stage and cryogenic stage. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Vyommitra**, a female humanoid robot astronaut designed and developed by ISRO, will fly aboard unmanned test missions ahead of the Gaganyaan human spaceflight mission. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

131.

Ans: B

Exp:

Black Sea

- **About:**
 - ◆ The Black Sea, also known as the **Euxine Sea**, is one of the major water bodies and a famous inland sea of the world.
 - ◆ This marginal sea of the Atlantic Ocean is located between Eastern Europe and Western Asia.
- **Geographical Location:**
 - ◆ **Land Boundary:** The Black Sea is bordered by Ukraine to the north and northwest, Russia and Georgia to the east, Türkiye to the south, and Bulgaria and Romania to the west.
- **Maritime Boundary:** It is linked to the Sea of Marmara through the Bosphorus Strait and then to the **Aegean Sea** (an elongated embayment of the Mediterranean Sea) through the **Dardanelles Strait**.

- ◆ The Turkish straits system (the Dardanelles, Bosphorus and the Marmara Sea) forms a transitional zone between the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.
 - The Black Sea is also **connected to the Sea of Azov by the Strait of Kerch**.

- **Surrounding Mountains:** The Black Sea is surrounded by the Pontic in the South, the Caucasus in the East, and the Crimean Mountains in the North.
- **Inflowing Rivers:** The Black Sea is supplied by major rivers, principally the Danube (the second-longest river in Europe, after the Volga in Russia), Dnieper and Dniester.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

132.

Ans: A

Exp:

- In 2008, **India launched Chandrayaan-1**, its 1st lunar mission and became successful in first attempt ahead of several global powers (e.g., **US Pioneer and USSR Luna: Both were launch failure in 1958**), and helped discover water molecules on the Moon.
 - ◆ In 2014, **Mangalyaan** (Mars Orbiter Mission) made India the 1st country to reach Mars on its first attempt. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
 - ◆ In 2023, **Chandrayaan-3** landed near the Moon's South Pole, and in 2024, India successfully docked two satellites in orbit under the SpaDeX mission.
- In 2017, India launched 104 satellites using **PSLV-C37** in a single mission.
 - ◆ India offered launch services to 34 countries, boosting its global space role, with initiatives like the South Asia Satellite and upcoming G20 Satellite Mission.
- Over 250 space startups now exist, driving innovation in propulsion systems and imaging and satellite technology. E.g.,
 - ◆ **Skyroot Aerospace** launched Vikram-S (India's first private rocket) in 2022. **Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
 - ◆ **Agnikul Cosmos** inaugurated India's first private space launch pad at Sriharikota in 2022. **Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.**
- The Gaganyaan mission is under development to send Indian astronauts into space, with planned missions to the Moon (2040), Mars, and Venus.
 - ◆ The **Bharatiya Antariksh Station** (possibly by 2035) will enable permanent research in low Earth orbit. **Hence, pair 4 is correctly matched.**

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133.

Ans: C

Exp:

S400 Triumph:

- **About:** The S-400 Triumph, **developed by Russia**, is one of the world's most advanced long-range surface-to-air missile (SAM) systems. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It is **dubbed SA-21 Growler by North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**, and it was inducted into service in 2007.
 - ◆ It is designed for **multi-layered air defence**, and it can intercept a wide range of aerial threats including aircraft, ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, drones, and stealth targets. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Range:** Engages targets up to 400 km away and at altitudes up to 30 km.
- **Speed:** Can intercept targets flying at speeds of up to Mach 14 (~17,000 km/h).
- **Radar Reach:** Detects targets up to 600 km using advanced radar systems.
- **Target Handling:** Tracks up to 300 targets and engages up to 36 simultaneously.
- **Missile Types:**
 - ◆ **40N6:** Long-range (up to 400 km)
 - ◆ **48N6:** Medium-range (up to 250 km)
 - ◆ **9M96E / 9M96E2:** Short to medium-range (40–120 km)
 - ◆ **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **India's Role with the S-400:** In 2018, India signed a USD 5.4 billion deal with Russia for five S-400 air defence squadrons.
 - ◆ Three are currently operational, with two more due by 2026. Known as **Sudarshan Chakra** in India, the S-400 was used by the IAF to counter a Pakistani aerial attack, highlighting its strategic significance.

134.

Ans: D

Exp:

Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD)

- **About:** FGD is a process that removes sulphur dioxide (SO₂) from exhaust gases (flue gas) produced by burning fossil fuels (coal, oil).
 - ◆ It is **commonly used in coal-fired power stations.**
 - ◆ Common reagents used include limestone (CaCO₃), lime (CaO), and ammonia (NH₃).
 - ◆ The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC) in 2015 **mandated all of India's coal-fired**

plants to install FGD systems to reduce sulphur dioxide (SO₂) emissions. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**

- Under a 2022 notification, penalties for non-compliance increase based on the delay in implementation. The penalties are applied per unit of electricity, with higher charges for longer delays.
- **Purpose:** Coal contains sulphur, leading to high SO₂ emissions when burned causing acid rain.
 - ◆ FGD purifies exhaust gases and prevents acid rain, which damages crops, infrastructure, soil, and aquatic ecosystems.
- **Types:**
 - ◆ **Dry Sorbent Injection:** It uses limestone to remove SO₂ from flue gas before dust control systems, often referred to as dry injection or spray drying systems.
 - ◆ **Wet Limestone-Based System:** It is suitable for large-scale flue gas treatment, using low-cost limestone to remove SO₂ efficiently and produce gypsum.
 - ◆ **Seawater-Based System:** It uses alkaline seawater to reduce SO₂ by 70–95%. It is typically used when emission norms are less stringent and offers a lower initial cost.
 - ◆ **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Uses**
 - ◆ The gypsum generated by the FGD plant would be used in fertiliser, cement, paper, textile and construction industries, and its sales are likely to contribute to the maintenance of the FGD plant. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

135.

Ans: D

Exp:

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP):

- **About:**
 - ◆ The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a major economic agreement formed between the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** and their Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partners. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It is designed to promote economic integration, trade liberalization, and cooperation among member nations.
 - ◆ Its negotiations began in 2012 and it was officially signed in November 2020, marking a major milestone in regional trade. It was entered into force on 1st January 2022.

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➤ Objectives:

- ◆ To facilitate trade and investment across member countries.
- ◆ To reduce or eliminate tariffs and non-tariff barriers to promote seamless trade.
- ◆ To strengthen economic cooperation and bolster regional supply chains.
- ◆ Hence, statement 2 is correct.

➤ India & RCEP:

- ◆ India was initially a part of the RCEP negotiations but decided to withdraw in 2019. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

136.

Ans: D

Exp:

Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP):

- **The CPTPP is a free trade agreement (FTA) among 11 countries:** Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, New Zealand, Singapore, and Vietnam.
- The CPTPP was **officially signed on 8th March 2018**, in Santiago, Chile, marking a significant step in regional trade cooperation.
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

137.

Ans: C

Exp:

PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY):

- The PMDDKY was officially approved on **16th July 2025**. It is designed to **run for six years**, targeting **100 low-performing agricultural districts**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It was **first announced** in the **Union Budget 2025–26**.
- The **number of districts per state or UT** will be determined by their **share of Net Cropped Area** and **operational holdings** with **at least one district chosen from each state** to ensure balanced geographic representation. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ 'These selected districts will serve as focal points for convergence-based agricultural reforms aligned with their specific agro-climatic conditions and cropping patterns.'
- The scheme will follow a **three-tier implementation structure** comprising **district-level committees, state-level steering groups** and **national-level oversight bodies**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

- ◆ Similar teams will be formed at the state level to ensure effective convergence of schemes in districts while at the central level two teams—one led by Union Ministers and another by Secretaries and department officials—will oversee strategic planning execution and issue resolution at each tier.

138.

Ans: C

Exp:

Poverty and Equity Briefs (PEBs)

- **About:** The PEBs, published **biannually** during the Spring and Annual Meetings of the World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund (IMF). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It provides insights into poverty, shared prosperity, and inequality trends for over 100 developing countries.
- **Key Development Indicators:** Cover various aspects of poverty, using both national poverty lines and international benchmarks (USD 2.15 for extreme poverty, USD 3.65 for lower-middle-income, and USD 6.85 for upper-middle-income).
- ◆ **A multidimensional poverty measure that accounts for non-monetary deprivations** like education and basic services, and inequality measurements using the Gini Index.
- **Methodology for India:** The World Bank's **poverty estimates for India** are based on the 2011–12 Consumption Expenditure Survey (CES) and the 2022–23 Household Consumption Expenditure Survey. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

139.

Ans: B

Exp:

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

- **About:** It is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation founded on 15th June 2001, in Shanghai, China.
- **Establishment:** It was established by six founding countries namely Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, evolving from the Shanghai Five mechanism. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Objectives:** It aims to strengthen mutual trust among member states, enhance cooperation in various fields, ensure regional peace and stability, and promote a fair international political and economic order.
- **Decision-Making Bodies:** The SCO's supreme decision-making body is the Council of Heads of States (CHS), which meets annually to address key organisational issues.

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- ◆ The Council of Heads of Government (CHG) convenes yearly to discuss cooperation strategies, prioritise areas, and approve the budget.
- **Standing Bodies:** The SCO has two permanent bodies.
 - ◆ The Secretariat is located in Beijing and is responsible for the organisation's day-to-day operations.
 - ◆ The **Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS)** in Tashkent focuses on regional security and counter-terrorism efforts. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Current Membership:** SCO has 10 full members, namely China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan, Iran and Belarus.
- **Official Languages:** The official languages of the SCO are Russian and Chinese, facilitating communication among member states.
- **Partnerships and Collaborations:** The SCO has developed partnerships with various organisations, including the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), and multiple United Nations agencies. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

140.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **About BRI:**
 - ◆ BRI is China's strategic initiative that **aims to connect Asia with Africa and Europe via land and maritime networks** with the aim of improving regional integration, increasing trade and stimulating economic growth. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Components:**
 - ◆ **Silk Road Economic Belt:** This segment of the BRI is dedicated to improving connectivity, infrastructure, and trade links across Eurasia through a network of overland transportation routes.
 - ◆ **Maritime Silk Road:** This component enhances maritime connections and cooperation starting in the South China Sea, extending to Indo-China, Southeast Asia, and across the Indian Ocean to Africa and Europe.
- **Key Corridors for Development:**
 - ◆ China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)
 - ◆ New Eurasian Land Bridge Economic Corridor
 - ◆ China-Indochina Peninsula Economic Corridor
 - ◆ China-Mongolia-Russia Economic Corridor

- ◆ China-Central Asia-West Asia Economic Corridor
- ◆ China-Myanmar Economic Corridor

■ **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

➤ **Members:**

- ◆ By May 2025, the number of countries that have joined the BRI by signing an MoU with China and have not exited the BRI is 150.
 - However, due to uncertainties on the MoU, it can be said that **146 to 150 countries (including China) are members of the BRI.**
- ◆ Despite having strong economic ties with China, Brazil has opted not to join China's BRI, making it the **second BRICS nation to make this choice after India. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

141.

Ans: B

Exp:

Non-Performing Asset (NPA)

- **About:** A loan is classified as an NPA when the loan payments have not been made for a minimum period of 90 days.
 - ◆ For agriculture, a loan is classified as an NPA if the principal or interest is not paid for two cropping seasons.
- **Types of NPAs:** Banks classify NPAs into three categories based on how long the asset has been non-performing and the likelihood of recovering the dues.
 - ◆ **Sub-standard Assets:** A substandard asset is an asset classified as an NPA for a period less than or equal to 12 months.
 - ◆ **Doubtful Assets:** A doubtful asset is an asset that has been non-performing for a period exceeding 12 months.
 - ◆ **Loss Assets:** Assets that are uncollectible and where there is little, or no hope of recovery and that need to be fully written off.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

142.

Ans: D

Exp:

Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD):

- **About:** Quad is a strategic forum of the US, Japan, India, and Australia aimed at regional security and economic cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.
- **Objectives:** Promoting a free and open Indo-Pacific, upholding democracy, human rights, and rule of law, and countering China's expanding influence.

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➤ Key Initiatives of the Quad:

- ◆ **Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA):** Enhances real-time monitoring of illegal fishing and maritime activities.
 - IPMDA collaborates with regional bodies like the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency and India's Information Fusion Center–Indian Ocean Region.
- ◆ **Maritime Initiative for Training in the Indo-Pacific (MAITRI):** Supports capacity-building for maritime security and law enforcement training.
- ◆ **Indo-Pacific Logistics Network:** Aims to leverage shared airlift and logistical capacities for rapid disaster response in the region.
- ◆ **Quad Ports of the Future Partnership:** Develops sustainable and resilient port infrastructure across the Indo-Pacific, with India hosting a Regional Ports and Transportation Conference in 2025.
- ◆ **Open Radio Access Networks (Open RAN):** Quad with Open RAN facilitates secure and resilient 5G ecosystems.
- ◆ **Advancing Innovations for Empowering NextGen Agriculture (AI-ENGAGE):** Uses Artificial Intelligence (AI), robotics, and sensing to improve agricultural practices and empower farmers in the Indo-Pacific.
- ◆ **BioExplore Initiative:** A USD 2 million project to leverage AI for biological research, with applications in healthcare, clean energy, and sustainable agriculture.
- ◆ **Semiconductor Supply Chain Contingency Network:** Enhances collaboration to mitigate risks in semiconductor supply chains.
- ◆ **Counter Terrorism Working Group (CTWG):** Focuses on countering the misuse of unmanned aerial systems, chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats (CBRN), and the internet for terrorist purposes.

➤ Hence, option D is correct.

143.

Ans: B

Exp:

- An IPO is an **initial public offering**, in which shares of a private company are made available to the public for the first time.
 - ◆ An IPO allows a company to raise equity capital from public investors.
- Hence, option B is correct.

144.

Ans: A

Exp:

Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB):

- **Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB)** was established to fulfil India's obligations under **Annex 13** to the **Convention on International Civil Aviation** signed at **Chicago** on the **7th December 1944** as amended from time to time. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- **All Accidents and Serious Incidents** involving aircraft with **all-up weight (AUW) more than 2250 Kgs or Turbojet aircraft** are investigated by AAIB. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- As per the **Rule 3 of Aircraft (Investigation of Accidents and Incidents) Rules, 2017** the sole objective of the investigations carried out by AAIB is **prevention of accidents and incidents** and **not to apportion blame or liability**. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

145.

Ans: A

Exp:

AI Action Summit 2025:

- The **AI Action Summit** serves as a **global platform** uniting **world leaders, policymakers, technology experts**, and **industry stakeholders** to deliberate on **AI governance, ethics**, and its **societal impact**.
- The **AI Action Summit** in **Paris**, co-chaired by **India and France**, marks the **third edition** of the series, following the **Bletchley Park Summit (UK, 2023)** and the **Seoul Summit (South Korea, 2024)**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
 - ◆ **Bletchley Park Declaration:** Emphasized the development of **safe, human-centric, and responsible AI**.
 - ◆ **Seoul Summit:** Reinforced **international cooperation** and introduced the idea of a **network of AI Safety Institutes**.
- The **Joint Statement on "Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet"** was signed by **58 countries**, including **India, China**, and the **EU**.
 - ◆ However, the **US** and the **UK** did **not sign**, citing concerns over **excessive regulations on AI**. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

146.

Ans: B

Exp:

1267 Committee:

- The **1267 Committee**, formally known as the **ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaeda Sanctions Committee**, was established by **UN Security Council Resolution 1267 (1999)**.

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- It maintains a **sanctions list** including **asset freeze, travel ban, and arms embargo** targeting **individuals/entities associated with Al-Qaeda, ISIS, and their affiliates**.

➤ Hence, option B is correct.

147.

Ans: A

Exp:

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI):

- **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** refers to investment made by a person residing outside India through **capital instruments** in either an **unlisted Indian company** or in at least **10% of the post-issue paid-up equity capital** (on a fully diluted basis) of a **listed Indian company**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- FDI is strictly **prohibited** in sectors like **atomic energy generation, gambling and betting, lotteries, chit funds, real estate, and the tobacco industry**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, is the **nodal agency** for FDI regulation in India. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

148.

Ans: C

Exp:

Paikan Reserve Forest:

- **Paikan Reserve Forest**, located in the **Goalpara district of Assam**, was designated a **reserve forest in 1982**.
- It falls under the **Krishnai Range** and forms a vital part of **Assam's protected area network**, playing a key role in **maintaining wildlife corridors and combating deforestation**.
- To address the rising incidents of **human-elephant conflict** and to **reclaim encroached forest land**, the **Goalpara district administration** initiated a **large-scale eviction drive** in the Paikan Reserve Forest.
- Hence, option C is correct.

149.

Ans: C

Exp:

Right to Privacy:

- In **2017**, a **nine-judge bench** of the **Supreme Court** delivered a landmark verdict in the case of **Justice K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India**, unanimously declaring

that the **Right to Privacy** is a **Fundamental Right** under the **Indian Constitution**.

- The Court held that **privacy** is an essential part of the **right to life and personal liberty** guaranteed under **Article 21**.
- Hence, option C is correct.

150.

Ans: D

Exp:

Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme:

- **Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme** is a **centrally sponsored scheme** to assist state governments in issuing Soil Health Cards (SHCs) to all farmers across India.
 - ◆ It offers farmers detailed information on the **nutrient status of their soil**, along with **fertilizer recommendations** to improve soil health and fertility. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- Soil Samples are collected generally **two times in a year**, after harvesting of **Rabi and Kharif Crop** respectively or when there is **no standing crop** in the field. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- The SHC provides soil status for **12 parameters**, including:
 - ◆ **Macronutrients:** Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P), Potassium (K), Sulphur (S).
 - ◆ **Micronutrients:** Zinc (Zn), Iron (Fe), Copper (Cu), Manganese (Mn), Boron (Bo).
 - ◆ **Other soil properties:** pH (Acidity or Basicity), Electrical Conductivity (EC), and Organic Carbon (OC). Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

151.

Ans: C

Exp:

Vegan Milk:

- Vegan milk is a **plant-based alternative** to animal-derived milk (bovine milk).
- Consumers who are **lactose intolerant** or **allergic to milk proteins** often prefer **plant-based milks** over **bovine milk** due to their shared advantages of being **lactose-free, cholesterol-free, and low in calories**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- **Vegan milk** is produced from a wide range of **plant sources** including **soybean, almond, rice, cashew, oat, coconut, walnut, peanut, and hemp seed**, whereas **bovine milk** is derived from **animals** such as **cows and buffaloes**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

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152.

Ans: C

Exp:

Lord Buddha

➤ About:

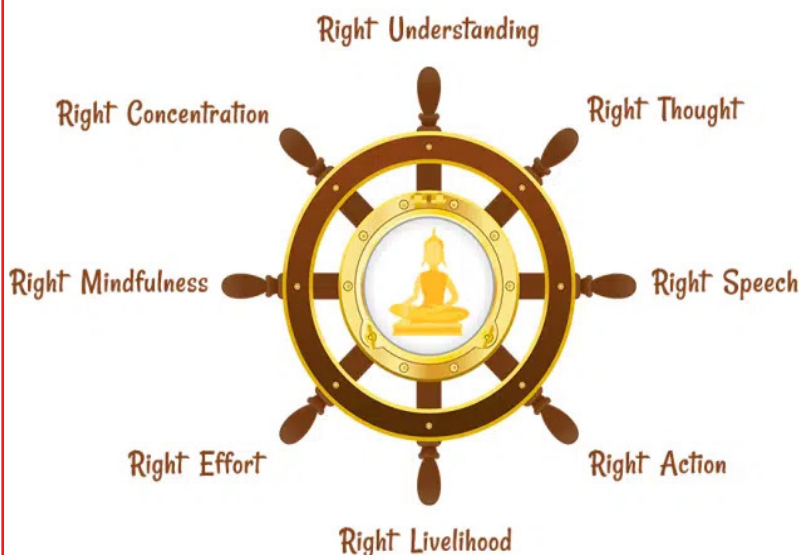
- ◆ Lord Buddha (Siddhartha Gautam) was **born into the royal family of Sakya clan**, who ruled from Kapilvastu, in Lumbini, located in the Terai plains of southern Nepal.
- ◆ Buddha gave his **first sermon in the village of Sarnath**, near Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh on Asadha Purnima. This **event is known as Dharma Chakra Pravartana** (turning of the wheel of law). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The day is also observed as **Guru Poornima** by both Buddhists and Hindus as a day to mark reverence to their Gurus.

➤ Major Teachings of Lord Buddha:

- ◆ **The Three Marks of Existence:** These are the characteristics of all phenomena that one should understand and accept. They are impermanence (anicca), unsatisfactoriness (dukkha), and non-self (anatta).
- ◆ **The Four Noble Truths:** These are the truths about the nature of suffering, its cause, its cessation, and the path to its cessation. The cause of suffering is ignorance, attachment, and aversion.
 - The cessation of suffering is possible by following the Noble Eightfold Path:

THE NOBLE EIGHTFOLD PATH



The Division of Wisdom

- 1.) Right Understanding
- 2.) Right Thought

The Division of Ethical Conduct

- 3.) Right Speech
- 4.) Right Action
- 5.) Right Livelihood

The Division of Mental Discipline

- 6.) Right Effort
- 7.) Right Mindfulness
- 8.) Right Concentration

- ◆ **The Four Sublime States:** These are the positive mental qualities that one should cultivate and radiate to all beings. They are **loving-kindness (metta)**, **compassion (karuna)**, **sympathetic joy (mudita)**, and **equanimity (upekkha)**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - By developing these states, one can foster harmony, empathy, altruism, and peace.
- ◆ **The Five Precepts:** These are the basic ethical principles that Buddha laid down for his lay followers.
 - **They are:** to abstain from killing, stealing, sexual misconduct, lying and intoxication.

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153.

Ans: D

Exp:

Vice-President of India:

- **About:** Article 63 of the Indian Constitution states that there shall be a Vice President of India, who is the **second-highest constitutional authority** after the President. The post is modeled on the American Vice President. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ Articles 63 to 71 of the Constitution deal with the Vice President.
- **Election & Eligibility:**
 - ◆ **Electoral College:** Elected by **MPs from both Houses** of Parliament (elected and nominated members) but state legislators do not participate (Article 66).
 - ◆ **Voting Process:** Conducted via **proportional representation and single transferable vote**, by secret ballot, overseen by a Returning Officer (usually the Secretary General of either House). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ **Eligibility Criteria:** Must be an Indian citizen, at least 35 years old, qualified for Rajya Sabha membership, not hold an office of profit, and should not be a member of Parliament or state legislature.
- **Term Duration:** Serves a five-year term (Article 67), and can continue beyond expiry until a successor takes office. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Removal Procedure:** Can be removed by a resolution in the Rajya Sabha (effective majority (more than 50% of the effective strength (i.e., total membership minus any vacancies)) and approved by Lok Sabha (**simple majority**)).
 - ◆ A 14-day notice must be given before moving such a resolution, clearly stating the intention.

154.

Ans: B

Exp:

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

- **Establishment:** SAARC was officially established on 8th December 1985, in Dhaka, Bangladesh, with **7 founding members:** Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.
 - ◆ Afghanistan joined as the 8th member in 2007.

- **Scope of Cooperation:** SAARC's agenda includes the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA), established in 2004 and effective from 2006, aimed at reducing tariffs and promoting free trade in South Asia.
 - ◆ The **SAARC Agreement on Trade in Services (SATIS)** came into force in 2012, to enhance intra-regional investments and liberalize trade in services.
 - ◆ SATIS was not proposed by a single country, **but rather developed and agreed upon by all member states.** **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **India's Contribution to SAARC:**
 - ◆ **SAARC Summits:** India has hosted three out of the eighteen SAARC Summits: the 2nd summit in Bengaluru (1986), the 8th summit in New Delhi (1995), and the 14th summit in New Delhi (2007).
 - ◆ **Technological Cooperation:** India has extended its National Knowledge Network (NKN) to countries such as Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Bhutan, fostering educational and technological exchange.
 - Additionally, India launched the **South Asian Satellite (SAS)** in 2017, providing satellite-based services to SAARC countries. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ **Currency Swap Arrangement:** In 2019, India approved the incorporation of a 'Standby Swap' in the Currency Swap Arrangement for SAARC members, amounting to USD 400 million, aimed at enhancing financial cooperation.
 - ◆ **Disaster Management:** India hosts the Interim Unit of the SAARC Disaster Management Center in Gujarat.
 - This center provides policy advice, technical support, and training for disaster risk management across SAARC countries.
 - ◆ **South Asian University (SAU):** India is home to the South Asian University, established through an Inter-Governmental Agreement at the 14th SAARC. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - It provides world-class education and research opportunities for students and scholars from SAARC nations.

155.

Ans: A

Exp:

Free Trade Agreements (FTAs):

- **About:** An FTA is a trade pact between two or more nations that aims to reduce or eliminate customs duties and trade barriers on goods traded between them. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

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➤ **Objectives:**

- ◆ **Reduction in Customs duties:** Typically, 90-95% of goods are subject to lower or zero tariffs.
- ◆ **Reduction in Non-trade barriers:** Aims to ease regulations that hinder trade.
- ◆ **Promotion of Services and Investment:** Relax norms for services exports and encourage bilateral investments.

- **India's FTA:** India has signed various Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs)/Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with various countries/regions namely, **Japan, South Korea, countries of ASEAN region** and countries of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Mauritius, United Arab Emirates, **Australia** and **UK**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

156.

Ans: A

Exp:

Technologies to Reduce Emissions from Thermal Power Plants

- **Flue Gas Desulfurization (FGD):** FGD systems scrub flue gas (exhaust gas) with methods like wet or dry scrubbing process that absorbs SO₂, removing it from the emissions before they are released into the atmosphere.
- **Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR):** SCR systems tackle nitrogen oxides (NO_x), another group of pollutants contributing to smog and acid rain.
- ◆ During the SCR process, hot flue gas passes through a catalyst coated with precious metals like platinum. This triggers a chemical reaction that converts harmful NO_x into harmless nitrogen gas and water vapor. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- **Electrostatic Precipitators (ESPs):** It target particulate matter (PM), tiny particles linked to respiratory illnesses. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- ◆ ESPs use high voltage electricity to charge particles in the flue gas. These charged particles then stick to collector plates, which are periodically cleaned.
- **Fabric Filters (Baghouses):** Similar to ESPs, baghouses capture particulate matter. They may be used in conjunction with ESPs or as a standalone technology. **Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.**
- **Coal Washing:** This pre-combustion technology aims to reduce emissions by improving coal quality.
- ◆ Coal is washed with water to remove impurities like ash and sulfur, which can contribute to air pollution when burned.

- **Co-firing with Biomass:** This approach involves co-burning biomass (organic matter) along with coal.

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

157.

Ans: D

Exp:

- **Article 129:** Empowers the **Supreme Court to punish contempt of itself**, while Article 215 grants the same power to High Courts, which also hold the authority to punish contempt of subordinate courts.
- **Article 137:** Review of Judgements or orders by the Supreme Court.
- **Article 141:** The law declared by the Supreme Court shall be **binding on all courts** within the territory of India.
- **Article 142:** Empowers the Supreme Court **to pass any decree or order** necessary for doing complete justice in any case or matter pending before it.
- ◆ These decrees or orders are enforceable across India's territory, making them significant tools for judicial intervention.
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

158.

Ans: C

Exp:

International Space Station (ISS):

- **About:** It is the largest man-made structure in space, and was launched in 1998. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ◆ It functions as a habitat for astronauts and has been continuously occupied since 2000.
- **Participating Agencies:** The ISS is a joint effort of the space agencies of the United States (NASA), Russia (Roscosmos), Europe (ESA), Japan (JAXA), and Canada (CSA). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Orbit:** The ISS orbits approximately 400 kilometres above Earth.
- **Speed:** It travels around Earth at about 28,000 kilometres per hour, completing an orbit every 90 minutes.
- **Objectives:** The ISS aims to advance our understanding of space and microgravity, support new scientific research, and exemplify international collaboration. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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159.

Ans: D

Exp:

Consumer Price Index:

- **About:** CPI measures the overall change in consumer prices based on a representative basket of goods and services over time, with **2012 as the base year**.
 - ◆ The basket of goods includes food, clothing, transportation, medical care, electricity, education, and more.
 - ◆ The CPI is published monthly by the National Statistical Office (NSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Objective:** CPI is used for targeting price stability, adjusting **dearness allowance**, and understanding cost of living, purchasing power, and the expensiveness of goods and services. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Calculation:** CPI is calculated by dividing the cost of a fixed basket in the current year by the cost in the base year, then multiplying by 100.
- **Types:** There are 4 different types of CPI measured. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ **CPI for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW):**
 - ◆ **CPI for Agricultural Laborers (CPI-AL):**
 - ◆ **CPI for Rural Labourer (CPI-RL):**
 - ◆ **CPI for Urban Non-Manual Employees (CPI-UNME)**

160.

Ans: C

Exp:

Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA):

- **About:**
 - ◆ It was enacted to provide for **more effective prevention of certain unlawful activities** of individuals and associations, for dealing with terrorist activities, and for matters connected therewith. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - Unlawful activities are **defined as actions supporting or inciting the cession or secession of any part of India**, or actions questioning or disrespecting its sovereignty and territorial integrity.
 - ◆ The **National Investigation Agency (NIA)** is empowered by the UAPA to investigate and prosecute cases nationwide and the Indian citizens abroad. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- The Act also empowers the Director-General, NIA to grant approval of the seizure or attachment of property when the case is being investigated by the agency.

➤ **Amendments:**

- ◆ It underwent multiple amendments (2004, 2008, 2012 and 2019) expanding provisions related to terrorist financing, cyber-terrorism, individual designation as terrorist, and property seizure.
- The **2019 amendment to the act** empowers the government to designate individuals as terrorists. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

161.

Ans: A

Exp:

Non-Aligned Movement (NAM):

- The NAM was **established in 1961** in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, through the initiative of five leaders of newly independent countries: Josip Broz Tito of Yugoslavia, Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt, Jawaharlal Nehru of India, Sukarno of Indonesia, and Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It was **formed during the Cold War** as an organisation of States that did not seek to formally align themselves with either the United States or the Soviet Union but sought to remain independent or neutral.
- At present, the Movement has **120 Member States**, **17 Observer Countries** and **10 Observer organizations**.
- NAM **does not have a permanent** secretariat or a formal founding charter, act, or treaty. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The summit usually **takes place every three years**.

162.

Ans: A

Exp:

Global Capability Centers (GCCs):

- GCCs are offshore units **established by MNCs** to perform strategic functions using specialised talent, cost advantages, and operational efficiencies in different locations worldwide.
- Operating as internal entities within the global corporate framework, these centres offer specialised capabilities including **IT services, research and development, customer support**, and various other business functions.

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- GCCs play a crucial role in capitalising on cost efficiencies, tapping into talent reservoirs, and fostering collaboration between parent enterprises and their offshore counterparts.
- Hence, option A is correct.

163.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)** is a **specialized UN agency** established by the Chicago Convention in 1944 to regulate global civil aviation. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- It sets international standards and procedures for the safe, secure, efficient, and environmentally sustainable development of air transport.
- The Convention **defines rules** on airspace sovereignty, aircraft registration, safety, and grants **5 core air freedoms (later expanded to 9)** for international flights. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ It also provides for tax exemptions on aviation fuel.
- ICAO is headquartered in Montreal, Canada, with India as one of its 193 member states. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**

164.

Ans: C

Exp:

- NATO, a vital transatlantic military and political alliance, ensures collective security for its member countries. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- **Established in 1949 by 12 founding nations**, with a majority from Europe and North America, it remains a cornerstone of international stability.
- NATO is headquartered at Boulevard Leopold III in Brussels, Belgium.
- **Alliances of NATO:**
 - ◆ Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC)
 - ◆ Mediterranean Dialogue fosters security and stability in the Mediterranean by enhancing relations between participating countries and NATO Allies.
 - ◆ **The Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI)** offers non-NATO countries in the broader Middle East region the opportunity to cooperate with NATO, aiming to enhance regional security. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- "NATO plus" refers to a security arrangement of NATO and the **five treaty allies of the U.S. — Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Israel, and South Korea** as members —

to enhance "global defence cooperation" and win the "strategic competition with the Chinese Communist Party".

- ◆ NATO Plus is **not an officially recognised** or established concept within NATO.

165.

Ans: D

Exp:

- **About:** The WTO, established in 1995 under the **Marrakesh Agreement (1994)**. It **succeeded the GATT**, which had regulated global trade since 1948.
 - ◆ It is an international organization for liberalizing trade and serves as a forum for governments to negotiate trade agreements. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- **Members:** The WTO has 166 members, representing 98% of world trade. India has been a member since 1995 and was part of GATT since 1948.
 - ◆ Membership is based on negotiations, ensuring a balance of rights and obligations for all members.
- **Key WTO Agreements:** TRIMS (Trade-Related Investment Measures), TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights), and **AoA** (Agreement on Agriculture). Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- **Key Reports:** World Trade Report, Global Trade Outlook and Statistics, Aid for Trade in Action. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**

166.

Ans: B

Exp:

Minerals Security Partnership (MSP)

- In 2023, India became the 14th member of the Mineral Security Partnership (MSP).
 - ◆ The **other member countries are, the United States, Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the European Commission.**
- MSP seeks to ensure that **critical minerals are produced, processed and recycled by catalyzing investments** from governments and private sector across the full value chain.
- Hence, option B is correct.

167.

Ans: A

Exp:

Goods and Services Tax (GST):

- **About:** The 101st Amendment Act, 2016 introduced a unified indirect tax system across India by subsuming multiple central and state taxes under GST.

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- ◆ GST is a value-added tax levied on the supply of all goods and services.

➤ **Main Features:**

- ◆ **Destination-Based System:** GST operates as a destination-based consumption tax, replacing the older origin-based taxation model. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ◆ **Multiple Tax Slabs:** GST is imposed at five different rates—0%, 5%, 12%, 18%, and 28%, with product classification guided by the **GST Council**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ◆ **Dual Structure:** GST has a dual framework, where both the Centre (CGST) and the States (SGST) levy tax on the **same transaction value**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - Imports of goods and services are considered inter-state supplies and attract IGST, in addition to applicable customs duties.

168.

Ans: D

Exp:

PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana:

- The Union Cabinet has approved the Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY), a major initiative aimed at transforming Indian agriculture.
- **PMDDKY**, inspired by **NITI Aayog's Aspirational Districts Programme**, to boost farm productivity. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- The Centre's schemes such as the **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)** and the **PM Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)** as well as relevant State schemes, to be **identified by the District Dhan Dhaanya Samitis**, will be **subsumed in the PMDDKY**. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ It merges 36 schemes from 11 Union Ministries to create a unified agricultural support system.
- **PMDDKY targets 100 underperforming districts to boost farm productivity** through better irrigation, storage, and credit access while promoting sustainable practices. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ Progress of the Scheme in each Dhan-Dhaanya district will be monitored on 117 key Performance Indicators through a dashboard on monthly basis. NITI will also review and guide the district plans.

169.

Ans: A

Exp:

Term	Explanation
Inflation	The rate at which the general level of prices for goods and services rises , leading to a decrease in purchasing power of money .
Deflation	The reduction in the general price level of goods and services , often accompanied by a decrease in consumer demand and economic activity. Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.
Disinflation	A decrease in the rate of inflation – prices still rise, but at a slower rate than before. Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.
Stagflation	A situation in which the economy experiences stagnation (slow or no growth), high unemployment, and inflation simultaneously. Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.
Shrinkflation	A process where the size or quantity of a product decreases while its price remains the same or increases , effectively leading to a price rise per unit. Hence, statement pair 4 is correctly matched.

170.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The **Hatti tribe** resides along the Himachal Pradesh–Uttarakhand border, traditionally involved in selling goods at local *haats* (markets), which is also the origin of their name.
 - ◆ They are divided into **Trans-Giri (Himachal)** and **Jaunsar Bawar (Uttarakhand)** groups.
 - ◆ The **polyandrous practice (Jodidara)**—where brothers marry a common wife—originated to **prevent the division of ancestral land** and maintain family unity.
 - ◆ Despite polyandry being **illegal under Indian law**, the **Himachal Pradesh revenue law recognizes this tribal custom**.
 - ◆ They were granted **Scheduled Tribe status in August 2023**, and their community decisions are taken by a traditional council called the **Khumbli**.

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➤ **Other mentioned tribes:**

- ◆ **Bhutia:** Predominantly found in Sikkim and parts of north Bengal.
- ◆ **Gaddi:** A semi-nomadic pastoral tribe of Himachal, mostly in the Dhauladhar region.
- ◆ **Tharu:** Indigenous to the Terai region of UP and Nepal border, known for their unique forest-dependent lifestyle.

➤ **Hence, option B is correct.**

171.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** defines obesity as **abnormal or excessive fat accumulation that poses health risks**, with a **Body Mass Index (BMI)** of **25 or above** classified as **overweight** and **30 or above** as **obese**. Hence, **Statement 1 is not correct**.
 - ◆ BMI is a basic method to assess whether an adult has a healthy weight, calculated by dividing weight in kilograms by height in meters squared (kg/m^2).
- The **WHO's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)** has classified **excess body weight** as a **significant risk for cancer**. Hence, **Statement 2 is correct**.
 - ◆ Obesity is directly associated with at least 13 types of cancer: Colorectal, breast (postmenopausal), endometrial, kidney, liver, pancreatic, ovarian, thyroid, meningioma, multiple myeloma, adenocarcinoma of the esophagus, gastric cardia, and gallbladder cancers.

172.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS):**
 - ◆ The **BCAS was initially set up as a cell under DGCA in 1978 on the recommendation of the Pande Committee**, and it became an **independent department under the Ministry of Civil Aviation in 1987**.
 - ◆ Its responsibilities include laying down standards and measures for the security of civil aviation operations at both international and domestic airports in India. It is headed by an officer of the rank of Director General of Police (DGP).
 - ◆ Hence, the information in Row I is correctly matched.
- **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA):**
 - ◆ DGCA is the principal regulatory body for civil aviation in India. It is responsible for aircraft registration,

formulating and enforcing standards of airworthiness, issuing certificates of airworthiness, licensing of pilots and air traffic controllers, and coordinating with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

- ◆ It became a **statutory body** under section 4A of the **Aircraft (Amendment) Act, 2020**.

- ◆ Hence, the information in Row II is not correctly matched.

➤ **Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA):**

- ◆ AERA is a **statutory body established under the AERA Act, 2008** and operational since 2009. It regulates tariffs for aeronautical services, determines airport charges at major airports, and monitors performance standards. Hence, the information in Row III is correctly matched.

➤ **Hence, option B is correct.**

173.

Ans: B

Exp:

- Under the Indus Waters Treaty, **India was granted control over the eastern rivers (Beas, Ravi, Sutlej)**, while Pakistan was given rights over the western rivers (Indus, Chenab, Jhelum). Hence, **Statement 1 is not correct**.
- The Treaty led to the establishment of the Permanent Indus Commission (PIC), which comprises commissioners from both India and Pakistan. The PIC is tasked with implementing the Treaty and is required to meet at least once a year. Hence, **Statement 2 is correct**. The Indus Waters Treaty outlines a three-tier mechanism to resolve disputes:
 - ◆ First, through the PIC.
 - ◆ Second, through a Neutral Expert appointed by the World Bank.
 - ◆ Third, if unresolved, via the Court of Arbitration under the World Bank's framework.
 - ◆ Hence, **Statement 3 is correct**.

174.

Ans: C

Exp:

National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM)

- The **NCMM aims to reduce India's dependence on imports of critical minerals** and ensure self-reliance for high-tech industries, clean energy, and national defense. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - ◆ The mission will cover all stages, including mineral exploration, mining, beneficiation, processing, and recovery from end-of-life products.

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- ◆ The mission will intensify the exploration of critical minerals within the country and in its offshore areas.
- ◆ In 2022, the Ministry of Mines published a list of 30 critical minerals. These were identified based on their strategic importance for sectors like clean energy, semiconductors, aerospace, and defence, alongside high import dependence, limited domestic availability, and relevance for agricultural and industrial applications.

➤ India is **100% import dependent** for key critical minerals such as **lithium, cobalt, nickel, rare earth elements, and silicon**, which are vital for **batteries, solar panels, electric vehicles, and electronics**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

175.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The joint military exercises Konkan, Cobra Warrior, and Ajeya Warrior are conducted between **India and the United Kingdom**.
- **Konkan** is a naval exercise, **Cobra Warrior** is an air force exercise, and **Ajeya Warrior** is a bilateral army exercise.
- These exercises are part of the broader defense cooperation and strategic partnership between India and the UK.
- Hence, option B is correct.

176.

Ans: C

Exp:

- **Atal Bhujal Yojna** is a **Central Sector Scheme** for facilitating sustainable ground water management with an outlay of Rs. 6000 crore.
 - ◆ It is being implemented by the Ministry of Jal Shakti .
- The scheme is being funded by the **Government of India and the World Bank on a 50:50 basis**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
 - ◆ The entire World Bank's loan component and central assistance will be passed on to the States as grants.
- It aims to improve the management of groundwater resources in select water stressed areas in identified states viz. Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.
 - ◆ It promotes panchayat led groundwater management and behavioural change with a primary focus on demand-side management. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

177.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The phrase "**Dragon-Elephant Tango**" is a metaphor used to represent the idea of peaceful coexistence and strategic cooperation between **India (Elephant) and China (Dragon)**—two major Asian powers with ancient civilizations, growing economies, and significant global influence.
- The term has been used in diplomatic and academic discussions to highlight the potential for mutual growth, regional stability, and collaboration despite underlying tensions, especially in trade and border issues.
- It underscores the **belief that if both countries manage their differences wisely and focus on shared interests**, they can shape a stable and multipolar Asia.

178.

Ans: D

Exp:

- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** is a constitutional body established under Article 324 of the Constitution to supervise and conduct elections to Parliament, State Legislatures, and the offices of the President and Vice President.
- The tenure of Election Commissioners is not a fixed 5 years; as per the CEC and Other ECs (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023, **they serve for 6 years or until the age of 65, whichever is earlier**. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- Additionally, the **Constitution does not prescribe any specific qualifications** for their appointment, leaving it to the discretion of the executive. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- The Constitution has **not debarred the retiring election commissioners from any further appointment by the government**. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

179.

Ans: B

Exp:

- India is currently the **second-largest producer of tea globally**, after China, not the third. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- India **consumes around 81%** of its total tea production domestically. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
 - ◆ This high internal consumption distinguishes India from other tea-producing nations like Kenya and Sri Lanka, which rely more heavily on exports.

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- Furthermore, the **majority of tea exported from India is black tea**, accounting for **about 96% of total tea exports**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

180.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs)** consist of two neural networks—the **Generator and the Discriminator**—that compete against each other.
- The Generator creates synthetic data such as images or videos, while the Discriminator tries to distinguish between real and generated data.
- Through this adversarial training, both networks improve over time, resulting in highly realistic outputs.
- GANs are widely used in applications like deepfake creation, AI-generated artwork, and synthetic image enhancement. This competitive learning framework is what makes GANs unique in the field of artificial intelligence.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

181.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Rogan painting is native to the Kutch region of Gujarat, India.** It is a traditional textile art form that originated in Persia and has been practiced in the Kutch region for over 300 years. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- **Channapatna toys are native to Karnataka, India.** Specifically, they are produced in the town of Channapatna, located in the Ramanagara district. This town is renowned for its traditional wooden toys, which are known for their intricate designs, bright colors, and use of non-toxic materials. **Hence, pair 2 is incorrectly matched.**
- **Thanjavur dolls**, also known as Tanjore dolls, are native to the state of **Tamil Nadu**, specifically the city of Thanjavur. These traditional Indian bobblehead dolls are a form of artistic expression that combines elements of sculpture and painting. **Hence, pair 3 is incorrectly matched.**

182.

Ans: C

Exp:

- **Deir al-Balah** is a city located in the Gaza Strip, **while Al-Muwasi is a coastal area in southern Gaza**. Both regions have been prominently in the news due to the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict that escalated in 2023–24.

- These areas reflect the severe humanitarian crisis in Gaza, with repeated reports by UN agencies and international media highlighting overcrowding, lack of medical aid, and food insecurity.

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

183.

Ans: C

Exp:

- India celebrates Kargil Vijay Diwas every year on **26th July** to honour the bravery of Indian soldiers who fought in the **1999 Kargil War**.
- The Kargil War began shortly after the **Lahore Declaration (1999)**, when Pakistani troops secretly occupied strategic heights in the Kargil district, Ladakh vacated for winter. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In response, the Indian Army launched **Operation Vijay** to reclaim the heights in the Kargil region of Ladakh, The IAF carried out **Operation Safed Sagar**, targeting enemy positions on rugged peaks, while the Indian Navy launched **Operation Talwar** to exert pressure in the Arabian Sea. However, **Operation Parakram** was launched by the Indian military after the 2001 attack on the Indian Parliament. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The war was fought in challenging terrain across key areas like Tololing, Tiger Hill, Drass, and Batalik. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

184.

Ans: B

Exp:

National Security Council (NSC):

- The NSC was **established in 1998** by the government of then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee following nuclear tests by India and Pakistan. It is the apex body for national security management in India. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ It **operates under a three-tier structure**, i.e., Strategic Policy Group (SPG), National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) and National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The NSC is headed by the Prime Minister of India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The NSA acts as the **secretary of the NSC** and also as the primary advisor to the prime minister. The headquarters of the NSC is located in New Delhi. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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185.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The BrahMos missile, an **Indo-Russian joint venture**, has a range of 290 km and is the **two-stage supersonic cruise missile** in the world with a top speed of **Mach 2.8** (nearly three times the speed of sound).
 - ◆ BrahMos is named for the rivers **Brahmaputra** (India) and **Moskva** (Russia).
- The subsonic cruise missile flies at a speed lesser than that of sound. It travels at a speed of around 0.8 Mach.
- It is a **multiplatform missile**, i.e., it can be launched from land, air, and sea and multi-capability missile with pinpoint accuracy that works both day and night, irrespective of the weather conditions.
- It operates on the **"Fire and Forgets" principle**, i.e., it does not require further guidance after launch.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

186.

Ans: B

Exp:

Mangroves

- Mangroves are coastal ecosystems composed of salt-tolerant trees and shrubs that thrive in intertidal zones of tropical and subtropical regions.
- They are **uniquely adapted to survive in saline**, low-oxygen environments with slow-moving waters, where fine sediments tend to accumulate. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Some common mangrove trees include** Red mangrove, Grey mangrove, and Rhizophora.
- **Key Characteristics:**
 - ◆ Mangrove **thrive only in tropical and subtropical latitudes** near the equator, as they cannot withstand freezing temperatures. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ Mangroves thrive in **tidal flats, estuaries, and deltas** with high silt deposition, experiencing bi-daily tidal flooding.
- **Mangroves Cover in India:** As per the Indian State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023, the **Sundarbans is the largest contiguous mangrove forest** in the world, while Bhitarkanika is the second largest in India. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

187.

Ans: C

Exp:

Contributions of M.S. Swaminathan:

- Under his guidance, a hydro-ecological method of mangrove restoration— **commonly referred to as the fishbone canal method** was developed and pilot-tested in the mangroves of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and West Bengal. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- He **co-created the Charter for Mangroves** and included it in the World Charter for Nature, prepared by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ To this day, this charter serves as a basis for mangrove conservation efforts at the global level.
- His advocacy led to the establishment of the **International Society for Mangrove Ecosystems (ISME)** in 1990 in Okinawa, Japan.
 - ◆ M.S. Swaminathan served as its Founding President till 1993.

188.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **Sarkaria Commission (1987):** It recommended using Article 356 sparingly, only as a last resort when all alternatives fail to resolve a state's constitutional breakdown.
- **Punchhi Commission (2010):** It proposed **"localizing emergency provisions"** under Articles 355 and 356, allowing Governor's rule localised areas, like a district or parts of it for up to 3 months.
- **National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (NCRWC, 2000):** Article 356 should not be deleted, but it must be used sparingly and only as a remedy of the last resort.
 - ◆ President's Rule may continue even without an emergency if elections cannot be held. Article 356 should be amended accordingly.
- **Inter-State Council (Article 263):** The Governor's report recommending imposition of President's rule should be detailed and explanatory.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

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189.

Ans: C

Exp:

India-UK Relations:

- Bilateral trade reached USD 21.34 billion in 2023–24. India's exports to the UK rose by 12.6% to USD 14.5 billion in 2024–25. Imports from the UK grew by 2.3% to USD 8.6 billion.
- The India–UK **Technology Security Initiative (TSI)**, launched in 2024, focuses on key emerging sectors like AI, semiconductors, and cybersecurity. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The UK is now India's second-largest research and innovation partner after the US. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- India and the UK have strengthened defence ties through joint exercises like **Konkan, Cobra Warrior, and Ajeya Warrior**, focusing on Indo-Pacific cooperation and defence tech. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

190.

Ans: B

Exp:

Constitutional Provisions Related to President's Rule:

- The President can impose President's Rule (**Article 356**) If the **President** is satisfied, **based on the Governor's report or otherwise**—that a State government **cannot function as per the Constitution**, the President may issue a **Proclamation** to:
 - ◆ Assume **all or some executive functions** of the State, except those of the **Legislature and High Court**.
 - ◆ Declare that the **State Legislature's powers** will be exercised by **Parliament**.
 - ◆ Make **incidental or consequential provisions** to give effect to the Proclamation, **except** those affecting the **High Court**.
- **Article 365** empowers the President to declare governance failure if a State disregards Union directives, potentially leading to the invocation of Article 356. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- A proclamation of President's Rule must be approved by both Houses of Parliament within two months. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- President's Rule is initially imposed for six months and can be extended up to three years. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ Extensions beyond one year require a National Emergency under Article 352 or an Election Commission certification that elections cannot be held in the State.

191.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The island nations in the Indian Ocean, from closest to India (**68°7'E to 97°25'E**) to farthest based on their geographical distance, are: **Maldives(1), Seychelles(2), Mauritius(4), and Madagascar(3).** (1-2-4-3)
 - ◆ **Maldives:** Located at approximately 73° East longitude, it is the closest to India.
 - ◆ **Seychelles:** Situated around 55° East longitude, it is further east than Mauritius.
 - ◆ **Mauritius:** Situated around 57° East longitude, it is further east than Madagascar.
 - ◆ **Madagascar:** Located around 47° East longitude, it is the farthest east of the listed islands.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**



192.

Ans: D

Exp:

- The **Nilgai (Boselaphus tragocamelus)**, also known as the Blue Bull or Bluebuck, is **the largest antelope species native to Asia**. It is predominantly found in the northern Indian subcontinent, ranging from Pakistan to Bangladesh. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Nilgai are **diurnal animals**, meaning they are active primarily during the daytime. They inhabit dry tropical forests and are herbivorous, feeding on grass, herbs, leaves, seeds, and commonly woody plants. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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- The species is known to **breed throughout the year, and the average gestation period is approximately 8 months.** This allows for relatively consistent reproduction without a strict seasonal pattern. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

193.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The International Court of Justice (ICJ), also known as the World Court, is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, established in 1945.
 - ◆ **It is headquartered at the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands, making it the only one of the six principal organs of the UN not located in New York. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The ICJ hears two kinds of cases: contentious cases between States and advisory opinions for UN bodies.
 - ◆ **In contentious cases, the Court's judgments are final and binding on the parties involved, and there is no provision for appeal. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Once elected, a judge of the ICJ does not represent their national government** and functions in a strictly independent capacity.
 - ◆ The judge is considered a delegate of neither their own State nor any other. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

194.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The **Ministry of Mines** has released a list of **30 critical minerals that are essential for India's economic development**, energy transition, and national security.
- These include minerals required for sectors such as electronics, renewable energy, aerospace, and defence.
- These minerals include Antimony, Beryllium, Bismuth, Cobalt, Copper, Gallium, Germanium, Graphite, Hafnium, Indium, Lithium, Molybdenum, Niobium, Nickel, PGE, Phosphorous, Potash, REE, **Rhenium(1)**, Silicon, Strontium, **Tantalum(2)**, Tellurium, Tin, **Titanium(3)**, Tungsten, Vanadium, Zirconium, Selenium and Cadmium.
- These minerals are vital for high-temperature alloys, electronics, and lightweight, corrosion-resistant components respectively.
 - ◆ The government is also scaling up exploration through agencies like the Geological Survey of India (GSI) to ensure reliable domestic availability.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

195.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **TUNGA is a RISC-V based System-on-Chip (SoC)** developed by Calligo Technologies, featuring a Posit Numeric Unit (PNU).
- It is designed for high-performance computing (HPC) and artificial intelligence (AI) workloads, offering better precision and dynamic range compared to traditional floating-point systems.
- On the other hand, **Willow is a new quantum computing chip** developed by Google, which significantly reduces computational errors as quantum processors scale, thereby enhancing reliability and performance.
 - ◆ Both technologies represent major advancements in the field of advanced chip design and next-generation processing architectures.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

196.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The **Representation of the People Act, 1950** was enacted under the powers granted to Parliament by the Constitution to regulate all matters relating to elections to the Parliament and State Legislatures. The Act provides for:
 - ◆ **The allocation of seats in the Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, and State Legislative Councils;**
 - ◆ **The delimitation of constituencies for the purpose of elections; and**
 - ◆ **The preparation of electoral rolls and determination of qualifications of voters.**
 - ◆ Therefore, all three provisions mentioned fall within the scope of the RPA 1950.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

197.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar)** is a joint Earth-observation satellite mission developed by NASA and ISRO.
 - ◆ The satellite will be launched using **ISRO's GSLV-F16 rocket, not the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).** **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It is designed to monitor changes in Earth's surface, including land deformation, glacier movements, and ecosystem dynamics.

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- ◆ The **satellite will map the entire globe every 12 days**, allowing for frequent and precise monitoring of natural hazards and climate change. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- NISAR is equipped with dual-frequency synthetic aperture radar systems: **L-band radar developed by NASA and S-band radar developed by ISRO**, making it the first mission to use two radar frequencies to observe Earth simultaneously. **Hence, statement 3 is also correct.**

198.

Ans: D

Exp:

- Under the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme and the National Policy on Biofuels, 2018 (revised in 2022), the Government of India has expanded the range of permissible feedstocks for ethanol production to boost domestic ethanol supply and reduce crude oil imports.
- **Sugarcane juice(1) and molasses(3) are traditional 1G (first-generation) feedstocks** used extensively in India's ethanol production.
 - ◆ **Damaged food grains unfit for human consumption(2)**, such as spoiled rice, wheat, or maize, have also been allowed, particularly during surplus years, to divert wastage into fuel.
- Furthermore, **rice straw(4) and other agricultural residues are considered 2G (second-generation) feedstocks**, which are processed through advanced technologies to extract ethanol from cellulose and lignocellulosic biomass.
 - ◆ Therefore, all four items listed can be used for ethanol production in India.
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

199.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The **'Health Survey and Development Committee' in 1943** was constituted **under the chairmanship of Sir Joseph Bhore** and submitted its report in 1946.
 - ◆ The committee **conducted a survey about health conditions and health organisations in the country**, and made recommendations for future development.
 - ◆ The integration of preventive, promotive and curative health services and the establishment of **Primary Health Centres in rural areas were the major recommendations** made by this committee.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

200.

Ans: B

Exp:

Hydro Electric Project	State
1. Chuzachen Hydroelectric Project	Sikkim Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.
2. Doyang Hydroelectric Project	Nagaland Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.
3. Umiam Hydroelectric Project	Meghalaya Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.
4. Ranganadi Hydroelectric Project	Arunachal Pradesh Hence, pair 4 is correctly matched.

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

201.

Ans: C

Exp:

International Court of Justice (ICJ):

- **About:** The ICJ, established in 1945 is the UN's principal judicial body. It settles legal disputes between states and provides advisory opinions on international law. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ Based in The Hague, Netherlands, it's the only UN organ outside New York.
 - ◆ Its judgments are **final and binding**, with no appeal. Under Article 94 of the UN Charter, UN members must comply. Advisory opinions are non-binding. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Composition:** The court has 15 judges elected for nine-year terms by the UN General Assembly and Security Council.

202.

Ans: D

Exp:

Chola Dynasty:

- One of the three major **Tamil dynasties**, alongside **Cheras and Pandyas**, and among the longest-ruling powers in South India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Founded by **Vijayalaya Chola** in the 9th century AD after defeating the Pallavas.
- The empire expanded across **South India, Sri Lanka, and parts of Southeast Asia.**

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- ◆ It reached its peak under **Rajaraja Chola I and Rajendra Chola I**, known for military conquests and administrative excellence. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- During the rule, the revenue system was managed by a department called **Puravuvarithinaikkalam**, with land surveys and classification. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

203.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Rajaraja Chola I built the grand Brihadeshwara temple** (Rajarajeshwaram temple) at Thanjavur. It is dedicated to lord Shiva and the perfect example of **Dravidian temple architecture**.
- The temple is part of the UNESCO **World Heritage** and is known as one of the **"Great Living Chola Temples"** with the other two being the Gangaikonda Cholapuram and **Airavateshvara temple** (built by Rajaraja II).
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

204.

Ans: C

Exp:

Startup India Initiative:

- The **Startup India initiative** is a government program launched in 2016 that supports entrepreneurs and startups in India.
 - ◆ **India is now the 3rd largest startup ecosystem globally**, after the US and China, with over 100 unicorns (startups valued over USD 1 billion). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Flagship Schemes under Startup India:**
 - ◆ **Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS):** A Rs 10,000 crore fund to provide early-stage funding support.
 - ◆ **Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS):** SISFS offers financial assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, and product trials.
 - ◆ **Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS):** CGSS facilitates collateral-free loans to startups to ensure access to credit. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ **Startup Intellectual Property Protection (SIPP):** SIPP provides startups with assistance in patent filing, trademark registration, and Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) protection at reduced costs.

205.

Ans: B

Exp:

Lok Adalat:

- Lok Adalat, is a forum designed for **settling disputes either pending in court or at the pre-litigation stage** through compromise or amicable settlement. The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 provided statutory status to Lok Adalats. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ This Act gave the institution the authority to pass awards with the same effect as a court decree.
- If the parties are not satisfied with the award of the Lok Adalat, though **there is no provision for an appeal** against such an award, but they are free to initiate litigation by approaching the court of appropriate jurisdiction **by filing a case by following the required procedure**, in exercise of their right to litigate. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It deals with various cases such as matrimonial disputes, compoundable criminal offences, labour disputes, bank recovery, housing, and consumer grievances.
 - ◆ Lok Adalat **does not have jurisdiction over non-compoundable offences**, such as serious criminal cases, as these cannot be settled through compromise. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

206.

Ans: D

Exp:

- **Article 140:** Parliament may by law make provision for conferring upon the **Supreme Court such supplemental powers not inconsistent with any of the provisions** of this Constitution as may appear to be necessary or desirable for the purpose of enabling the Court more effectively to exercise the jurisdiction conferred upon it by or under this Constitution.
- **Article 141:** States that the **law declared by the Supreme Court shall be binding** on all courts within the territory of India
- **Article 142:** Empowers the Supreme Court to **pass any decree or order necessary** for doing complete justice in any case or matter pending before it.
- **Article 143** gives the **President the power to refer any question of law or fact of public importance to the SC** for its opinion, based on the Union Council of Ministers' advice.
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

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207.

Ans: C

Exp:

Measures Taken by India to Combat Human Trafficking:➤ **Constitutional and Legislative Provisions:**

- ◆ **Article 23 (1):** Prohibits human trafficking and forced labour. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ◆ **Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (ITPA):** Focuses on preventing trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation.
- ◆ **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012:** Protects children from sexual abuse and exploitation.

➤ **International Conventions:**

- ◆ **UN Convention:** The United Nations Convention on Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC) includes a protocol for the prevention, suppression, and punishment of trafficking in persons, especially women and children.
 - India ratified the convention and **implemented the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2013** in line with the protocol on trafficking in persons. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ◆ **SAARC Convention:** India has ratified the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution.

208.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **About IIP:** It is an index that measures **short-term changes** in the volume of production across key economic sectors like mining, electricity, and manufacturing in India. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- ◆ It is published monthly by the **Central Statistical Organisation (CSO)**. Data is released six weeks after the reference month. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- ◆ Reflects production changes compared to a **base year** (2011-2012). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

209.

Ans: B

Exp:

Financial Stability Report (FSR):

- The FSR is a **biannual publication by the RBI**.
- It reflects the collective assessment of the Sub-Committee of the **Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)**, which is headed by the Governor of the RBI.

- The report evaluates the resilience of the Indian financial system and identifies risks to financial stability.

➤ **Hence, option B is correct.**

210.

Ans: A

Exp:

Gini Index:

- The Gini index, or Gini coefficient, was **developed in 1912** by Italian statistician Corrado Gini. It **measures income inequality** within a population. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ◆ The index is **derived from the Lorenz curve**, which plots the cumulative percentage of total income received against the cumulative percentage of recipients, starting with the poorest.
- ◆ The Gini coefficient **quantifies the area between the Lorenz curve** and the line of perfect equality (a 45-degree line), with values ranging from 0 (perfect equality) to 1 (maximum inequality), or 0 to 100 when expressed as a percentage (where 0 indicates perfect equality and 100 indicates maximum inequality). A lower Gini value reflects a more equitable society. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

211.

Ans: D

Exp:

Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES):

- The HCES collects data on household spending patterns to assess living standards, well-being, and consumption behavior.
- HCES has been conducted by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)** since 1951 as part of the National Sample Survey (NSS) under the MoSPI. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Significance: Provides inputs for **calculating Consumer Price Indices (CPI)** and revising the base year for macroeconomic indicators like **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ◆ HCES helps to measure poverty, inequality, and social well-being. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

212.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA):** A CEPA is more extensive than an FTA, encompassing trade in services, investment, and broader economic cooperation.

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- ◆ A CECA primarily focuses on trade tariffs and Tariff Rate Quotas (TRQs) but is less comprehensive than a CEPA. India has signed a CECA with Malaysia. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- ◆ India has established CEPAs with South Korea and Japan. **Hence, statement 1 2 is correct.**

213.

Ans: C

Exp:

Capex

- **About:** Capex (Capital Expenditure) refers to funds spent on acquiring, upgrading, or maintaining physical assets like property, equipment, or technology. It's a long-term investment recorded as an asset and depreciates over time. **Examples include machinery purchases and facility upgrades.**
- ◆ Unlike Operating expenses (Opex), which are the day-to-day costs of running a business, Capex involves substantial investments intended to generate long-term benefits. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Capex Data:** The Indian government allocates capex through its annual budget, presented by the Finance Minister. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Significance:** Capex plays a vital role in economic growth due to its high multiplier effect. It boosts ancillary industries, creates jobs, and enhances labour productivity.
- ◆ As a countercyclical fiscal tool, Capex stabilizes the economy and supports long-term revenue generation through asset creation.

- ◆ It also helps reduce liabilities via loan repayments and catalyses private investment, making it crucial for sustained economic development. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

214.

Ans: D

Exp:

National Education Policy (NEP) 2020

- **About:** NEP 2020 replaced the 34-year-old NEP of 1986 and aimed to bridge gaps in quality, equity, and access to education at all levels.
- ◆ Based on the recommendations of Dr K Kasturirangan committee, it prioritizes foundational literacy, a holistic curriculum, multilingual learning, and integration of vocational and academic pathways. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Key Provisions:**
 - ◆ Structural Reforms: NEP 2020 replaced the 10+2 system with a 5+3+3+4 structure, aligning education with the developmental needs of children aged 3 to 18 years. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Key Initiatives:**
 - ◆ PM SHRI scheme
 - ◆ NIPUN Bharat Mission
 - ◆ PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ NISHTHA (National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement)

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