



Monthly Editorial Quiz

CONSOLIDATION

MAY 2025



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Practice Question

1. Regarding the Solid Waste Management Rules 2016, consider the following statements:
 1. These rules replaced the Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000, and focused on segregating waste at source.
 2. The bio-degradable waste should be processed, treated, and disposed of through composting or bio-methanation within the premises as far as possible.
 3. Manufacturers of disposable products like tin, glass, and plastic packaging must financially assist local authorities in establishing a waste management system.

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

 - A. Only One
 - B. Only Two
 - C. All Three
 - D. None
2. Which of the following best describes the implication of a sector being designated as infrastructure?
 - A. It leads to the immediate privatization of services within the sector.
 - B. It is subject to increased taxation to fund social welfare programs.
 - C. It receives preferential treatment in terms of financing, taxation, and regulatory frameworks.
 - D. None
3. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: National Forest Policy (NFP) 1988 envisages that 33% of the geographical area should be under forest or tree cover.

Statement-II: As per the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023, Madhya Pradesh has the largest forest cover by area, followed by Arunachal Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

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

 - A. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
 - B. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
 - C. Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
 - D. Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct
4. The Alagh Committee, Lakdawala Committee, Tendulkar Committee, and Rangarajan Committee are often seen in the news in the context of:
 - A. Environmental Reforms
 - B. Education Policies
 - C. Agricultural Reforms
 - D. Poverty Measurement
5. Consider the following statements:
 1. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) measures the total monetary value of all "final" goods and services produced in a country within a specific period, purchased by the final user.
 2. The Gross Value Added (GVA) of a sector is the value of output minus its intermediate inputs, with the "value added" distributed between labour and capital.
 3. If the taxes earned by the government are more than the subsidies it provides, the GDP will be higher than the GVA.

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

 - A. Only One
 - B. Only Two
 - C. All Three
 - D. None
6. Regarding the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), consider the following statements:
 1. They are classified into Maharatna, Navratna, and Miniratna categories.
 2. The Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) in the Ministry of Finance is responsible for granting Navratna status to companies.
 3. The K. Kasturirangan Committee (2005) made recommendations addressing key issues related to ownership and vigilance management in CPSEs.

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

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

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7. Which of the following releases the Fiscal Monitor and Financial Stability Report?
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)
 - World Bank
 - Bank for International Settlements (BIS)
 - World Trade Organization (WTO)

8. Regarding the Large Language Models (LLMs), consider the following statements:

- Large general-purpose LLMs, such as GPT and BERT, are AI systems designed to perform a variety of tasks, including text classification, question answering, and text generation.
- BharatGen is the world's first government-funded multimodal LLM initiative for AI-driven public services.

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

- 1 Only
- 2 Only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

9. Regarding the Central Information Commission (CIC), consider the following statements:

- It was established under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005, as a statutory body.
- The President appoints its members based on the recommendations of a committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

10. Consider the following statements:

- Nuclear energy is exclusively governed by the central government under the Atomic Energy Act, 1962.
- The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) is responsible for overseeing safety standards and compliance within the nuclear industry in India.
- The Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010, establishes a limit on the operator's liability, supported by the government, while the India Nuclear Insurance Pool (INIP) provides insurance coverage for nuclear accidents.

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

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

11. Which of the following are tributaries of the River Indus?

- Sutlej
- Beas
- Ghataprabha
- Jhelum

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

12. Regarding the Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF), consider the following statements:

- It refers to the net increase in an economy's fixed capital assets over a specific period.
- It includes investments in infrastructure, machinery, equipment, and other durable assets that contribute to long-term economic growth.
- It constitutes around 30% of India's nominal Gross Domestic Product (GDP), making it the second-largest component after private final consumption expenditure.

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

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

13. Regarding the Poverty and Equity Briefs (PEBs), consider the following statements:

- It is published biannually during the Spring and Annual Meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- It provides insights into poverty, shared prosperity, and inequality trends for countries with no distinction between developing and developed nations.

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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

14. Regarding the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016, consider the following statements:

- 1. Its primary objective is to regulate the real estate sector and promote transparency, accountability, and efficiency in real estate transactions.
- 2. The Act provides for State governments to establish more than one regulatory authority.

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

15. The cases *Amar Jain v. Union of India & Ors*, 2025, *Faheema Shirin RK v. State of Kerala* (2019), and *Anuradha Bhasin v. Union of India* (2020) are often seen in the news in the context of:

- A. Digital Rights and Access to the Internet
- B. Environmental Protection Laws
- C. Right to Privacy and Data Protection
- D. Right to Property and Land Acquisition

16. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC), first conducted in 1931, aimed to gather data on the economic status of Indian families in rural and urban areas to identify deprivation indicators.
- 2. Census data is confidential under the Census Act of 1948, while personal information in SECC is open for use by government departments to grant or restrict benefits to households.

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

17. Regarding the Anti-Defection Law, consider the following statements:

- 1. It was included in the Constitution through the 52nd Amendment Act, 1985.
- 2. It applies both to Members of Parliament and Members of the State Legislature.
- 3. The members who have been disqualified under the law are permitted to contest elections from any political party for a seat in the same House.

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

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

18. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Since 1951, census data has included the population of Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and various religious groups, but members of other caste groups have not been counted.

Statement-II: To include caste enumeration in the next Census, the government needs to amend the Census Act, 1948.

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

- A. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- B. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- C. Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- D. Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

19. Which of the following are members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) grouping?

- 1. Indonesia
- 2. Bangladesh
- 3. Malaysia
- 4. Bhutan

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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20. The terms mBridge Project, BRICS+ Initiatives, Petro-Yuan Market, and BRICS Currency are often seen in the news in the context of:
- Cryptocurrency regulation
 - De-dollarisation efforts
 - Global trade tariffs
 - Sustainable development goals

21. Regarding the Farmers Producer Organisation (FPO), consider the following statements:
- FPO is a producer organisation (PO) composed of farmers, with the Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) supporting its promotion.
 - In India, it can only be registered as a Public Trust under the Indian Trusts Act, 1882.

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

- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
22. The term "Transshipment ports" is best described by which of the following:
- Ports where small ships handle only domestic cargo.
 - Ports where larger ships discharge import containers or load export containers in well-developed, deeper draught ports.
 - Ports that handle only bulk cargo, like coal and oil.
 - Ports where only containerized goods are processed, with no international shipments.

23. Regarding the Private Members' Bill, consider the following statements:
- They are proposed by Members of Parliament (MPs) who are not Ministers, allowing them to introduce laws or amendments on issues important to their constituencies.
 - MPs should draft and submit these bills with at least one month's notice.
 - The Rights of Transgender Persons Bill, 2014, was the first private member's bill in 45 years to be passed by the Rajya Sabha; however, it lapsed without being taken up in the Lok Sabha.

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

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

24. Consider the following statements:
- Part XVIII of the Indian Constitution deals exclusively with the provisions of National Emergency under Article 352.
 - A proclamation of President's Rule must be approved by both Houses of Parliament within two months.
 - Article 355 mandates that the Union Government must protect every State against external aggression and ensure governance as per constitutional provisions.

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

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

25. Consider the following statements:
- Statement-I:** The National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM), launched in 2025, aims to establish a robust framework for achieving self-reliance in the critical mineral sector.

Statement-II: Critical minerals are vital for economic growth and national security, and their limited availability or geographic concentration can cause supply chain risk. Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

26. Regarding the Zero hour, consider the following statements:
- It is explicitly mentioned in the Constitution.
 - It commences directly after the question hour.
 - Under this, Members of Parliament (MPs) can raise matters without any prior notice.

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

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

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27. Consider the following statements:

1. It is constituted by the Parliament to audit the revenue and expenditure of the Government of India.
2. It was introduced in 1921 after its first mention in the Government of India Act, 1919, also called the Montford Reforms.
3. It is constituted every year under Rule 308 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha.
4. It comprises not more than 22 members (15 members elected by the Lok Sabha Speaker, and 7 members elected by the Rajya Sabha Chairman) with a term of 1 year only.

Which of the following committees best matches the above description?

- A. Committee on Public Undertakings
- B. Public Accounts Committee
- C. Estimates Committee
- D. Committee on Subordinate Legislation

28. Which of the following countries shares a border with Ukraine?

1. Poland
2. Slovakia
3. Hungary
4. Romania

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

29. Consider the following statements:

1. The production approach estimates Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by summing value added across the economy's primary, secondary, and tertiary sectors.
2. In India, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) follows this method by totaling the Gross Value Added (GVA) from all sectors and adjusting it for net taxes and subsidies on products.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

30. Regarding the Bhakra-Nangal project, consider the following statements:

1. Bhakra Dam is a concrete gravity dam across the Sutlej River and is near the border between Punjab and Himachal Pradesh in northern India.
2. Bhakra Dam is India's second-tallest dam, next to the Tehri Dam.
3. Nangal Dam, located downstream of Bhakra Dam, is often collectively referred to as the Bhakra-Nangal Dam, though both are distinct structures.

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

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

31. Which of the following best describes the provisions of Article 142 of the Indian Constitution?

- A. It empowers the President to grant pardon or reduce the sentence of any convicted person.
- B. It empowers the Supreme Court to pass any order necessary for doing complete justice in any case before it.
- C. It allows the Parliament to make laws on any subject in the State List in national interest.
- D. It provides for the appointment of a Special Officer for linguistic minorities.

32. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Insolvency is a state where the liabilities of an individual or an organization exceed its assets, and that entity is unable to raise enough cash to meet its obligations or debts as they become due for payment.

Statement-II: The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Act, 2021, aims to provide an efficient alternative insolvency resolution framework for corporate persons classified as micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) under the IBC, 2016.

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

- A. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- B. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- C. Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- D. Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

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33. Generative Artificial Intelligence finds applications in which of the following fields?
1. Art and Creativity
 2. Computer Graphics
 3. Healthcare
 4. Manufacturing
- 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
34. The term Open Market Operations (OMOs), often seen in the news, is best described as:
- A. A tool used by the RBI involving sale/purchase of government securities to adjust liquidity in the market.
 - B. An initiative to promote digital payments in rural areas.
 - C. A policy to regulate foreign direct investment in India.
 - D. A mechanism for RBI to manage inflation through interest rate hikes.
35. Consider the following statements:
- Statement-I:** The Green Revolution significantly led to a substantial increase in grain output, making India one of the largest agricultural producers in the world.
- Statement-II:** The revolution led to an intensive rice-wheat cropping pattern in India, driven by supportive agro-climatic conditions, resource availability, government input subsidies, and assured paddy procurement.
- Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?
- A. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
 - B. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
 - C. Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
 - D. Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct
36. Regarding the census, consider the following statements:
1. India's first synchronised census occurred in 1881 under W.C. Plowden, the then Census Commissioner of India.
 2. The Census is conducted by the Ministry of Home Affairs through the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India.

3. The Census of India Act, 1948 provides the legal framework and mandates a fixed frequency, making the ten-year interval a constitutional obligation.

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

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

37. Regarding the Cooperatives, consider the following statements:

1. Cooperatives are people-centred enterprises owned, controlled, and run by and for their members to realise their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations.
2. Indian Famine Commission (1901) led to the enactment of the first Cooperative Credit Societies Act in 1904, followed by the (amended) Cooperative Societies Act, 1912.
3. The UN has declared 2025 the International Year of Cooperatives with the theme "Cooperatives Build a Better World".

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

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

38. Which of the following Articles of the Indian Constitution provides for the establishment of the Finance Commission every five years to recommend the distribution of financial resources between the Union and the States?

- A. Article 275
- B. Article 280
- C. Article 281
- D. Article 282

39. Regarding the Millets, consider the following statements:

1. Millets are hardy, water-efficient crops that grow in poor soils and are rich in fiber, protein, vitamins, and minerals.
2. India grows two groups of millets, with major millets including sorghum, pearl millet, and finger millet, and minor millets including foxtail, little millet, and barnyard millet.
3. The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets.

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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. Regarding the Repo Rate, consider the following statements:

1. Repo rate is the interest rate at which commercial banks borrow money from the central bank.
2. It allows banks to borrow funds by selling securities with an agreement to repurchase them later at a higher price, helping meet short-term liquidity needs.
3. A repo rate cut reduces interest rates, making loans cheaper, and boosting borrowing and spending.

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

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

41. Regarding the Census, consider the following statements:

1. The last detailed caste data was recorded in the 1931 Census, while the 1941 Census also collected caste information but did not publish it due to the onset of WW II.
2. The Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs, chaired by the Home Minister, has recently approved the inclusion of caste enumeration in the upcoming population census.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

42. Regarding the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, 1969 (VCLT), consider the following statements:

1. The Convention applies to treaties between States, defined as written international agreements governed by international law, in one or more related instruments.
2. India has not ratified the VCLT, yet even countries that have not ratified it generally adhere to its provisions in practice.

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

43. Consider the following statements:

1. It is India's first deep-water transshipment port, designed for container and multi-purpose cargo.
2. The port is developed under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) on a Design, Build, Finance, Operate, and Transfer (DBFOT) basis.
3. It is India's first semi-automated port, equipped with an AI-driven control room and the country's first Indigenous Vessel Traffic Management System (VTMS).

Which of the following ports best matches the above description?

- A. Vadhavan Port
- B. Vizhinjam Port
- C. Paradip Port
- D. Haldia Port

44. Regarding the Graphics Processing Unit (GPU), consider the following statements:

1. It is a specialized processor originally designed to accelerate graphics rendering.
2. GPUs can process many pieces of data simultaneously, making them useful for machine learning, video editing, and gaming applications.
3. Bengaluru-based start-up Sarvam is developing India's first AI Large Language Model and will receive GPUs under the IndiaAI Mission.

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

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

45. Regarding the Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), consider the following statements:

1. SMRs are advanced nuclear reactors with a capacity of up to 300 MW(e), about one-third of traditional reactors.
2. They are compact, factory-assembled, and transported for installation, making them suitable for remote or space-constrained areas.
3. They require refueling every 1-2 years as compared to 3-7 years in conventional plants.

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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

46. Regarding preventive detention, consider the following statements:

1. Laws authorising preventive detention have existed in India since 1818, dating back to British colonial rule.
2. Article 22 safeguards arrested individuals and mandates advisory boards with members qualified to be High Court judges for preventive detention cases.

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

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

47. Consider the following statements:

1. The Government of India Act, 1935, created a federal structure, placing education under the provincial list.
2. The Swaran Singh Committee recommended moving education to the concurrent list, implemented through the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act in 1976.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

48. Consider the following statements:

1. Hydrogen makes up about 75% of the universe's mass, but only 0.5–1.0 ppm (parts per million) of Earth's atmosphere.
2. Natural hydrogen, also called geologic hydrogen or white hydrogen, refers to hydrogen gas (H_2) that is naturally produced and stored in the Earth's crust.
3. India's diverse geological formations, including ultramafic and mafic rocks, ophiolite belts, indicate significant potential for natural hydrogen generation.

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

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

49. Consider the following statements:

1. It is situated in the eastern Mediterranean basin.
2. It is bordered by Egypt to the southwest, Israel to the north and east, and the Mediterranean Sea to the west.
3. It is one of the most densely populated regions in the world, often referred to as an "open-air prison".

Which of the following locations best matches the above description?

- A. Gaza Strip
- B. West Bank
- C. Sinai Peninsula
- D. Beirut

50. Which of the following are the members of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)?

1. Afghanistan
2. Bangladesh
3. Saudi Arabia
4. Iran

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

51. Regarding the UN Security Council (UNSC), consider the following statements:

1. The United Nations Security Council was formed in 1945 under the UN Charter and is one of the UN's six main organs.
2. It comprises 5 permanent and 10 non-permanent members.
3. India has never been a non permanent member of the UNSC.

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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52. Operation Sindoor, often seen in news, is best described as:
- A coordinated precision strike operation by the Indian Armed Forces.
 - A peacekeeping mission in Kashmir.
 - A humanitarian aid operation for the Pahalgam region.
 - A diplomatic negotiation between India and Pakistan.

53. Regarding the Ethanol blending, consider the following statements:

- It refers to the process of mixing ethanol, a biofuel derived from plant-based sources, with petrol to create a more sustainable and cleaner-burning fuel.
- India's initial target of 10% blending by 2022 was achieved ahead of schedule, leading to an ambitious goal of 20% ethanol blending (E20) by 2025.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 Only
- 2 Only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

54. Regarding the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), consider the following statements:

- It is a statutory body established under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016, tasked with overseeing insolvency and bankruptcy resolutions for businesses and individuals in India.
- The IBBI has 10 members, representing the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, and the NITI Aayog.

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

- 1 Only
- 2 Only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

55. Regarding the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), consider the following statements:

- It is a permanent, intergovernmental organisation, established at the Baghdad Conference in 1960.
- Saudi Arabia is the largest oil supplier in the group, producing over 10 million barrels daily and hosting the organization's headquarters.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 Only
- 2 Only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

56. Regarding the Competition Commission of India (CCI), consider the following statements:

- It is a statutory body responsible for enforcing the Competition Act, 2002.
- It consists of one Chairperson and six Members who shall be appointed by the Central Government.
- It holds quasi-judicial power, providing opinions to statutory authorities and handling other cases.

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

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

57. Consider the following statements:

- India and the UK have signed a Free Trade Agreement, strengthening ties between the world's 5th and 6th largest economies.
- In 2024, the UK became India's largest export destination, while India ranked as the UK's 11th largest trading partner.
- The Double Contribution Convention Agreement between India and the UK aims to prevent professionals from paying social security contributions in both countries.

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

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

58. Consider the following pairs:

Operation	Conflict
1. Operation Riddle	1965 Indo-Pak War
2. Operation Cactus Lily	1971 Indo-Pak War
3. Operation Meghdoot	Siachen Conflict

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

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

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59. Regarding the Microfinance Institutions (MFIs), consider the following statements:

1. They are financial companies that provide small loans to people who do not have any access to banking facilities.
2. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has categorized microfinance under the priority sector.
3. MFIs are regulated by the RBI through the Non-Banking Financial Company-Micro Finance Institutions (NBFC-MFIs) framework.

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

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

60. The term CRISPR-Cas9 is often seen in the news in the context of:

- A. Climate change adaptation
- B. Genetic engineering
- C. Quantum computing
- D. Artificial intelligence

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

1. It is located at the mouth of the Persian Gulf and is crucial to global energy supplies.
2. It separates Iran and Oman, linking the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.

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

62. Regarding the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), consider the following statements:

1. It is the global watchdog for money laundering and terrorist financing, established in 1989 following a G-7 summit.
2. Indonesia is the only observer country of FATF.
3. The "grey list" of FATF includes countries with weaknesses in their Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) regime.

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

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

63. Consider the following pairs:

Generation	Description
1. First-generation	Produced from food sources using traditional technology.
2. Second-generation	Made from non-food crops or inedible parts using advanced processes.
3. Third-generation	Produced from algae, cultivated on non-arable land.
4. Fourth-generation	Made from genetically engineered crops that absorb carbon.

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

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

64. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Gene Editing is a technology that allows for the precise modification of the genetic material (DNA or RNA) of an organism.

Statement-II: Gene Editing involves the use of specialised tools to add, remove, or alter specific DNA sequences within a genome.

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

- A. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- B. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- C. Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- D. Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

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65. Consider the following statements:

1. The National Security Council (NSC), headed by the Prime Minister, is the apex body for national security management in India.
2. The Cabinet Secretary chairs the Strategic Policy Group (SPG) and makes policy recommendations to the NSC.
3. The National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) provides long-term analysis and policy recommendations on national security issues.

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

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

66. The Marshall Plan is often seen in the news in the context of:

- A. Space exploration
- B. Economic recovery after World War II
- C. Global climate change
- D. The Cold War

67. Regarding the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), consider the following statements:

1. NATO was formed in 1949 as an intergovernmental military alliance primarily against Soviet Union aggression during the Cold War.
2. The United States was one of the original 12 founding members of NATO.
3. NATO maintains integrated military forces, allowing member countries to contribute personnel and assets to collective defence efforts under NATO command.

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

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

68. Consider the following statements:

1. Money laundering is concealing or disguising the identity of illegally obtained proceeds so that they appear to have originated from legitimate sources.

2. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) categorises member countries into two groups, namely the grey list and the black list.
3. India is yet to ratify the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC) and its protocols.

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

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

69. Which of the following sectors rely on the applications of critical minerals?

1. Production of photovoltaic (PV) cells used in solar panels.
2. Permanent magnets for wind turbines.
3. Lithium-ion batteries.

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

70. Regarding the Kharif crops, consider the following statements:

1. Kharif crops are the crops that are sown in the rainy season, usually beginning in June with the onset of the southwest monsoon.
2. Kharif crops account for more than half of the total foodgrain production in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

71. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: A heat wave in India refers to a period of unusually high temperatures, typically occurring from March to June, and sometimes extending into July.

Statement-II: A heatwave is a notified disaster, officially recognised by the government under the Disaster Management Act of 2005.

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

- A. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- B. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- C. Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- D. Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

72. Consider the following statements:

1. The Telecommunications Act, 2023 empowers the Centre or states to temporarily take control of telecom services or networks during public emergencies, disasters, or for public safety.
2. The Indian Telegraph Rules, 2007 mandates government authorization for lawful communication interception.
3. The IT Act, 2000 and the Interception Rules, 2009 allow the government to monitor, intercept, or decrypt any information through a computer resource.

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

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

73. Financial Action Task Force (FATF), often seen in the news, is best described as:

- A. A financial crime monitoring agency that combats terrorism financing and money laundering.
- B. A global environmental watchdog that focuses on climate change funding.
- C. A multilateral institution that oversees the enforcement of international laws related to cybersecurity and financial fraud.
- D. A regulatory body that primarily focuses on global trade agreements and economic cooperation between countries.

74. Consider the following statements:

1. Zinc coatings extend the lifespan of wind turbines and solar structures by preventing rust formation, reducing maintenance needs, and corresponding costs.
2. Zinc-based batteries can offer an alternative, owing to their safety, cost-efficiency, and resource availability.

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

75. Consider the following pairs:

Dam	River
1. Baglihar Dam	Chenab
2. Kishanganga Dam	Jhelum
3. Bhakra Nangal Dam	Sutlej

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

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

76. Regarding the Human Development Report 2025, consider the following statements:

1. India remains in the "medium human development" category, though it is approaching the threshold for "high human development" ($HDI \geq 0.700$).
2. India's life expectancy increased to 72 years in 2023, the highest since 1990.

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

77. Regarding the National Defence Fund, consider the following statements:

1. Established in 1962, it manages voluntary donations for national defense promotion and decides on their use, alongside receiving a fixed annual budget.
2. All contributions towards NDF are exempt from Income Tax, 1961.

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

78. Which of the following are the functions of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)?

1. Global financial assistance
2. Facilitate international trade
3. Financing for developing countries
4. Promotion of exchange rate stability

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Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

79. The 'unwilling or unable' doctrine is often seen in the news in the context of:

- A. Self-defense against non-state actors in foreign territories
- B. Humanitarian intervention in civil wars
- C. Economic sanctions imposed on authoritarian regimes
- D. Border disputes and territorial claims

80. Regarding the National Critical Mineral Mission, consider the following statements:

1. It will adopt a "whole-of-government" approach, working closely with various ministries, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), private companies, and research institutions.
2. The mission's activities are coordinated by an Empowered Committee, chaired by the Cabinet Secretary and including members from relevant stakeholder ministries.
3. The Ministry of Mines is the administrative Ministry of the mission.

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

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

81. Which of the following best describes the term 'Design Law Treaty (DLT)'?

- A. A framework aimed at harmonizing and simplifying the protection of industrial designs across countries.
- B. A treaty that focuses on the global standardization of trademark protection.
- C. A regulation designed to protect software patents internationally.
- D. A global agreement that governs the protection of literary works.

82. Regarding the Particulate Matter (PM), consider the following statements:

1. It is a complex mixture of solids and aerosols composed of small droplets of liquid, dry solid fragments, and solid cores with liquid coatings.
2. PM forms in the air solely from gases like sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and organic compounds emitted by human 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

83. Consider the following pairs:

Operation	Objective
1. Cactus Lily	Indian Army and Air Force operation during Bangladesh Liberation War.
2. Vijay	India's operation to reclaim territory during Kargil War.
3. Sindoor	Retaliatory operation after the 2025 Pahalgam terrorist attack.

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

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

84. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The Supreme Court has declared digital access a fundamental right, affirming its intrinsic link to the right to life, education, expression, and equality.

Statement-II: The internet is essential for education, employment, governance, and social inclusion, shaping 21st-century citizenship through access to welfare, jobs, online learning, and free speech.

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

- A. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- B. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- C. Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- D. Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

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85. The terms Extended Fund Facility (SBAs), and Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs) were recently seen in the news in the context of:
- Climate Change Initiatives
 - International Monetary Fund (IMF) Programs
 - Global Health Policies
 - International Trade Agreements
86. Which of the following countries shares a border with Iran?
- Azerbaijan
 - Armenia
 - Turkmenistan
 - Pakistan
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- 1 and 4 only
 - 2 only
 - 1 only
 - 1, 2, 3, and 4
87. Regarding BharatTradeNet, consider the following statements:
- It is a unified trade documentation and financing platform integrated into the India Stack, alongside UPI, Aadhaar, and DigiLocker.
 - It replaces paper-based processes by connecting stakeholders like customs, banks, and exporters on a unified digital platform.
- Which of the statements given above is/are **not** correct?
- 1 Only
 - 2 Only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
88. Budapest Treaty, 2001, Paris Convention 1998, Berne Convention, 1928, are often seen in the news in the context of:
- Intellectual Property Rights
 - Environmental Protection
 - Trade and Commerce
 - Global Health Initiatives
89. Consider the following statements:
- Education, initially a state subject under the Government of India Act 1935, was moved to the Concurrent List through the 42nd Constitutional Amendment in 1976.
 - The 86th Amendment Constitution Act, 2002, made the Right to Education a fundamental right under Article 21A for children aged 6-14 years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 Only
- 2 Only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

90. Consider the following statements:

- The Sargent Committee (1944) report recommended the formation of this body.
- It was established as a statutory body in 1956.
- It is the only grant-giving agency in the country responsible for both providing funds and maintaining standards in higher education institutions.

Which of the following bodies best matches the above description?

- University Grants Commission (UGC)
- All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)
- National Board of Accreditation (NBA)
- Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)

91. Consider the following statements:

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is a statutory body established in 1992 to protect investors' interests and regulate the securities market.
- Before SEBI's establishment, the Controller of Capital Issues regulated capital markets under the Capital Issues (Control) Act, 1947.
- The Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) was established to safeguard the interests of those affected by SEBI's decisions, with a Presiding Officer and two Members.

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

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

92. Regarding the UN Charter 1945, consider the following statements:

- The UN Charter, as the foundational treaty of the United Nations, is an instrument of international law binding all Member States.
- The General Assembly is the UN's primary policymaking and representative body, with all member States represented, ensuring universal participation.
- Article 51 of the UN Charter allows for a response in self-defense.

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

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

93. Which of the following best describes the Integrated Air Command and Control System (IACCS)?

- A. A radar system used solely for detecting ground-based threats.
- B. A system that integrates data from various air defense assets to manage airspace and reduce redundancy.
- C. A communication system for civilian air traffic control.
- D. A satellite-based system for global airspace monitoring.

94. Autoregressive Models, Transformer-based Models, and Encoder-decoder Models are often seen in the news in the context of:

- A. Large Language Models (LLMs)
- B. Cryptocurrency Mining
- C. Video Streaming Algorithms
- D. Cloud Storage Solutions

95. Consider the following statements:

1. Heat wave is a notified disaster under the Disaster Management (DM) Act of 2005.
2. Odisha was the first state to develop a Heat Action Plan in 1999 following heat wave deaths in 1998.

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

96. Regarding Inflation, consider the following statements:

1. Core inflation excludes volatile items like food, beverages, vegetables, and fuel (including crude oil) from the basket used to track headline inflation.
2. The Urjit Patel Committee recommended CPI (Consumer Price Index) over WPI (Wholesale Price Index) as a measure for inflation targeting.
3. The current inflation target aligns with the committee's recommendation to establish a target inflation rate of 4%, accompanied by an acceptable range of deviation of +/- 2%.

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

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

97. Regarding the BrahMos, consider the following statements:

1. It is a two-stage supersonic cruise missile designed for high precision and speed.
2. It uses a solid-propellant booster and a liquid-fueled ramjet that maintains Mach 3 cruise speed, making it one of the fastest cruise missiles globally.
3. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has fully developed it in India.

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

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

98. Phillips Curve, often seen in the news, is best described as:

- A. The relationship between a country's population growth rate and its GDP.
- B. The inverse relationship between unemployment and inflation.
- C. The direct relationship between government spending and national debt.
- D. The correlation between consumer confidence and stock market performance.

99. Regarding the National Defence Fund, consider the following statements:

1. It was set up in 1962 to provide for the welfare of members of the Armed Forces and their dependents.
2. The fund is administered by an Executive Committee with the Prime Minister as its Chairperson and the Home Minister, Defence Minister, and Finance Minister as its Members.
3. As per the Office Memorandum from the Prime Minister's Office, the President serves as the fund's treasurer.

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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100. Regarding the Global Methane Pledge, consider the following statements:

1. It was launched at COP (Conference of Parties) 26 in 2021 to catalyse action to reduce methane emissions.
2. Countries joining the Pledge commit to collectively reducing methane emissions by at least 30% below 2020 levels by 2030.
3. It is led by India, which is among the top five methane emitters globally.

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

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

101. Consider the following statements:

1. The GDP price deflator measures the change in the value of all of the goods and services produced in an economy when inflation is taken into account.
2. A base year is a reference point that provides a stable benchmark for calculating and comparing GDP across different years.

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

102. Regarding the Competition Commission of India, consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory body established under the Competition Act, 2002, to promote fair competition in the market and prevent anti-competitive practices.
2. It is a multi-member body consisting of a Chairperson and six members appointed by the Central Government.

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

103. Consider the following statements:

1. A Supreme Court (SC) judge is appointed by the President under Article 124 of the Constitution.
2. As per the convention, the senior-most judge of the SC is designated as the Chief Justice of India (CJI).
3. The CJI, with the President's approval, can move the SC from Delhi to any other location.

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

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

104. Consider the following statements:

1. It was developed by Russia and is one of the world's most advanced long-range surface-to-air missile (SAM) systems.
2. It is designed for multi-layered air defence, it can intercept a wide range of aerial threats, including aircraft, ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, drones, and stealth targets.
3. It is known as the Sudarshan Chakra in India.

Which of the following defence systems best matches the above description?

- A. S-400 Triumph
- B. Iron Dome
- C. THAAD
- D. Patriot Missile System

105. Consider the following statements:

1. It is an indigenous artificial intelligence-powered air defence system that was designed and manufactured jointly by the DRDO and ISRO.
2. Its technology allows for monitoring of low-level airspace in battle areas and efficient control of Ground-Based Air Defence Weapon Systems.
3. It is capable of intercepting and neutralising hostile Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAVs) without detection, using no active radar signatures.
4. Its inclusion makes India the first non-Western country to deploy autonomous drone swarms, satellite surveillance, and AI battlefield coordination in real-time combat.

Which of the following best matches the above description?

- A. Project Devil
- B. Akashteer
- C. ETRA Air Defence System
- D. Trishul Missile System

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106. The Gore Committee (1971), Ribeiro Committee (1998), and the Padmanabhaiah Committee (2000) are often seen in the news in the context of:

- A. Police Reforms
- B. Agricultural Subsidies
- C. Environmental Conservation
- D. Education Policy

107. Consider the following pairs:

Tribes/Sect	Region
1. Alawites	Syria
2. Kurds	Turkey
3. Maori	Iraq

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

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

108. Which of the following best describes the term Reverse flipping?

- A. A real estate practice where a buyer sells a property immediately after purchasing it for quick profit.
- B. A business transaction where a company shifts its registration to a foreign country for tax benefits and then returns it to the original country.
- C. A financial strategy involving selling shares and then buying them back later at a lower price.
- D. A stock market technique where investors short-sell stocks in anticipation of a price drop.

109. Consider the following statements:

- 1. It is prepared under provisions of the Citizenship Act 1955.
- 2. It includes both Indian citizens and foreigners residing in India.
- 3. It is mandatory for every resident of the country to register in it.

Which of the following options best matches the above description?

- A. Caste Census
- B. Electoral Roll

- C. National Population Register (NPR)
- D. Aadhaar Database

110. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) goals are a set of standards for a company's operations that encourage companies to follow better governance, ethical practices, environment-friendly measures, and social responsibility.

Statement-II: SEBI's revised Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) framework allows for optional core disclosure verification now, mandatory for top 500 firms from FY 2025-2026.

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

- A. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- B. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- C. Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- D. Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

111. Regarding Quantum computers, consider the following statements:

- 1. They operate using "qubits" (quantum bits), which determine the behavior of matter at the atomic scale.
- 2. Qubits leverage quantum superposition to simultaneously represent 0 and 1, enabling quantum computers to perform parallel computations beyond classical limits.
- 3. Entanglement occurs when two qubits share a quantum state, such that a change in one instantly affects the other, regardless of the distance between them.

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

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

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112. Regarding Project Kusha, consider the following statements:

1. It is led by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) aimed at developing long-range air defence system.
2. It will be capable of detecting and destroying enemy projectiles and armour, including cruise missiles, stealth fighter jets, and drones at long range.
3. It will consist of three types of interceptor missiles, with ranges of 150 km, 250 km, and 350 km, and advanced long-range surveillance and fire control radars.

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

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

113. Regarding the Total Fertility Rate (TFR), consider the following statements:

1. It is the total number of children a woman would have if she lived through her childbearing years and gave birth following current age-specific fertility rates.
2. A TFR of 2.1 is considered the replacement level, where each generation replaces itself without significant population growth or decline.
3. A TFR lower than 2.1 can lead to negative population growth, potentially causing long-term demographic challenges, including an ageing population.

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

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

114. Regarding 6G, consider the following statements:

1. It will deliver terabit-per-second speeds, sub-millisecond latency, intelligent self-healing networks, and extensive volumetric connectivity spanning from underwater to aerospace.
2. Bharat 6G Alliance is a government-supported, industry-led platform fostering collaboration among public and private companies, and standards organizations.
3. India's IOWN Forum's Vision 2030 white paper for 6G sets key technology goals for cognitive capacity, responsiveness, scalability, and energy efficiency.

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

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

115. Regarding the Golan Heights, consider the following statements:

1. It is a 1,200-square-kilometre rocky plateau in southwestern Syria, overlooking the Jordan River Valley.
2. It is bounded by Mount Hermon (north), the Yarmūk River(south), the Jordan River and Sea of Galilee (west), and the seasonal Wadi Al-Ruqqād (east).

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

116. Consider the following pairs:

Operations	Objective
1. Operation All-Clear	Operation against Valley-Based Insurgent Groups (VBIGs) in Manipur
2. Operation Black Forest	Counter Insurgency mission targeting Maoist strongholds in forested hilly terrain.
3. Operation Cactus Lily	Air assault operation during Bangladesh Liberation War

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

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

117. Regarding the Multidimensional Poverty Index(MPI), consider the following statements:

1. MPI's global methodology is based on the robust Alkire and Foster (AF) method that identifies people as poor based on universally acknowledged metrics.
2. The National Multidimensional Poverty measures simultaneous deprivations across three equally weighted dimensions of Health, Education, and Standard of Living.

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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

118. Regarding the Flue Gas Desulfurization (FGD), consider the following statements:

1. It is the process of removing sulphur compounds from the exhaust emissions of fossil-fueled power stations.
2. It is done through the addition of absorbents, which can remove up to 95% of the sulphur dioxide from the flue gas.
3. The dry process, where flue gases are steam-saturated with an aqueous absorbent solution, is now the primary FGD method in large fossil-fuel power plants.

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

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

119. Regarding the PM-WANI, consider the following statements:

1. It was launched by the Department of Telecom (DoT) to expand public Wi-Fi hotspots across India, especially in rural areas.
2. The Public Data Office (PDO) runs PM-WANI Wi-Fi hotspots, providing last-mile broadband by sourcing internet from telecom or ISP providers.
3. The Central Registry, managed by the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT), maintains the details of App Providers, PDOs, etc.

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

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

120. Consider the following statements:

1. It was built by King Anantavarman Chodaganga Deva of the Eastern Ganga dynasty in the 12th century CE.
2. The idols are made of wood (neem logs) and are replaced every 12–19 years in the Nabakalebara ritual.

3. It is an example of Kalinga architecture.

4. It is one of the Char Dham pilgrimage sites and a major Vaishnavism centre.

Which of the following temples best matches the above description?

- A. Jagannath Temple, Puri
- B. Brihadeeswarar Temple, Thanjavur
- C. Meenakshi Temple, Madurai
- D. Konark Sun Temple, Konark

121. The terms *Tricyclazole*, *Mancozeb*, and *Tebuconazole* are often seen in the news in the context of:

- A. Agricultural fungicides used to control crop diseases
- B. Ingredients in cosmetic skincare products
- C. Components of electric vehicle batteries
- D. Names of newly discovered exoplanets

122. Regarding Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), consider the following statements:

1. It occurs when a firm or individual invests directly in business interests located in another country.
2. It involves direct control and investment in a company, unlike Foreign Portfolio Investment, where a foreign investor only buys stocks or bonds without business control.
3. FDI in India is governed by the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999, and is administered by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
4. In India, FDI up to 100% is allowed in non-critical sectors through the automatic route, not requiring security clearance from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

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

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

123. Consider the following statements:

1. The government, under the Information Technology Act of 2000, has the power to declare any database or communications infrastructure as Critical Information Infrastructure (CII) to protect that digital asset.
2. The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) offers vital advisories and information-sharing, but it lacks automated real-time threat intelligence and proactive vulnerability scanning essential for a strong defense.

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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

124. Which of the following are the initiatives of the National Payments Corporation of India?

- 1. National Automated Clearing House (NACH)
- 2. Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM)
- 3. Immediate Payment Service (IMPS)

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

125. Consider the following statements:

- 1. The All-India Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers (CPI-AL) tracks cost-of-living changes for rural agricultural workers and guides minimum wage adjustments across states.
- 2. CPI(AL) is a subset of CPI-RL (Rural Labourers), which tracks cost-of-living changes for rural laborers.
- 3. The base year for both CPI-AL and CPI-RL is 2011-12.

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

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

126. Consider the following statements:

- 1. It is the main component of natural gas, characterized as an odorless, colorless, tasteless gas that is lighter than air.
- 2. It burns with a blue flame in complete combustion, yielding carbon dioxide (CO₂) and water (H₂O) in the presence of oxygen.
- 3. It is a short-lived climate pollutant (SLCP) with a 12-year lifespan and has more potency than CO₂ in the short term.

Which of the following gases best matches the above description?

- A. Methane (CH₄)
- B. Carbon monoxide (CO)
- C. Propane (C₃H₈)
- D. Nitrous Oxide (N₂O)

127. The Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), often seen in news is best described as:

- A. A tax imposed on imported goods based on their carbon emissions to level the playing field for domestic producers.
- B. A subsidy given to companies investing in renewable energy technologies.
- C. A global agreement to reduce carbon emissions through joint commitments.
- D. A voluntary certification program for green products in international trade.

128. Regarding Akashteer, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a system designed to automate the detection, tracking, and engagement of enemy aircraft, drones, and missiles.
- 2. It integrates various radar systems, sensors, and communication technologies into a single operational framework.
- 3. It is vehicle-based, which makes it mobile and easier to handle in a hostile environment.

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:

- 1. It is a federal agency of the government responsible for investigating and prosecuting crimes related to Terrorism, Insurgency, and other national security matters.
- 2. It was established in 2009 under the Ministry of Home Affairs following the 2008 Mumbai terrorist attacks.
- 3. The Central government can direct it to investigate a scheduled offence, either within or outside India, on its own accord.

Which of the following agencies best matches the above description?

- A. National Investigation Agency (NIA)
- B. Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)
- C. Enforcement Directorate (ED)
- D. Research and Analysis Wing (RAW)

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130. Regarding the Census, consider the following statements:

1. Until 1951, the Census Organisation was set up on an ad-hoc basis for each Census.
2. The population census is a Union subject under Article 246 of the India Constitution.
3. The information collected during the population Census can be accessed by anyone under the Right to Information Act, 2009.

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

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

131. Regarding the curative petition, consider the following statements:

1. It is a legal recourse available after the dismissal of a review plea against a final conviction.
2. It serves as a sparingly used judicial innovation to rectify a grave miscarriage of justice.
3. It is typically decided by judges in chambers, though open-court hearings may be granted upon specific request.
4. The principles governing curative petitions were established by the Supreme Court in the case of Rupa Ashok Hurra Vs Ashok Hurra & another Case, 2002.

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

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

132. Consider the following statements:

1. Fair use is a legal doctrine of the United States that allows for limited use of copyrighted material without permission, under certain circumstances.
2. The Indian Copyright Act, 1957, and the Patents Act, 1970, provide specific provisions for fair dealing and enumerated exceptions to copyright infringement.

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

133. Regarding trading practices, consider the following statements:

1. Insider trading refers to the practice of buying or selling a publicly traded company's stock or securities based on material, non-public information (MNPI) about the company.
2. Front-running is a practice where traders or brokers use advance knowledge of pending client trades to profit from expected price movements.
3. While Insider trading is illegal in India, Front-running is allowed under the provisions of the SEBI Act, 1992.

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

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

134. Regarding Rubber, consider the following statements:

1. It can be natural or synthetic, and is made up of polymers of the organic compound isoprene, along with other organic compounds.
2. It is native to the Amazon rainforest, and is a tropical tree that thrives in consistently high temperatures between 20° and 35°C, with an average monthly mean of 27°C.
3. The Rubber Board is a statutory body constituted under the Rubber Act, 1947, for the overall development of the rubber industry in the country.

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

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

135. Regarding the Government e-Marketplace (GeM), consider the following statements:

1. Launched by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in 2016, it enables online procurement of common-use goods and services for Government departments, organizations, and PSUs.
2. The integration of India's postal system, India Post, and Common Service Center (CSC) with the GeM is operational across the country.
3. The National Bamboo Mission and GeM have created a dedicated window on the GeM portal for marketing Bamboo Goods.

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

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

136. Regarding copyright, consider the following statements:

1. Copyright is a legal right that protects original works of literature, art, music, films, and computer programs, among others, in India.
2. The owner of a copyright has exclusive rights to adapt, reproduce, publish, translate, and communicate the work to the public.
3. The Copyright Act, 1957, holds the unique distinction of having never been amended since its enactment.
4. The Copyright (Amendment) Rules 2021 were enacted to align copyright laws with other related legislation.

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

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

137. Regarding the Panchayat Advancement Index, consider the following statements:

1. It is a composite index by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj that evaluates the performance and progress of Gram Panchayats (GPs) across India.
2. It aligns with the National Indicator Framework (NIF) developed by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

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

138. Consider the following statements:

1. Under the International Energy Programme agreement, each International Energy Agency (IEA) member country must maintain emergency oil reserves equal to at least 90 days of its net oil imports.
2. The construction of the Strategic Crude Oil Storage facilities in India is being managed by Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL).

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

139. Regarding remittances, consider the following statements:

1. They are recorded as unilateral transfers under India's Balance of Payments current account and constitute about 3% of GDP.
2. In 2023-24, the Gulf Co-operation Council was India's largest source of remittances.

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

140. Consider the following statements:

1. IndiaAI Datasets Platform is an AI-powered platform that enables voice-based internet access and content creation in Indian languages.
2. Bharat Gen is the country's first government-funded multimodal large language model, enhancing public service delivery through foundational AI models.
3. Digital Bhashini is a unified platform that provides seamless access to quality non-personal datasets for startups and researchers.

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

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

141. Regarding data privacy, consider the following statements:

1. In 2011, the Justice AP Shah Committee proposed the introduction of privacy legislation.
2. In 2017, the Supreme Court declared privacy to be a fundamental right in the Justice KS Puttaswamy (Retd) vs Union of India case.
3. The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, empowers individuals with the right to control their personal data, including access, correction, and erasure.

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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

142. Regarding the Extended Fund Facility (EFF), consider the following statements:

1. It offers financial support to countries experiencing significant medium-term balance of payments difficulties due to structural weaknesses that need time to resolve.
2. It is usually granted for a fixed duration of two years and is not eligible for extension.

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

143. Regarding blockchain, consider the following statements:

1. It is a shared database that stores data in cryptographically linked blocks, unlike traditional databases.
2. Decentralized blockchains are immutable, meaning that once data is recorded, it cannot be changed or undone.
3. The Ministry of Science and Technology launched the National Blockchain Framework (NBF), an online platform designed to enhance digital governance by ensuring transparency and trust through blockchain technology.

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

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

144. Regarding the Arctic Region, consider the following statements:

1. It is located in the northernmost part of Earth and includes parts of several countries, including Canada, Russia, the United States, Norway, and Greenland.
2. The region is covered by ice, including sea ice and ice caps, which play a crucial role in regulating the Earth's climate.

3. The Arctic holds rich coal, diamonds, gold, and quartz deposits, with Greenland owning about a quarter of global rare earth reserves.

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:

1. Data centres are specialized facilities used to store, manage, and process large volumes of electronic data.
2. The Public Records Act, 1993, prohibits the removal of public records from India, introducing the first local data storage requirement.
3. India's first hyperscale data centre, Yotta D1, has been set up in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, marking a significant milestone in India's data centre capacity.
4. The National Informatics Centre (NIC) established advanced National Data Centres to support government initiatives and digital infrastructure.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

146. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Prior clearance under the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, is mandatory to evaluate a project's effects on the environment, natural resources, human health, and social infrastructure.

Statement-II: Article 51A(g) of the Indian Constitution mandates every citizen to protect and improve the natural environment and show compassion to all living beings.

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

- A. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- B. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- C. Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- D. Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

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147. Regarding the Farmers Producer Organisation (FPOs), consider the following statements:

1. The FPOs came into existence in 2008, inspired by economist YK Alagh's recommendation (2002) to amend the Companies Act, 1956.
2. FPOs help small farmers by facilitating bulk input purchases, improving bargaining power, and ensuring better price realization with reduced costs.
3. FPOs can only be registered exclusively under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.

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

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

148. The term Spoofing, often seen in news in the context of the security market, is best described as:

- A. Placing large orders to manipulate the price and then canceling them before execution.
- B. Buying stocks only during market hours to maximize gains.
- C. Holding shares for a long period to gain from dividends.
- D. Using insider information to trade before announcements.

149. Regarding Safe Harbour rules, consider the following statements:

1. Social media platforms are not legally liable for user content if they address flagged issues, protecting free speech without requiring preemptive content control.
2. Under the Information Technology Rules, 2021, social media firms with over 5 million users must appoint a chief compliance officer liable for non-compliance with takedown or regulatory requests.

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

150. Which of the following countries are members of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)?

1. Maldives
2. Nepal
3. Afghanistan
4. Myanmar

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

151. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: There is no specific legal framework or definition of refugees under Indian law.

Statement-II: India is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol.

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

- A. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- B. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- C. Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- D. Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

152. Consider the following statements:

1. India has the world's largest bauxite reserve, the ore used to produce aluminium.
2. Nearly 60% of India's bauxite reserves are concentrated in Odisha.
3. Economically, Aluminium ranks as the third most important base metal after iron ore and Copper.

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

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

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153. Regarding the Non-Performing Asset (NPA), consider the following statements:

1. It refers to loans or advances from banks or financial institutions that have stopped generating income because the borrower has missed interest payments for 180 days.
2. Agricultural loans for short-duration crops are classified as NPA if principal or interest installments remain overdue for two crop seasons.

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

154. Which of the following comes under the Capital Account Transaction?

1. Transfer or issuance of foreign securities
2. Export/import of currency notes
3. Foreign aid

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

155. Regarding bond, consider the following statements:

1. It is a borrowing instrument issued by a government or company to raise funds.
2. A bond's yield is its effective rate of return, which varies as the bond's price changes.
3. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) employs Open Market Operations (OMOs) as a tool to manage bond yields and regulate monetary conditions within the economy.

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

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

156. Regarding the Akash Weapon System, consider the following statements:

1. It is a surface-to-air missile system developed by DRDO to protect the Indian Armed Forces from airborne threats like aircraft, helicopters, and missiles.

2. The Akash missile system has a range of approximately 25–30 km, allowing it to engage targets at medium altitudes.
3. The missile uses radar-guided homing for target acquisition and interception, with the Rajendra Radar being used for tracking and guidance.
4. It is designed to operate autonomously for both point defense of critical assets and area defense of larger regions.

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

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

157. Regarding the Galapagos Islands, consider the following statements:

1. They are located in the Pacific Ocean and are part of Ecuador.
2. In 1978, the islands became UNESCO's first World Heritage Site.
3. The Galápagos penguin, Galápagos fur seal, and Galápagos sea lion found here are categorised as Least Concern in the IUCN List.

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

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

158. Consider the following statements:

1. The Ningaloo Reef, the world's largest coral reef system near Australia, has been a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1981.
2. Fringing reefs are coral reefs that form along coastlines or islands, with little to no separation from the shore.
3. Coral bleaching occurs when environmental stress causes corals to lose their color by expelling the nutrient-giving symbiotic algae (zooxanthellae).

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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159. Consider the following statements:

1. India celebrates Hindi Diwas every September 14 to commemorate the adoption of Hindi as the Union's official language under Article 343 of the Constitution.
2. The Kothari Commission's three-language formula proposed introducing Hindi in non-Hindi-speaking states and a non-Hindi Indian language in Hindi-speaking states.
3. The Hindi language is one of the 22 languages of the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India.

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

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

160. Which of the following best describes the term 'Economic Capital Framework (ECF)'?

- A. A mechanism used by the RBI to determine the appropriate level of risk provisions and surplus transfer to the Government.
- B. A framework to regulate interest rates on loans and deposits in the Indian banking system.
- C. A government policy to allocate capital subsidies to small and medium enterprises.
- D. A program initiated by the RBI to promote financial literacy among rural populations.

161. Regarding the Jal Jeevan Mission, consider the following statements:

1. Launched in 2019, the initiative aims to provide tap water to all Indian households by 2047.
2. The fund sharing pattern between the Centre and States is 90:10 for all the states and union territories.
3. Goa and Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu (D&NH and D&D) are the first State and UT in the country to be certified as 'Har Ghar Jal'.

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

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

162. Consider the following statements:

1. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) currently uses the Coupled Forecasting System (CFS) developed under the Monsoon Mission Project.
2. The Bharat Forecast System (BFS) is India's first indigenously developed deterministic weather model with the highest resolution.

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

163. 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 recognised NGP as one of the Top 10 World Restoration Flagship Initiatives.
3. The International Water Association honored NGP with the title of Climate Smart Utility.

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

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

164. Which of the following committees examined the adequacy of RBI's capital buffers and the quantum of surplus to be transferred?

1. V. Subrahmanyam Committee (1997)
2. Usha Thorat Committee (2004)
3. YH Malegam Committee (2013)
4. Bimal Jalan Committee (2018)

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

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165. Regarding the coal sector, consider the following statements:

1. India holds the world's fifth-largest coal reserves and is the largest consumer of coal globally.
2. Odisha, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh are the top three coal-rich states in India, together holding about 69% of the country's total coal reserves.
3. SHAKTI Policy (2017) aims to make coal allocation transparent by moving from a nomination-based system to auction or tariff-based bidding.

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

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

166. Regarding State Development Loans (SDLs), consider the following statements:

1. They are debt securities issued by state governments within their borrowing limits to finance budget deficits.
2. They typically pay interest twice a year and return the principal amount upon maturity, usually after 10 years.
3. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) oversees SDL issuances, ensures timely interest and principal payments by states, and provides guarantees on these loans.

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

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

167. Regarding Rice, consider the following statements:

1. India ranks second after China in rice production, with roughly one-fourth of its total cropped land dedicated to rice cultivation.
2. It is a kharif crop that requires high temperature (above 25°C) and high humidity with annual rainfall above 100 cm.

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

168. Which of the following countries comprises the Horn of Africa?

1. Djibouti
2. Eritrea
3. Ethiopia
4. Somalia

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

169. Consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution permits restrictions on speech only on two defined grounds under Article 19(2), namely incitement to offence and public disorder.
2. In *Shreya Singhal v. Union of India* (2015), the Supreme Court invalidated Section 66A of the IT Act, 2000, ruling that vague terms like "insult" or "hatred" cannot justify criminalising speech.

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

170. Regarding the POCSO Act, 2012, consider the following statements:

1. It was enacted to address sexual exploitation and abuse of children, defining a child as anyone under 18 years old.
2. It was enacted as a consequence of India's ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1992.
3. It allows Special Courts to grant interim compensation and enables the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) to provide immediate relief for urgent needs.

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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

171. Consider the following statements:

1. According to the Refugee Convention, 1951, refugees are people forced to flee their own country and seek safety in another country.
2. Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are individuals who have been forced to flee their homes but have not crossed an international border.
3. India has signed the 1951 Refugee Convention along with its 1967 Protocol.

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

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

172. Regarding the Baltic States, consider the following states:

1. They are located in northeastern Europe and are bordered by Russia to the east.
2. All 3 Baltic states are members of NATO, the European Union (EU), and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

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

173. Regarding the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), consider the following statements:

1. It is a climate phenomenon that influences sea surface temperatures and weather patterns across the Indian Ocean region.
2. In a positive IOD phase, warm waters shift to the western Indian Ocean, and cold, deep waters rise to the surface in the eastern Indian Ocean near Indonesia and Australia.
3. During a negative IOD phase, the eastern Indian Ocean becomes warmer, and the western Indian Ocean experiences cooler conditions.

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

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

174. Consider the following statements:

1. The Narasimham Committee on Banking Sector Reforms, 1998, underscored the importance of addressing money laundering concerns within the Indian financial system.
2. The Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 was enacted by Parliament under Article 253, which empowers it to make laws for implementing the international conventions.

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

175. Regarding the Brahmaputra River, consider the following statements:

1. It originates from the Chemayungdung glacier of the Kailash range near the Mansarovar lake.
2. It enters India west of Sadiya town in Arunachal Pradesh.
3. It is a perennial river and has several peculiar characteristics due to its geography and prevailing climatic conditions.

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

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

176. Regarding the Vostro account, consider the following statements:

1. It is an account that a correspondent bank holds on behalf of another bank.
2. It enables domestic banks to provide international banking services to clients with global banking needs.

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3. Its services include executing wire transfers, performing foreign exchange transactions, enabling deposits and withdrawals, and expediting international trade.

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

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

177. Which Article empowers the Supreme Court to pass orders for doing complete justice in any pending case?

- A. Article 142
B. Article 32
C. Article 131
D. Article 136

Article	Subject	Key Feature
Article 32	Right to Constitutional Remedies	Direct access to Supreme Court for enforcement of fundamental rights via writs
Article 131	Original Jurisdiction of Supreme Court	Exclusive power to resolve disputes between states and/or the Union
Article 136	Special Leave to Appeal by Supreme Court	Discretionary power to grant leave to appeal in exceptional cases from any court/tribunal

178. Consider the following statements:

- India holds 10% of the world's coal reserves, making coal the most reliable and affordable energy source in the country.
- India aims for 50% of its electricity generation from non-fossil fuels by 2030.
- The Nuclear Energy Mission seeks to develop indigenous Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) with a target to operationalize at least five by 2033.

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

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

179. Regarding Quad, consider the following statements:

- It is a strategic forum of the US, Japan, India, and Australia aimed at regional security and economic cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The Quad operates with a formal alliance structure, secretariat, or decision-making body.
- Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) and Maritime Initiative for Training in the Indo-Pacific (MAITRI) are its initiatives.

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

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

180. Regarding the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), consider the following statements:

- It is a quasi-judicial body in India, established under the Companies Act, 2013, to adjudicate corporate law matters.
- The Eradi Committee (2000) first recommended the constitution of an NCLT.
- It aims to provide a specialized forum for the resolution of disputes and matters pertaining to company law and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Act, 2016 (IBC).

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

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

181. Which of the following are part of the capital account?

- Foreign Institutional Investor (FII)
- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)
- Factor incomes
- NRI Deposits

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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182. Regarding the 'DRR Dhan 100 (Kamala)' and 'Pusa DST Rice 1', consider the following statements:

1. They are India's first genome-edited rice varieties developed to boost yield, climate resilience, and resource efficiency.
2. They have been developed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) using advanced CRISPR-Cas9 genome-editing technology.
3. No foreign DNA is introduced in them, making them comparable to traditionally bred crops.

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

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

183. Which of the following best describes the term e-Zero FIR?

- A. The electronic version of Zero FIR, enabled under Section 173(1) and 1(ii) of the BNSS, allowing FIR filing online irrespective of jurisdiction.
- B. An FIR that can only be filed physically at the police station within the jurisdiction of the offence.
- C. A special FIR that can be filed only for non-cognisable offences via postal mail.
- D. An FIR that must be filed after investigation has started, documenting findings digitally.

184. Consider the following statements:

1. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands originated from the tectonic collision between the Indian Plate and the Burma Microplate.
2. Indira Point, situated on Great Nicobar Island, is the southernmost tip of the Nicobar Islands.
3. The Ten Degree Channel is a narrow strait that separates the Andaman Islands and the Nicobar Islands.

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

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

185. Consider the following statements:

1. The Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999 regulates all foreign exchange transactions in India.
2. Under the Liberalized Remittance Scheme (LRS), Indian residents can remit up to USD 250,000 per year for personal and investment purposes, including gambling and speculative trading.
3. Remittances are recorded under the current account of the Balance of Payments (BoP) as unilateral transfers.

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

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

186. Regarding Measles & Rubella, consider the following statements:

1. Measles, caused by the Morbillivirus, can result in severe complications or death, whereas rubella, caused by the rubella virus, is generally milder.
2. The National Zero Measles-Rubella Elimination Campaign launched under the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) aims to eliminate them by 2030.

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

187. Consider the following pairs:

Method	Description
1. Bioremediation	Employs oil-degrading bacteria (e.g., <i>Cycloclasticus</i> , <i>Oleispira</i>) for eco-friendly, rapid hydrocarbon breakdown.
2. Sorbents	Absorb or adsorb oil from water, ideal for small spills and residual cleanup.
3. Containment Booms	Floating barriers that contain oil spills, helping recovery and reducing environmental harm.

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

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

188. Consider the following statements:

1. The Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, serves as the primary maritime legislation on Oil Pollution Control in India.
2. The National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan is a binding framework for coordinated and timely oil spill response implemented by the Indian Coast Guard.
3. India has not yet ratified the Bunker Oil Convention (2001), which ensures prompt and adequate compensation for damage caused by fuel oil spills from ship bunkers.

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

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

189. Regarding the International Solar Alliance (ISA), consider the following statements:

1. It is a joint India-France initiative, conceptualized at COP21 in Paris in 2015, aimed at combating climate change by implementing solar energy solutions.
2. It is the first international intergovernmental organization to be headquartered in India.
3. Following a 2020 amendment to its Framework Agreement, all UN member states are now eligible to join the Alliance.

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

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

190. Regarding the Mangroves, consider the following statements:

1. They are salt-tolerant trees and shrubs that thrive in estuarine and intertidal regions where freshwater meets saltwater.
2. The Sundarbans, spread across India and Bangladesh, is the largest contiguous mangrove forest in the world.
3. The Union Budget 2023-24 announced the MISHTI initiative for mangrove plantations along the coastline and on salt pan lands.

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

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

191. Consider the following statements:

1. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) describes the Mascarene High as a high-pressure area found around the Mascarene Islands during the monsoon period.
2. Somali Jet is a low-level, inter-hemispheric cross-equatorial wind band originating near Mauritius and north Madagascar.
3. Monsoon Trough is an elongated low-pressure area extending from the heat low over northwestern India to the north Bay of Bengal.
4. Cyclonic Monsoon Vortex is a synoptic-scale cyclonic circulation that forms over the Arabian Sea during the Indian summer monsoon.

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

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

192. Regarding the Special Drawing Rights (SDR), consider the following statements:

1. The SDR itself is not a currency but an asset that holders can exchange for currency when needed.
2. The SDR serves as the unit of account of the IMF and other international organizations.
3. Its value is calculated based on a basket comprising the currencies of the five countries with the largest GDPs measured in Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) terms.

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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

193. Which of the following committees is related to poverty?

- 1. Alagh Committee (1979)
- 2. Lakdawala Committee (1993)
- 3. Shanta Kumar Committee (2015)
- 4. Tendulkar Committee (2009)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

194. Regarding the UJALA Scheme, consider the following statements:

- 1. It was launched in 2015 to promote energy efficiency by replacing traditional incandescent and compact fluorescent lamps with energy-saving LED bulbs.
- 2. It is a joint project between the Government of India's Public Sector Undertakings, the Union Ministry of Power's Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), and DISCOMs.

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

195. Regarding Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO), consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a transient eastward-moving system of winds, clouds, and pressure disturbances that travels around the equator.
- 2. It influences the weather in tropical regions, especially between 30°N and 30°S, which includes India.
- 3. It prevents cyclones and does not produce intense rain, particularly in dry weather.

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

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

196. Regarding cryptocurrency, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a centralized digital currency secured by cryptography, operating without control from any government or institution.
- 2. Cryptocurrency transactions are recorded on a public digital ledger called the blockchain, which is maintained and verified by a global network of computers.

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

197. Consider the following statements:

- 1. In the 2025 Human Development Report, India ranked 130th out of 193 countries, but is approaching the high development threshold (HDI \geq 0.700).
- 2. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), India's per capita income is USD 2,800, ranking 140th globally and the lowest among its BRICS peers.
- 3. India has overtaken Japan to become the world's 4th largest economy, with its GDP crossing USD 4 trillion.

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

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

198. Regarding the Foreign Direct Investment, consider the following statements:

- 1. It refers to a foreign investor's acquisition of a lasting interest in a business enterprise in another country, enabling significant influence or control over its management.
- 2. It can stimulate domestic industries by improving productivity, creating employment, and fostering innovation through competition and collaboration.
- 3. FDI in India is governed by the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999, under the Ministry of Finance.

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

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

199. Regarding the Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), consider the following statements:

1. They are advanced nuclear reactors with a capacity of up to 300 MW(e), about one-third of traditional reactors.
2. They require refueling only once every 1 to 2 years, in contrast to conventional plants, which need it every 3 to 7 years.
3. The Union Budget 2025–26 launches a Nuclear Energy Mission aiming to research, develop, and operationalize at least five indigenously designed SMRs by 2033.

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

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

200. Consider the following statements:

1. Post-Independence, the Constitution placed betting and gambling under State jurisdiction and brought games of skill under central regulation.
2. The Public Gambling Act of 1867, followed by several States, prohibits public gambling while exempting games of skill.

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

201. Regarding the National Quantum Mission, consider the following statements:

1. India is the first country in the world to have a dedicated quantum mission.
2. The mission helps in developing magnetometers with high sensitivity for precision timing (atomic clocks), communications, and navigation.
3. It is implemented by the Department of Science & Technology (DST) under the Ministry of Science & Technology.

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

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

202. Which of the following are released by the National Statistics Office (NSO)?

- A. Index of Industrial Production (IIP)
- B. Annual Survey of Industries (ASI)
- C. Financial Stability Report (FSR)

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

203. Consider the following statements:

1. The Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS) is the primary global standard setter for the prudential regulation of banks.
2. The Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) introduced by Basel III aims to prevent situations like “Bank Run”.
3. The Net Stable Funding Ratio (NSFR) under Basel II mandates banks to uphold a stable funding structure aligned with their off-balance-sheet assets and activities.

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

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

204. Which of the following reports are released by the International Energy Agency (IEA)?

- 1. Global Energy Review (GER)
- 2. Energy Technology Perspectives
- 3. India Energy Outlook 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

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

1. The Minimum Support Price (MSP) is the rate at which the government buys crops from farmers to protect them from a sudden drop in agricultural prices.
2. The Government declares it at the start of the sowing season, following the recommendations made by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).

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

206. Consider the following pairs:

Concept	Explanation
A. General Theory of Relativity	It explains how objects move around massive ones and predicts black holes.
B. Quantum Theory	Study of tiny particles' behavior, such as atoms, at the smallest scale.

C. Einstein's Principle of Equivalence

The idea that black holes can emit radiation due to quantum effects near their event horizon.

D. Hawking Radiation

The idea that nature's laws are the same in a small region with gravity as without it.

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

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

207. The terms Adware, Ransomware, and Trojans are often seen in the news in the context of:

- A. Climate change and environmental policies
- B. Cybersecurity and computer threats
- C. Financial fraud and banking regulations
- D. Medical research and vaccine development

Answers

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

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Practice Explanation

1. (C)

Exp:

Solid Waste Management Rules 2016:

- These rules replaced the Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000, and focused on the **segregation of waste at source**, the responsibility of the manufacturer to dispose of sanitary and packaging wastes, and user fees for collection, disposal, and processing from the bulk generator. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The bio-degradable waste should be **processed, treated, and disposed** of through composting or bio-methanation within the premises as far as possible. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Manufacturers and brand owners of disposable products like tin, glass, and plastic packaging must **financially assist local authorities** in establishing a waste management system. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

2. (C)

Exp:

- **Infrastructure status** is a government designation granted to specific sectors to encourage their growth through **favorable financial, tax, and regulatory policies.**
- It is typically applied to sectors **considered essential for economic progress** and societal well-being, such as transportation, energy, telecommunications, and water supply.
- The goal of providing infrastructure status is to **stimulate investment, promote innovation**, and ensure the effective delivery of crucial services to the public.
- This designation **highlights the importance of infrastructure development** in promoting sustainable growth and resilience against challenges like urbanization, climate change, and technological progress.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

3. (B)

Exp:

- **National Forest Policy (NFP) 1988** envisages that 33% of the geographical area should be under forest or tree cover. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- As per the **India State of Forest Report (ISFR)-2023**, forest and tree cover is 25.17% of its geographical area (GA), with forest cover at 21.76% and tree cover at 3.41%.

- ◆ Madhya Pradesh has the largest forest cover by area, spanning 77,073 sq km, followed by Arunachal Pradesh with 65,882 sq km, and Chhattisgarh with 55,812 sq km. **Hence, statement II is correct.**

- The **Green India Mission**, part of the National Action Plan on Climate Change, has helped increase forest cover by 0.56% between 2017 and 2021.

- Hence, option B is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement I.

4. (D)

Exp:

- The Alagh Committee, Lakdawala Committee, Tendulkar Committee, and Rangarajan Committee are expert panels established by the Government of India to review and improve the **methodology for measuring poverty in the country.**
- Each committee introduced new criteria and approaches to better reflect the changing consumption patterns, needs, and living standards of the Indian population.
- ◆ **Alagh Committee (1979):** Defined the **first official poverty line in India** based on minimum calorie intake and associated expenditure.
- ◆ **Lakdawala Committee (1993):** Updated poverty estimation using calorie norms and consumption baskets from Consumer Price Index (CPI) indices.
- ◆ **Tendulkar Committee (2009):** Shifted poverty measurement to **overall consumption**, including health and education expenses.
- ◆ **Rangarajan Committee (2014):** Proposed a higher, **multidimensional poverty** line considering food, health, education, and basic amenities.

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

5. (C)

Exp:

- **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** measures the total monetary value of all "final" goods and services produced in a country within a specific period, purchased by the final user. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

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- The **Gross Value Added (GVA)** of a sector is the value of output minus its intermediate inputs, with the “value added” distributed between labour and capital. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- If government taxes exceed the subsidies it provides, the GDP will be higher than the GVA. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

6. (A)

Exp:

Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs):

- They are classified into Maharatna, Navratna, and Miniratna categories. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Department of Public Enterprises (DPE)** in the Ministry of Finance is responsible for granting Maharatna, Navratna, and Miniratna status to CPSEs in India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ These statuses are classifications that grant **enhanced autonomy** and decision-making powers to CPSEs, based on their financial performance and other criteria.
- The CPSE with **Navratna Status** gets enhanced financial and operational freedom and is empowered to invest up to Rs 1,000 crore or 15% of its net worth on a single project without seeking government approval.
- They will also have the freedom to enter **joint ventures, form alliances**, and float subsidiaries abroad.
- The **2005 Sengupta Committee** (also known as Ad-Hoc Group of Experts) submitted their report in April 2005, containing recommendations on broad issues **relating to Ownership, Power of CPSEs**, Audit of Government Companies, Article 12 of the Constitution of India, Parliamentary Accountability and Vigilance Management in Public Sector Enterprises. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The **K. Kasturirangan Committee** was a prominent body in Indian education (2019) and environmental policy (2011). It's known for its work on the National Education Policy (NEP) and the Western Ghats, leading to the NEP 2020 and a report on the Western Ghats' ecological zones.

7. (A)

Exp:

- The **IMF's Fiscal Monitor and Financial Stability Report**, released in April 2025, has expressed grave apprehensions over the impact of the US's trade policies.

- This comes on top of repeated IMF warnings in the past on elevated global debt. The US, India, and other countries have been taking steps to bring their respective debts down in the post-Covid years.
- But the **ongoing geo-economic turbulence**, which can disrupt investments, supply chains, finance, labour, and technology flows, is set to deliver a setback to such efforts.
- The IMF projects public debt to increase by about **4% of GDP** in advanced economies and by 6% of GDP in emerging economies over the medium term.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

8. (D)

Exp:

Large Language Models (LLMs):

- Large general-purpose language models (LLMs), like **GPT, BERT, T5, and Turing-NLG**, are AI systems designed to handle diverse tasks such as text classification, question answering, and text generation across various domains. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ These models are **trained on massive datasets** to understand patterns, structures, and relationships within human language.
- **BharatGen** is the world's first government-funded multimodal Large Language Model (LLM) initiative for AI-driven public services. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

9. (A)

Exp:

Central Information Commission (CIC):

- It was established under the **Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005**, as a statutory body. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Central Information Commission shall consist of the **Chief Information Commissioner (CIC)** and such number of Central Information Commissioners not exceeding 10 as may be deemed necessary.
- The President of India appoints the members based on the recommendations of a committee headed by the **Prime Minister (Chairperson)** and with other members, including the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and a Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Its primary role is to ensure the **effective implementation of the RTI Act, 2005**, and uphold citizens' right to information.
 - ◆ It deals with cases involving offices, financial institutions, public sector undertakings, and other entities under the Central Government and Union Territories.

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10. (C)

Exp:

Nuclear Energy Sector:

- Nuclear energy is exclusively governed by the central government under the **Atomic Energy Act, 1962**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The **Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)** is responsible for overseeing safety standards and compliance within the nuclear industry in India. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- The **Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010**, limits operator liability to Rs. 1,500 crore, with government backing, while the India Nuclear Insurance Pool (INIP) offers insurance for accidents. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
- India adheres to **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** safeguards under the Indo-US Civil Nuclear Agreement but is not a signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), maintaining strategic autonomy.

11. (A)

Exp:

River Indus:

- The **Indus River has 5 tributaries**, namely Sutlej, Beas, Ravi, Jhelum, and Chenab.
 - ◆ **Ghataprabha** is a major tributary of the **river Krishna**.
- The **Indus Waters Treaty** is a water-sharing agreement between India and Pakistan signed in 1960 under the aegis of the **World Bank** to divide the waters of the Indus River and its 5 tributaries.
- The Treaty grants **India unrestricted** use of the **3 eastern rivers** (Beas, Ravi, Sutlej) and allocates the **3 western rivers** (Chenab, Indus, Jhelum) to Pakistan, with certain allowances for India to use these waters for domestic, non-consumptive, agricultural, and hydroelectric purposes under specific conditions.

The Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)

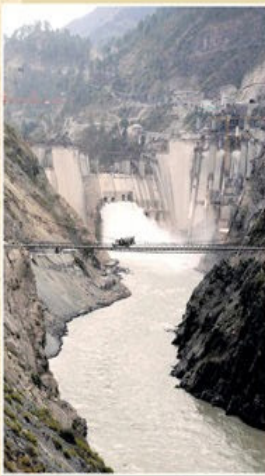
■ The distribution of waters of the Indus and its tributaries between India and Pakistan is governed by the Indus Water Treaty (IWT).

■ Was signed on Sept 19, 1960, between India, Pakistan and a representative of World Bank after eight years of negotiations.

■ Partition of India cut across the Indus river basin, which has the Indus river, plus five of its main tributaries.

**Western rivers
Chenab, Jhelum, Indus**

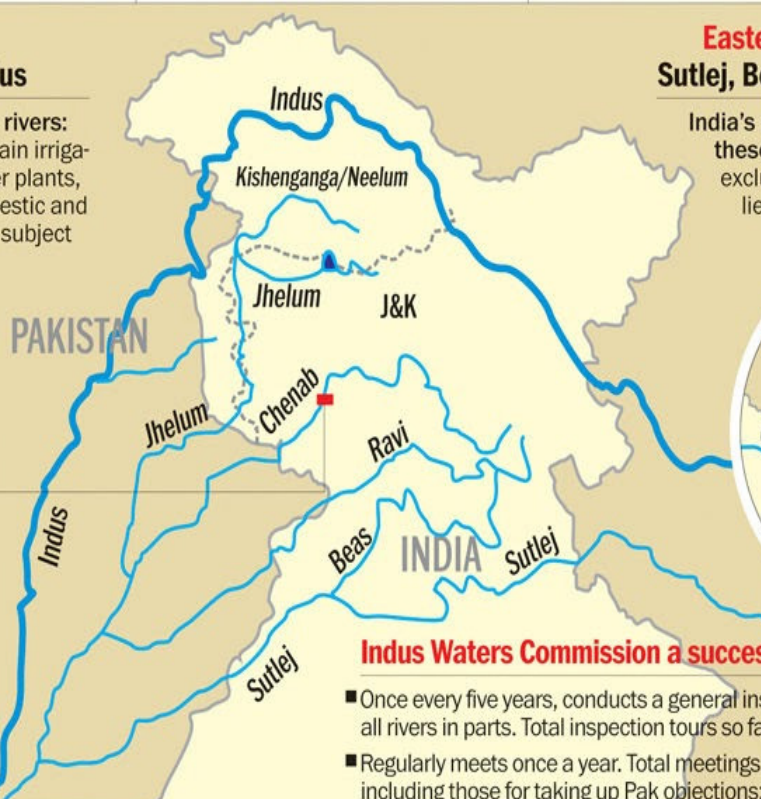
India's rights over these rivers: Limited — can set up certain irrigation, run-of-the-river power plants, very limited storage, domestic and non-consumptive use, all subject to conditions



Baglihar dam on Chenab

**Eastern rivers
Sutlej, Beas, Ravi**

India's rights over these rivers: All exclusive rights lie with India.

**Indus Waters Commission a success story**

- Once every five years, conducts a general inspection of all rivers in parts. Total inspection tours so far: Over 100
- Regularly meets once a year. Total meetings thus far, including those for taking up Pak objections: Over 100

- Hence, option A is correct.

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12. (C)

Exp:

Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF):

- Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) refers to the **net increase in an economy's fixed capital assets** (investment minus disposals) over a specific period. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It includes investments in infrastructure, machinery, equipment, and other durable assets that contribute to long-term economic growth. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It constitutes around 30% of India's nominal Gross Domestic Product (GDP), making it the **second-largest component** after private final consumption expenditure. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ GFCF is crucial for economic growth as it **directly boosts GDP**, enhances productivity, and improves living standards.
 - ◆ It promotes self-reliance by creating capital assets and supporting innovation.

13. (A)

Exp:

Poverty and Equity Briefs (PEBs):

- 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.**
- The Poverty and Equity Briefs (PEBs) highlight poverty, shared prosperity and inequality trends for over **100 developing countries**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The Briefs help users understand a country's poverty and inequality context at-a-glance and seek to keep poverty reduction on top of the world's agenda.
- It covers 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).
- The report recognizes India's remarkable achievement of **lifting 171 million people out of extreme poverty**.
 - ◆ As per the report, India's poverty rate at the 3.65 dollars per day line fell from 61.8% in 2011-12 to 28.1% in 2022-23, **lifting 378 million people out of poverty.**

14. (C)

Exp:

Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016:

- The Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (RERA), is a significant legislation enacted by the Government of India in 2016.
- Its primary objective is to regulate the real estate sector and **promote transparency, accountability, and efficiency** in real estate transactions. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- RERA aims to protect the interests of homebuyers and promote fair practices in the real estate industry.
- The Act provides for State governments to establish **more than one regulatory authority**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **It gives the following mandate to the states:**
 - ◆ Register and maintain a database of real estate projects; publish it on its website for public viewing.
 - ◆ Protection of the interests of promoters, buyers, and real estate agents.
 - ◆ Development of sustainable and affordable housing.
 - ◆ Render advice to the government and ensure compliance with its Regulations and the Act.

15. (A)

Exp:

Digital Rights and Access to the Internet:

- The **Supreme Court of India** in the case **Amar Jain v. Union of India & Ors, 2025** ruled that **inclusive digital access to e-governance** and welfare systems is an integral part of the fundamental right to life and liberty, and issued directions to make the digital **Know Your Customer (KYC)** process more accessible for persons with disabilities (PwDs).
- In **Faheema Shirin RK v. State of Kerala (2019)**, the Kerala High Court became the **first in India to recognize the right to access the Internet** as part of the Right to Life under Article 21 and the Right to Education under Article 21A.
- In **Anuradha Bhasin v. Union of India (2020)**, the Supreme Court held that **Article 19(1)(a) protects the freedom of speech and expression** via the internet and Article 19(1)(g) safeguards the right to trade and conduct business online.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

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16. (D)

Exp:

- SECC (Socio-Economic and Caste Census) was **first conducted in 1931**, which aimed to collect information on the economic status of Indian families, both in rural and urban areas, to identify indicators of deprivation. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Census **provides a general portrait of the Indian population**, while SECC is used to identify beneficiaries of state support.
 - ◆ Census data is confidential under the **Census Act of 1948**, while personal information in SECC is open for use by government departments to grant or restrict benefits to households. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

17. (D)

Exp:

Anti-Defection Law:

- It was included in the Constitution through the **52nd Amendment Act, 1985**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It applies both to Members of Parliament and Members of the State Legislature. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ The anti-defection law punishes individual Members of Parliament (MPs)/Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) for leaving one party for another.
- The members who have been disqualified under the law are permitted to contest elections from any political party for a seat in the same House. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

18. (C)

Exp:

- Since 1951, census data have included the population of **Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs)**, and various religious groups, but members of other caste groups have not been counted. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- To include caste enumeration in the next Census, the government **does not need to amend the Census Act, 1948**. **Hence, statement II is not correct.**
 - ◆ The Registrar General and Census Commissioner (RG&CC) is already empowered under existing law to design the census proforma, the standardised forms used during the house listing and population enumeration phases to collect information from households and individuals, respectively.
- **Hence, option C is correct because Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is not correct.**

19. (A)

Exp:

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN):

- The Association of Southeast Asian Nations is a **regional organization** that was established to promote political and social stability amid rising tensions among the Asia-Pacific's post-colonial states.
- The member nations of ASEAN are Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, and Cambodia.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

20. (B)

Exp:

De-dollarisation Efforts:

- Recent initiatives for de-dollarization **include efforts to reduce reliance on the US dollar and create alternative financial systems**. Key developments are:
 - ◆ **mBridge Project:** A cross-border payment system using CBDCs, supported by China and Thailand, with the BIS reportedly withdrawing under US pressure.
 - ◆ **BRICS+ Initiatives:** Proposed financial systems like BRICS Bridge and BRICS Clear aim to establish payment and clearing systems among BRICS+ countries.
 - ◆ **Petro-Yuan Market:** The Shanghai International Energy Exchange, with growing non-dollar oil trades by Saudi Arabia and the UAE, boosts the petro-yuan as an alternative to the US dollar.
 - ◆ **BRICS Currency:** A new settlement currency, the "Unit," backed by 40% gold and 60% local currencies, was proposed at the 2024 BRICS summit to reduce reliance on the US dollar.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

21. (B)

Exp:

Farmers Producer Organisation (FPO):

- FPO is a producer organization (PO) composed of farmers, with the **Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC)** supporting its promotion. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In India, FPOs can be registered under the **Companies Act, 1956** and 2013, the Society Registration Act, 1860, or the Indian Trusts Act, 1882. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

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22. (B)

Exp:

Transshipment Ports:

- A transshipment port is one where **mother ships with larger volumes and deeper draught visit a small number of well-developed**, deeper draught and technologically efficient ports where they discharge their import containers or load export containers.
- The daughter vessels bring **export cargo from small ports to transshipment ports** for onward carriage by mother vessels, while import containers discharged by mother ships are carried by daughter vessels to various destinations.
- A gateway port is one that draws its export cargo from the primary, secondary, and tertiary hinterlands and **distributes its import cargo** to various destinations falling within its hinterland.
- In a competitive port services market, **gateway ports will be able to sustain themselves well** as they rely on the cargo traffic originating from their hinterland. Transshipment ports, on the other hand, have to **rely largely on external sources of supply**.
- Hence, option B is correct.

23. (C)

Exp:

Private Members' Bill:

- They are proposed by Members of Parliament (MPs) **who are not Ministers**, allowing them to introduce laws or amendments on issues important to their constituencies. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- MPs should draft and **submit these bills** with at least one month's notice. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **Rights of Transgender Persons Bill, 2014**, became the first private member's bill approved by the Rajya Sabha in 45 years but lapsed without reaching the Lok Sabha. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

24. (B)

Exp:

- The Indian Constitution, under **Part XVIII (Articles 352 to 360)**, provides for three types of emergencies: National Emergency (Article 352), President's Rule (Article 356), and Financial Emergency (Article 360). **Hence, statement 1 is not 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.
 - ◆ Extensions beyond one year require a National Emergency under Article 352 or an Election Commission certification that elections cannot be held in the State.
- **Article 355 mandates** that the Union Government must protect every State against external aggression and internal disturbances and ensure governance per constitutional provisions. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

25. (A)

Exp:

Critical Minerals:

- The Government launched the **National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM)** in 2025 to establish a robust framework for self-reliance in the critical mineral sector. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
 - ◆ The NCMM will adopt a **"whole-of-government" approach**, working closely with various ministries, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), private companies, and research institutions.
- Critical minerals are essential for a country's economic development and national security, and their **lack of availability or concentration** in a few geographical locations can lead to supply chain vulnerabilities. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
- The **Geological Survey of India (GSI)**, under the Ministry of Mines, follows the United Nations Framework Classification (UNFC) classification and Minerals (Evidence of Mineral Contents) (MEMC) Rules, 2015, to carry out exploration activities for critical minerals.
- **Hence, option A is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.**

26. (A)

Exp:

Zero Hour:

- Zero Hour originated in early Indian Parliament as **Members of Parliament (MPs)** sought to address constituency and national concerns informally before the lunch break, starting around 12 noon and lasting until adjournment.
 - ◆ This **led to the hour being popularly referred to as Zero Hour** and the issues being raised during this time as Zero Hour submissions.
- Zero Hour is an Indian parliamentary innovation. It is **not mentioned** in the Constitution. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

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- Zero hour commences **directly after the question hour** and extends until the commencement of the day's agenda, signifying the interval between the two. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Under this, Members of Parliament (MPs) can raise matters without any prior notice. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

27. (B)

Exp:

Public Accounts Committee (PAC):

- The PAC is a committee of selected members of Parliament, constituted by the Parliament of India, to **audit the revenue** and expenditure of the Government of India.
- The PAC was introduced in 1921 after its first mention in the Government of India Act, 1919, also called the **Montford Reforms**.
- It is **constituted every year** under Rule 308 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha.

- It presently comprises 22 members (15 members elected by the Lok Sabha Speaker, and 7 members elected by the Rajya Sabha Chairman) with a term of 1 year only.
- The Chairman of the Committee is **appointed by the Speaker of Lok Sabha**.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

28. (D)

Exp:

Ukraine:

- Ukraine is located in **eastern Europe**, the second largest on the continent after Russia.
 - ◆ Ukraine shares the border with **seven other countries**: Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Moldova, Russia, and Belarus.
- Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine, is **located on the Dnieper River** in the north-central part of the country.
- **Hence, option D is correct.**



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29. (C)

Exp:

- One of the most widely used methods to calculate GDP is the **production approach**, which estimates **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** by summing the value added at each stage of production across three sectors: primary (agriculture and allied activities), secondary (industry and manufacturing), and tertiary (services). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The value contributed by each of these sectors is referred to as **Gross Value Added (GVA)**, and GDP, through this approach, is derived as the **sum of these sectoral contributions**, adjusted by the net effect of taxes and subsidies on products.
 - ◆ In India, the **Central Statistics Office (CSO)** employs this production approach at the national level. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

30. (C)

Exp:

- Conceived as early as the 1910s, the **Bhakra-Nangal project** is among the earliest post-Independence river valley development projects.
- It **comprises two separate but complementary dams** on the **River Satluj**: the Bhakra dam in Himachal Pradesh, and the Nangal dam, some 10 km downstream, in Punjab.
 - ◆ **Bhakra Dam** is a concrete gravity dam across the Sutlej River and is near the border between Punjab and Himachal Pradesh in northern India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - Bhakra Dam is **India's second-tallest dam**, next to the Tehri Dam. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ Nangal Dam, located downstream of Bhakra Dam, is often collectively referred to as the Bhakra-Nangal Dam, though both are distinct structures. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**



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31. (B)

Exp:

Article 142:

- 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.
- Article 142 allows the Supreme Court to **go beyond the confines of existing laws** or statutes to ensure justice for all parties involved.
- It enables the Court to exercise functions beyond adjudication, including executive and legislative roles when required.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

32. (B)

Exp:

- **Insolvency** is a state where the liabilities of an individual or an organization **exceed its assets** and that entity is unable to raise enough cash to meet its obligations or debts as they become due for payment. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- **Bankruptcy** is when a person or company is **legally declared incapable** of paying their due and payable bills.
- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Act, 2021, amends the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.
 - ◆ This amendment aims to provide an efficient alternative insolvency resolution framework for corporate persons classified as micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) under the IBC, 2016. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
 - ◆ It aims to ensure quicker, cost-effective, and value-maximizing outcomes for all the stakeholders.
- **Hence, option B is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.**

33. (D)

Exp:

Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI):

- GAI is a rapidly growing branch of AI that **focuses on generating new content** (such as images, audio, text, etc.) based on patterns and rules learned from data.
- **Applications:**
 - ◆ **Art and Creativity:** It can be used to generate **new works of art** that are unique and innovative, helping artists and creatives explore new ideas and push the boundaries of traditional art forms.

- ◆ **Computer Graphics:** It can **generate new 3D models**, animations, and special effects, helping movie studios and game developers create more realistic and engaging experiences.
- ◆ **Healthcare:** By generating **new medical images** and simulations, improving the accuracy and efficiency of medical diagnoses and treatments.
- ◆ **Manufacturing and Robotics:** It can help **optimize manufacturing processes**, improving the efficiency and quality of these processes.

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

34. (A)

Exp:

Open Market Operations (OMOs):

- OMOs are **market operations conducted by RBI by way of sale/purchase of government securities** to/from the market with an objective to adjust the rupee liquidity conditions in the market on a durable basis.
- If there is excess liquidity, **RBI resorts to sale of securities** and sucks out the rupee liquidity.
- Similarly, when the **liquidity conditions are tight**, **RBI buys securities** from the market, thereby releasing liquidity into the market.
- It is one of the quantitative (to regulate or control the total volume of money) monetary policy tools which is employed by the central bank of a country to control the money supply in the economy.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

35. (A)

Exp:

Green Revolution:

- The Green Revolution significantly led to a **substantial increase in grain output**, making India one of the largest agricultural producers in the world. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
 - ◆ The Green Revolution was a major initiative that **aimed to increase the production and quality of food crops**, especially wheat and rice, in India by introducing new technologies, such as high-yielding varieties of seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, irrigation, and mechanization.
- The **Green Revolution** led to an intensive rice-wheat cropping pattern in India, driven by supportive agro-climatic conditions, resource availability, government input subsidies, and assured paddy procurement. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.**

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36. (B)

Exp:

Census:

- India's **first synchronised census** occurred in 1881 under W.C. Plowden, the then Census Commissioner of India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Census is conducted by the **Ministry of Home Affairs** through the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Census of India Act, 1948 provides the legal framework but **does not mandate a fixed frequency**, making the ten-year interval a convention rather than a constitutional obligation. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

37. (D)

Exp:

Cooperatives:

- Cooperatives are **people-centred enterprises owned, controlled, and run by and for their members** to realise their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Indian Famine Commission (1901)** led to the enactment of the first Cooperative Credit Societies Act in 1904, followed by the (amended) Cooperative Societies Act, 1912. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- According to a 2023 report by Niti Aayog, India has one of the largest cooperative movements in the world, with about 8.5 lakh cooperatives in the country, of which the share of women-only cooperatives is 2.52 %.
- The United Nations has declared 2025 the **International Year of Cooperatives** with the theme "Cooperatives Build a Better World". **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

38. (B)

Exp:

Finance Commission (FC):

- FCs are constitutional bodies set up under **Article 280 of the Constitution** every five years to make recommendations on the distribution of financial resources between the Union and the states.
- FCs play a crucial role in shaping the **fiscal federalism and development trajectory of India**. They make recommendations on how to distribute the financial resources between the Union and the states, as well as among the states, for a period of five years.
- FCs also provide **guidance and advice on various issues related to public finance**, governance and development, such as fiscal consolidation, debt management, local bodies, disaster relief, health, education, justice delivery, statistical system, etc.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

39. (C)

Exp:

Millets:

- Millets are **hardy, water-efficient crops** that grow in poor soils and are rich in fiber, protein, vitamins, and minerals. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ India grows **two groups of millets** with major millets including sorghum, pearl millet and finger millet and minor millets including foxtail, little millet, proso and barnyard millet. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations** has declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

40. (C)

Exp:

Repo Rate:

- Repo rate (Repurchase Agreement Rate) is the interest rate at which commercial banks borrow money from the central bank. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It allows banks to **borrow funds by selling securities** with an agreement to repurchase them later at a higher price, helping meet short-term liquidity needs. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- A repo rate cut reduces interest rates, making loans cheaper, lowering EMIs, and boosting borrowing and spending. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

41. (A)

Exp:

Census:

- The last detailed caste data was **recorded in the 1931 Census**. Although the 1941 Census also collected caste information, it was not published due to the onset of World War II. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ Since 1951, India's Census has included Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) data, but the caste data for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) has been largely absent.
- The Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs, **chaired by the Prime Minister**, has approved the inclusion of caste enumeration in the upcoming population census. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

42. (C)

Exp:

Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, 1969 (VCLT):

- The Convention **applies to treaties between States**, defined as written international agreements governed by international law, in one or more related instruments. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

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- India has not ratified the VCLT, yet even countries that have not ratified it generally adhere to its provisions in practice. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ Many of the VCLT's rules are considered to be customary international law, meaning they are widely recognized and followed by nations, **regardless of whether they have formally ratified the convention.**

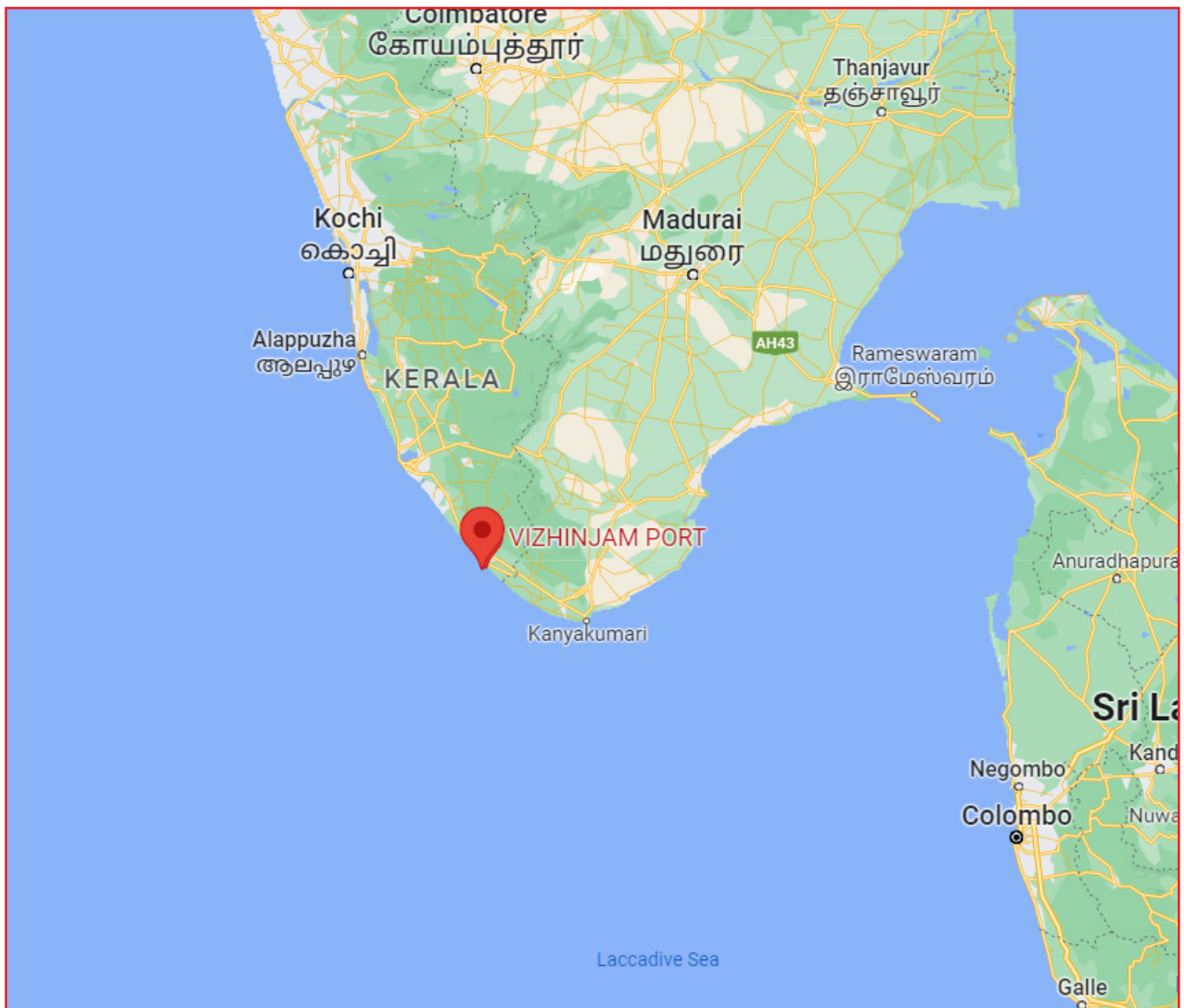
43. (B)

Exp:

Vizhinjam International Seaport:

- The Prime Minister inaugurated the Vizhinjam International Seaport (VIS) in **Kerala**, marking a significant milestone in India's maritime infrastructure.
- It is **India's first deep-water transshipment port**, designed for container and multi-purpose cargo.

- The port is developed under the **Public-Private Partnership (PPP)** on a Design, Build, Finance, Operate, and Transfer (DBFOT) basis.
- VIS, positioned just 10 nautical miles from major international shipping routes connecting Europe, the Persian Gulf, and the Far East, enhances accessibility for large vessels (depth of 18 to 20 meters).
- Vizhinjam seaport, **India's first semi-automated port**, is equipped with an AI-driven control room and the country's first Indigenous Vessel Traffic Management System (VTMS).
 - ◆ It reduces vessel turnaround times, optimizes traffic flow, and enhances capacity for large ships with real-time updates.
- The port aims to reduce India's reliance on international facilities, as 75% of transshipment cargo is currently handled abroad.



- Hence, option B is correct.

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44. (C)

Exp:

Graphics Processing Unit:

- The graphics processing unit is a **specialized processor** originally designed to accelerate graphics rendering. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- GPUs can **process many pieces of data simultaneously**, making them useful for machine learning, video editing, and gaming applications. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Bengaluru-based start-up Sarvam** is developing India's first AI Large Language Model with 4,000 GPUs provided for six months under the IndiaAI Mission. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ The government is also setting up a **high-end computing center with 18,693 Graphics Processing Units (GPUs)**, nearly 9 times more than DeepSeek and two-thirds of ChatGPT's capacity.

45. (B)

Exp:

Small Modular Reactors (SMRs):

- SMRs are **advanced nuclear reactors** with a capacity of up to 300 MW(e), about one-third of traditional reactors. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- They are **compact, factory-assembled**, and transported for installation, making them suitable for remote or space-constrained areas. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- They **require refueling every 3-7 years** as compared to 1-2 years in conventional plants. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- Easily integrated into diverse power systems and can be scaled for remote areas or urban grids.

46. (D)

Exp:

Preventive Detention:

- Laws authorising preventive detention have **existed in India since 1818**, dating back to British colonial rule. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Preventive detention means the **detention of a person without trial** and conviction by a court. Its purpose is not to punish a person for a past offence but to prevent him from committing an offence in the near future.
- The detention of a person **cannot exceed three months** unless an advisory board reports sufficient cause for extended detention.

- Article 22 protects **arrested or detained individuals**, with its two parts addressing cases under ordinary law and preventive detention law, respectively.
 - ◆ The article makes it **mandatory for preventive detention laws** to form advisory boards consisting of persons qualified to be High Court judges. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

47. (C)

Exp:

- The **Government of India Act, 1935**, created a federal structure, placing education under the provincial list. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In post-independence India, education remained a state subject.
- However, during the emergency, the **Swaran Singh Committee** recommended moving education to the concurrent list, implemented through the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act in 1976. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The 44th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1978, was an attempt to correct the changes to a certain extent.

48. (C)

Exp:

Hydrogen:

- Hydrogen makes up about **75% of the universe's mass**, but only 0.5–1.0 ppm (parts per million) of Earth's atmosphere. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Natural hydrogen**, also called geologic hydrogen or white hydrogen, refers to hydrogen gas (H₂) that is naturally produced and stored in the Earth's crust. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- India's diverse geological formations, including **ultramafic and mafic rocks**, ophiolite belts, sedimentary basins, and hydrothermal systems, indicate significant potential for natural hydrogen generation. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

49. (A)

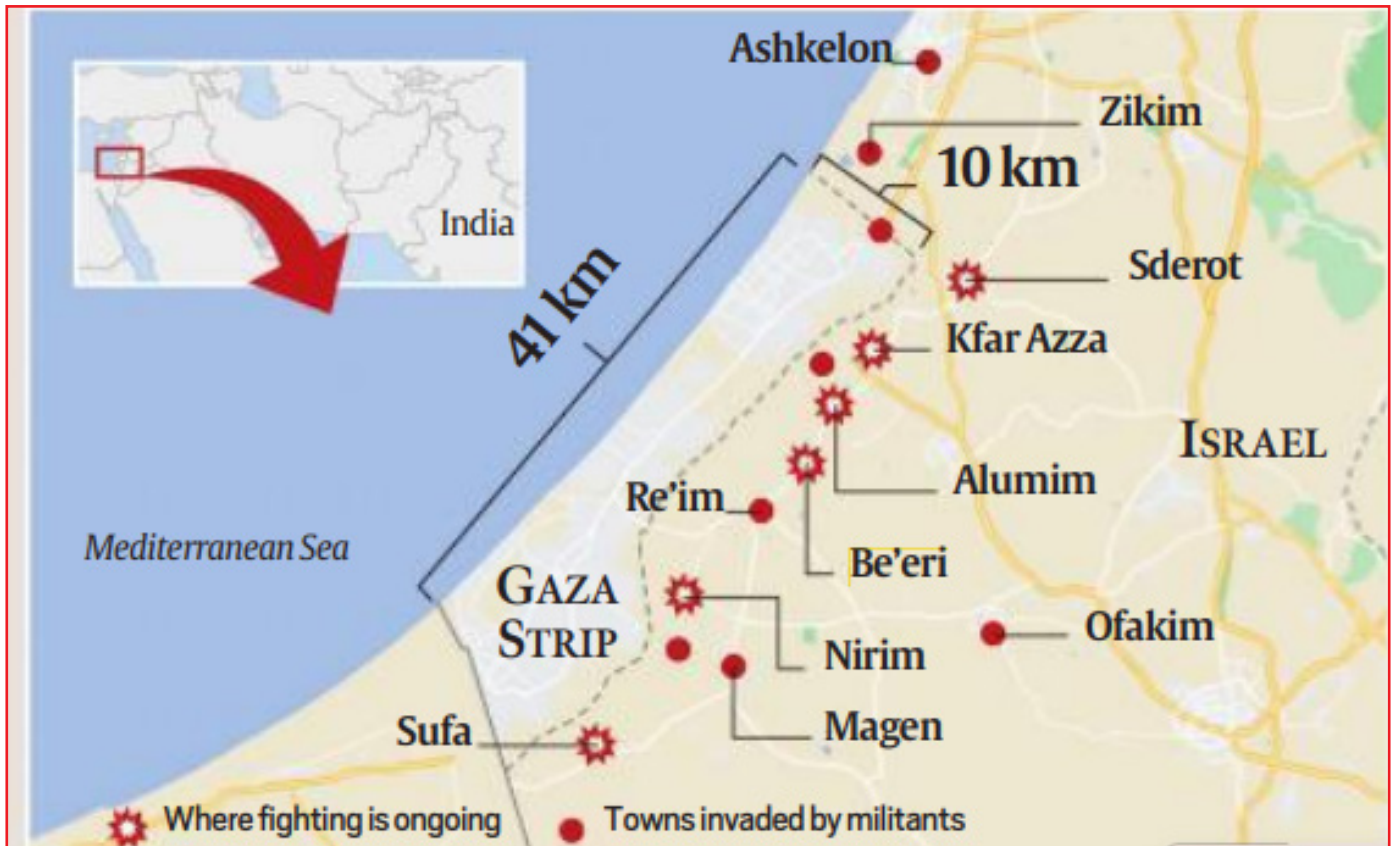
Exp:

Gaza Strip:

- It is situated in the **eastern Mediterranean basin**.
- It is bordered by Egypt to the southwest, Israel to the north and east, and the **Mediterranean Sea to the west**.
- It is one of the **most densely populated regions** in the world, housing over 2 million residents in a small area, often referred to as an "open-air prison".

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➤ Hence, option A is correct.

50. (D)

Exp:

Organisation of Islamic Cooperation:

- The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) 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**.
- The member states include **Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkey, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Yemen, and others.**
- Hence, option D is correct.

51. (B)

Exp:

UN Security Council (UNSC):

- The United Nations Security Council, formed in 1945 under the UN Charter, is one of the UN's six main organs. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

- It comprises **5 permanent** and 10 non-permanent members. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

- India's participation in the Security Council has been as a **non-permanent member during the periods** of 1950-51, 1967-68, 1972-73, 1977-78, 1984-85, 1991-92, 2011-12, and 2021-22. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct.**

52. (A)

Exp:

Operation Sindoor:

- Operation Sindoor was a **coordinated precision strike operation** launched by the Indian Armed Forces on 7th May 2025, in retaliation for the Pahalgam terror attack.
- It was executed through the **coordinated efforts of the Army, Navy, and Air Force**, conducted from Indian territory.
- Unlike past operations with aggressive names meant to project strength, this operation's name was chosen as a personal tribute to the victims, particularly the widows of the Pahalgam attack.
- Hence, option A is correct.

53. (C)

Exp:

Ethanol Blending:

- Ethanol blending refers to the **process of mixing ethanol**, a biofuel derived from plant-based sources, with petrol to create a more sustainable and cleaner-burning fuel. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

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- India's initial target of **10% blending by 2022** was achieved ahead of schedule, leading to an ambitious goal of 20% ethanol blending (E20) by 2025. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

54. (B)

Exp:

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI):

- The IBC, 2016 is the **bankruptcy law of India that consolidates and amends the existing laws** relating to insolvency and bankruptcy of corporate persons, partnership firms, and individuals.
- Established under the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016**, it is a statutory body overseeing insolvency and bankruptcy resolutions for businesses and individuals in India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The IBBI has 10 members, representing the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, and the **Reserve Bank of India**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

55. (A)

Exp:

Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC):

- The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is a **permanent, intergovernmental organisation**, established at the Baghdad Conference in 1960, by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- OPEC **aims to coordinate and unify petroleum policies** among its member countries to ensure fair and stable prices for producers, provide an efficient and regular supply of petroleum to consumers, and deliver a fair return on investment for those involved in the industry.
- **Saudi Arabia is the biggest single oil supplier** within the group, producing more than 10 million barrels daily, but the organisation is headquartered in Vienna, Austria. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

56. (C)

Exp:

Competition Commission of India (CCI):

- It is a **statutory body** responsible for enforcing the Competition Act, 2002. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 (MRTP Act) was repealed and replaced by the Competition Act, 2002, on the recommendations of the Raghavan committee.
- It consists of **one Chairperson and six Members** who shall be appointed by the Central Government. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It holds **quasi-judicial power**, providing opinions to statutory authorities and handling other cases. **Hence,**

statement 3 is correct.

57. (B)

Exp:

- India and the UK have signed an India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA), marking a significant step between the world's 5th and 6th largest economies amid ongoing global trade volatility and tariff uncertainties. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In 2024, the **UK was India's 4th largest export destination**, and India was the UK's 11th largest trading partner. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- India and the UK signed a **Double Contribution Convention Agreement** to prevent professionals from paying social security contributions in both countries. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

58. (C)

Exp:

- **Operation Riddle** was the Indian military's response to the offensive launched by Pakistan under the code names of Operation Gibraltar and **Grand Slam in 1965**. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
 - ◆ As **Pakistan violated the Line of Control (LoC)** and entered Jammu and Kashmir, India launched this operation, targeting Lahore and Kasur on September 6, 1965. The operation had a crippling effect on the Pakistan military.
- **Operation Cactus Lily**, also known as The Meghna Heli Bridge or the Crossing of the Meghna, was an air assault operation conducted in **December 1971** during the Bangladesh Liberation War. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- The Indian Army launched **Operation Meghdoot** in April 1984 to secure strategic heights on Siachen with the deployment of troops. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**
 - ◆ The IAF transported stores and troops and air-dropped supplies to high-altitude airfields, from where Mi-17, Mi-8, Chetak, and Cheetah helicopters ferried men and material to dizzying heights on the glacier.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

59. (C)

Exp:

Microfinance Institutions (MFIs):

- Microfinance refers to **providing financial services**, including small-value loans, to households, small businesses, and entrepreneurs who lack access to formal banking services.
- It is an effective tool for financial inclusion, enabling marginalized and low-income groups, particularly women, to achieve social equity and empowerment.

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- They are financial **companies that provide small loans** to people who do not have any access to banking facilities. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** included microfinance within the priority sector, recognizing MFIs as a tool for financial inclusion. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) regulates MFIs in India through the **Non-Banking Financial Company-Micro Finance Institutions (NBFC-MFIs)** framework. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

60. (B)

Exp:

CRISPR Cas9 Technology:

- CRISPR-Cas9 is a groundbreaking technology that empowers geneticists and medical researchers to modify specific **portions of the genome.**
- This is achieved through the precise removal, addition, or modification of segments within the DNA sequence.
- The CRISPR-Cas9 system involves two important components that bring about changes or mutations in DNA. These components are:
 - ◆ An **enzyme known as Cas9**, that acts like a pair of precision “molecular scissors.”

- ◆ **Cas9 has the ability to cut the two strands of DNA** at a specific spot within the genome. This precise cutting enables the addition or removal of segments of DNA.

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

61. (D)

Exp:

Strait of Hormuz:

- The strait is located at the **mouth of the Persian Gulf** and is crucial to global energy supplies, with about a fifth of all oil traded at sea passing through it. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The waterway **separates Iran and Oman**, linking the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **Strait is 33 km wide** at its narrowest point, but the shipping lane is just three km wide in either direction.
- Most crude exported from Saudi Arabia, Iran, the UAE, Kuwait, and Iraq – all members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) – is shipped through this waterway.
- It is also the **route used for nearly all the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)** produced by the world’s biggest LNG exporter, Qatar.



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62. (B)

Exp:

- It is the **global money laundering** and terrorist financing watchdog set up in 1989 out of a G-7 meeting of developed nations in Paris. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Indonesia** has been a member of the FATF since 2023. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The “**grey list**” of **FATF** includes countries with weaknesses in their Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) regime. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ To be pulled out of the grey list, a country has to fulfill the tasks recommended by the FATF, for instance, **confiscating the properties of individuals** associated with terrorist groups.
 - ◆ If the FATF is satisfied with the progress, it removes the country from the list.

63. (D)

Exp:

Biofuels:

- Any hydrocarbon fuel that is **produced from an organic matter** (living or once living material) in a short period of time (days, weeks, or even months) is considered a biofuel.
- **First-generation biofuels** are produced from food sources like sugar, starch, vegetable oil, or animal fats using traditional technology, including bioalcohols, biodiesel, vegetable oil, bioethers, and biogas. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- **Second-generation biofuels** are made from non-food crops or inedible crop parts, using thermochemical or biochemical processes, like cellulose ethanol and biodiesel. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- **Third-generation biofuels** are produced from microorganisms like algae, which can be cultivated using non-arable land and water, reducing pressure on depleted water sources. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**
- **Fourth-generation biofuels** are produced by growing genetically engineered crops that absorb high amounts of carbon, which are then converted into fuel using second-generation techniques. **Hence, pair 4 is correctly matched.**
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

64. (A)

Exp:

Gene Editing:

- Gene Editing is a technology that **allows for the precise modification** of the genetic material (DNA or RNA) of an organism. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- Gene Editing involves the **use of specialised tools to add, remove, or alter specific DNA sequences** within a genome. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
- **CRISPR-Cas9** (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats) is the most widely used and versatile gene editing tool.
- **Hence, option A is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement I.**

65. (C)

Exp:

- The **National Security Council (NSC)**, headed by the Prime Minister, is the apex body for national security management in India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Cabinet Secretary** chairs the Strategic Policy Group (SPG) and makes policy recommendations to the NSC. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **National Security Advisory Board (NSAB)** provides long-term analysis and policy recommendations on national security issues and includes senior retired officials, academics, and experts from civil society. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

66. (B)

Exp:

Marshall Plan:

- In the **immediate post-World War II period**, Europe remained ravaged by war and thus susceptible to exploitation by an internal and external Communist threat.
- Fanned by the fear of Communist expansion and the rapid deterioration of European economies in the winter of 1946–1947, Congress passed the **Economic Cooperation Act in March 1948** and approved funding that would eventually rise to over USD 12 billion for the rebuilding of Western Europe.

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- The Marshall Plan generated a **resurgence of European industrialization** and brought extensive investment into the region. It was also a stimulant to the US economy by establishing markets for American goods.

➤ Hence, option B is correct.

67. (D)

Exp:

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO):

- NATO, formed in 1949, is an **intergovernmental military alliance** aimed at providing collective defense, primarily against Soviet Union aggression during the Cold War. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The United States was **one of the original 12 founding members** of NATO. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
 - ◆ The original 12 founding members of NATO were Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- NATO maintains **integrated military forces**, allowing member countries to contribute personnel and assets to collective defence efforts under NATO command. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

68. (B)

Exp:

- **Money laundering** is concealing or disguising the identity of illegally obtained proceeds so that they appear to have originated from legitimate sources. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) categorises member countries **into four groups**: regular follow-up, enhanced follow-up, grey list, and black list. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
 - ◆ Regular follow-up is the top category amongst 4, and only 5 countries in the G20, including India, have been placed in regular follow-up after the Mutual evaluation report.
 - ◆ India has been classified into the 'regular follow-up' category, joining Russia, France, Italy, and the UK, also designated in this category.
- India has ratified various UN Conventions related to combating terrorism and money laundering, such as

the **UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC)** and its protocols. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

69. (D)

Exp:

Applications of Critical Minerals:

- Critical minerals are those **vital for a country's economy** and national security, with their supply chains potentially vulnerable to disruption.
- Critical minerals such as silicon, tellurium, indium, and gallium are vital for the production of **photovoltaic (PV) cells** used in solar panels.
- Rare earth elements like dysprosium and neodymium are used in **permanent magnets for wind turbines**.
- Lithium, nickel, and cobalt are key materials used in **lithium-ion batteries**.
- Hence, option D is correct.

70. (B)

Exp:

Kharif Crops:

- Kharif crops are the crops that are **sown in the rainy season**, usually beginning in June with the onset of the southwest monsoon, while the crop marketing season will run from October 2024 to September 2025. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
 - ◆ Some of the major kharif crops are paddy, maize, millets, pulses, oilseeds, cotton, and sugarcane.
- Kharif crops account for **about 55% of the total foodgrain** production in India. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

71. (C)

Exp:

Heat Wave:

- A heat wave in India refers to a period of **unusually high temperatures**, typically occurring from March to June, and sometimes extending into July. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- A **notified disaster** is one that has been officially recognised by the government, typically defined in a legal framework like the **Disaster Management Act, of 2005**.

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- ◆ Currently, 13 categories of disasters are notified under this Act. These include cyclones, drought, earthquakes, fire, flood, tsunami, hailstorm, landslide, avalanche, cloudburst, pest attack, frost and cold waves. and Covid 19.

◆ Heatwave is not a notified disaster. **Hence, statement II is correct.**

- Hence, option C is correct because Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect.

72. (C)

Exp:

- Section 20(2) of the **Telecommunications Act, 2023** empowers the Centre or states to temporarily take control of telecom services or networks during public emergencies, disasters, or for public safety. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Rule 419(A) of the **Indian Telegraph Rules, 2007** mandates government authorization for lawful communication interception. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Section 69 of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000** and the Interception Rules, 2009 allow the government to monitor, intercept, or decrypt any information through a computer resource. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023 is a **comprehensive privacy and data protection law** that includes provisions regarding consent, legitimate uses, breaches, data fiduciary and processor responsibilities, and individuals' rights over their data.

73. (A)

Exp:

Financial Action Task Force (FATF):

- The FATF is commonly referred to as the **world's "terrorism financing watchdog"**, which means it is the **author and custodian of an international regime** that works to ensure that the flows of money in the global financial system are not misused to fund terrorist activities.
- It **maintains a "grey list" of countries** that it watches closely, including the ones who have failed to prevent international money laundering and terrorist financing.
- Currently, it includes Nepal, Lebanon, South Africa, Syria, and Vietnam, among others.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

74. (C)

Exp:

Zinc:

- Zinc, long valued for its **anti-corrosive properties**, is finding increasing applications in various areas, including renewable energy infrastructure.
- ◆ Zinc coatings **extend the lifespan of wind turbines** and solar structures by preventing rust formation, reducing maintenance needs, and corresponding costs. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Beyond galvanisation, Zinc is also **emerging as a crucial metal for energy storage** – a key component of the global energy transition. While lithium has historically been the preferred mineral for energy storage, **Zinc-based batteries can offer an alternative, owing to their safety**, cost-efficiency, and resource availability. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Zinc batteries are more stable and less prone to fire or explosion hazards**, making them safer for a variety of applications.
- ◆ They offer several advantages, like **providing long storage durations ranging from 3 to 72 hours**, operating effectively across a wide temperature range, and offering a projected lifespan of up to 20 years.

75. (C)

Exp:

- The **Baglihar Dam** is located on the Chenab River. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- The **Kishanganga Dam** is built on the Jhelum River. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- The **Bhakra Nangal Dam** is constructed on the Sutlej River. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**
- All these dams are significant for their role in water management and electricity generation in their respective regions.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

76. (D)

Exp:

Human Development Report 2025:

- India has been ranked 130th out of 193 countries and territories in the 2025 Human Development Report (HDR), titled "A Matter of Choice: People and Possibilities in the Age of AI", released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

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- India remains in the “**medium human development**” category, though it is approaching the threshold for “high human development” ($HDI \geq 0.700$). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

◆ The “medium human development” category, as defined by the Human Development Index (HDI), is a classification for countries with an **HDI value between 0.550 and 0.699.**

- India’s life expectancy rose from **58.6 years in 1990 to 72 years in 2023**, the highest ever, reflecting a strong post-pandemic recovery. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

◆ This progress is attributed to national health programs like the National Health Mission, Ayushman Bharat, Janani Suraksha Yojana, and Poshan Abhiyaan.

77. (B)

Exp:

National Defence Fund (NDF):

- It was set up in 1962 to **take charge of voluntary donations** in cash and kind received for the promotion of the national defence effort, and to decide on their utilisation.
- ◆ The fund is **entirely dependent on voluntary contributions** from the public and does not get any budgetary support. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Fund is used for the welfare of the members of the Armed Forces (including Paramilitary Forces) and their dependents.
- All contributions towards NDF are exempt **under section 80(G) of the Income Tax, 1961.** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

78. (D)

Exp:

International Monetary Fund (IMF):

- **Established:** 1944 (UN Bretton Woods Conference, following the Great Depression of the 1930s)
- **Headquarters:** Washington, DC, USA
- **Functions:**
 - ◆ Global financial assistance
 - ◆ Facilitate international trade
 - ◆ Provide financing for developing countries
 - ◆ Promote exchange rate stability

- **Member States:** 191 (India is a founding member)
- **India’s Representation:** India’s Finance Minister (FM) is the ex-officio Governor on the IMF Board of Governors.
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

79. (A)

Exp:

The “Unwilling or Unable” Doctrine:

- The “unwilling or unable” doctrine in **international law allows the use of force in self-defense against non-state actors** operating from another state’s territory when that state cannot neutralize the threat.
- The US has utilized this doctrine to justify military actions, such as the 2011 operation against Osama bin Laden in Pakistan and the 2014 airstrikes on ISIS in Syria.
- Countries like China, Mexico, and Russia criticize this doctrine, arguing that **it violates the sovereignty of host states** and undermines the UN’s collective security framework.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

80. (C)

Exp:

National Critical Mineral Mission

- The Union Cabinet approved the launch of the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) with an expenditure of Rs 16,300 crore in January 2025.
- ◆ It aims to secure India’s critical mineral supply chain by ensuring mineral availability from domestic and foreign sources.
- The NCMM will adopt a “**whole-of-government**” approach, working closely with various ministries, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), private companies, and research institutions. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The mission’s activities are coordinated by an **Empowered Committee**, chaired by the Cabinet Secretary and including members from relevant stakeholder ministries. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Ministry of Mines is the administrative Ministry of the mission. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

81. (A)

Exp:

Design Law Treaty (DLT):

- DLT is proposed as a comprehensive framework to **streamline and facilitate the protection of industrial designs worldwide.**

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- Its objective is to **create a predictable and accessible system** that eliminates unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles and offers greater ease for designers to protect their intellectual property.
- Hence, option A is correct.

82. (A)

Exp:

Particulate Matter (PM):

- Airborne particulate matter (PM) is not a single pollutant, but rather is a **mixture of many chemical species**.
 - ◆ It is a **complex mixture of solids** and aerosols composed of small droplets of liquid, dry solid fragments, and solid cores with liquid coatings. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- PM can come **directly from sources (primary particles)** or form in the air from gases like sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and organic compounds, which can be emitted by **both natural sources (like trees)** and human activities (like factories and car exhaust). Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- Small particles less than 10 micrometers in diameter pose the greatest problems because they can **get deep into the lungs**, and some may even get into the bloodstream. Particle pollution exposure has been linked to a variety of problems, including irregular heartbeat, aggravated asthma, decreased lung function, and increased respiratory symptoms, such as irritation of the airways, coughing, or difficulty breathing.

83. (C)

Exp:

- **Operation Cactus Lily (1971 Indo-Pak War):** It was an air assault operation by the Indian Army and Air Force during the Bangladesh Liberation War. Hence, pair 1 is correctly corrected.
- **Operation Vijay (1999):** It was India's military operation to reclaim territory occupied by Pakistani forces during the Kargil War. Hence, pair 2 is correctly corrected.
- **Operation Sindoor (2025):** India launched **Operation Sindoor** in retaliation for the April 2025 Pahalgam terrorist attack, targeting 9 terrorist infrastructure sites in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK). Hence, pair 3 is correctly corrected.
- Hence, option C is correct.

84. (A)

Exp:

- The **Supreme Court (SC)** of India in the case **Amar Jain v. Union of India & Ors, 2025** ruled that **inclusive digital access to e-governance** and welfare systems is an integral part of the fundamental right to life and liberty. Hence, statement I is correct.
- The internet is essential for education, employment, governance, and social inclusion, shaping 21st-century citizenship through access to welfare, jobs, online learning, and free speech. Hence, statement II is correct.
- Hence, option A is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement I.

85. (B)

Exp:

International Monetary Fund (IMF) Programs:

- **Extended Fund Facility (EFF):** The EFF is an International Monetary Fund (IMF) program **designed to assist countries** experiencing medium-term economic problems due to structural weaknesses.
- **Stand-By Arrangements (SBAs):** SBAs are short- to medium-term financial assistance programs provided by the IMF to member countries **facing short-term balance of payments problems**.
- **Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs):** SAPs are economic policies and **financial assistance programs** initiated by the IMF and World Bank to help countries stabilize their economies, reduce fiscal imbalances, and implement structural economic reforms.
- Hence, option B is correct.

86. (D)

Exp:

- Iran is bounded to the north by **Azerbaijan, Armenia, Turkmenistan**, and the Caspian Sea, to the east by **Pakistan** and Afghanistan, to the south by the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, and to the west by Turkey and Iraq.
- Iran also controls about a dozen islands in the Persian Gulf. About one-third of its 4,770-mile (7,680-km) boundary is **seacoast**.

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➤ Hence, option D is correct.

87. (D)

Exp:

BharatTradeNet:

- **BharatTradeNet (BTN)** is a **unified trade documentation** and financing platform integrated into the India Stack, alongside UPI, Aadhaar, and DigiLocker. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It **replaces paper-based processes** by connecting stakeholders like customs, banks, and exporters on a unified digital platform. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

88. (A)

Exp:

- The **World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)** is one of the oldest specialized United Nations agencies, established in 1967 to promote creative activity and protect intellectual property globally.
- India joined WIPO in 1975. **India is also a member of the following important WIPO-administered International Treaties and Conventions relating to IPRs:**
 - ◆ **Budapest Treaty, 2001**, on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganisms for the Purposes of Patent Procedure

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- ◆ **Paris Convention 1998**, for the Protection of Industrial Property
- ◆ **Berne Convention, 1928**, for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works

➤ Hence, option A is correct.

89. (C)

Exp:

Education:

- Education, initially a state subject under the **Government of India Act 1935**, was moved to the Concurrent List during the 42nd Constitutional Amendment in 1976. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The **Eighty-sixth Amendment Constitution Act, 2002**, made the Right to Education a fundamental right under Article 21A for children aged 6-14 years. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- It added **Article 21A under Fundamental Rights**, making education a fundamental right for children aged six to fourteen, mandating free and compulsory education.
- Later, Parliament passed the Right to Education Act, 2009, enforcing RTE as a fundamental right under Article 21-A.

90. (A)

Exp:

University Grants Commission (UGC):

- India's first effort to establish a national education system began with the **1944 Sargent Report**, which recommended creating a University Grants Committee.
- Formed in 1945, the committee initially supervised Aligarh, Banaras, and Delhi universities. By 1947, its scope expanded to include all existing universities.
- In 1948, the **University Education Commission, led by Dr. S. Radhakrishnan**, recommended its restructuring based on the UK model.
- In 1952, the Union Government designated the University Grants Commission (UGC) to oversee grants for Central Universities and higher education institutions.
- Established as a statutory body in 1956, it **assesses universities' financial needs**, allocates grants, and recommends improvements in higher education.
- It is the **only grant-giving agency** in the country responsible for both providing funds and coordinating, determining, and maintaining standards in higher education institutions.
- Hence, option A is correct.

91. (C)

Exp:

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is a statutory body established in 1992 to protect investors' interests and regulate the securities market. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- ◆ It oversees stock exchanges, market intermediaries, and investor protection, ensuring market transparency and efficiency.
- Before SEBI's establishment, the **Controller of Capital Issues** regulated capital markets under the Capital Issues (Control) Act, 1947. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- The **Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT)** was established to safeguard the interests of those affected by SEBI's decisions, with a Presiding Officer and two Members. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

92. (D)

Exp:

UN Charter 1945:

- The UN Charter, as the foundational treaty of the United Nations, is an instrument of international law binding all Member States. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The UN is an international organization founded in 1945. It is currently made up of 193 Member States.
- Its mission and work are guided by the **purposes and principles** contained in its founding Charter and implemented by its various organs and specialised agencies.
- ◆ Its activities include **maintaining international peace and security**, protecting human rights, delivering humanitarian aid, promoting sustainable development, and upholding international law.
- The **General Assembly is the primary policymaking** and representative body of the UN, with all 193 Member States represented, ensuring universal participation. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- **Article 51** of the UN Charter allows for a response in self-defense. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

93. (B)

Exp:

Integrated Air Command and Control System (IACCS):

- IACCS, developed by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), a public sector aerospace and defense electronics company, is an **automated command and control system**.

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- It integrates data from various air defense assets, such as ground-based radar, airborne sensors, civilian radar, communication nodes, and the command and control centers of the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- The overlapping radar and radio data coverage of the IACCS helps in **effective airspace management and reduces redundancy**.
- Hence, option B is correct.

94. (A)

Exp:

Large Language Models (LLMs):

- LLMs are large, general-purpose language models capable of solving common language problems such as text classification, question answering, and text generation.
- These models are trained on massive datasets to understand patterns, structures, and relationships within human language.
- **Types of Large Language Models (LLMs) Based on Architecture:**
 - ◆ **Autoregressive Models:** Predict the next word in a sequence based on previous words. Example: GPT-3.
 - ◆ **Transformer-based Models:** Utilise a specific artificial neural network architecture for language processing. Examples: LaMDA, Gemini (formerly Bard).
 - ◆ **Encoder-decoder Models:** Encode input text into a representation and then decode it into another language or format.
- Hence, option A is correct.

95. (A)

Exp:

Heat Waves:

- A Heat Wave is a **period of abnormally high temperatures** that occurs during the summer season in India.
 - ◆ Heat Waves typically occur between March and June, and in rare cases extend till July.
- It is **not a notified disaster** under the Disaster Management (DM) Act of 2005. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
 - ◆ India's recent heatwave crisis has resurfaced the debate about adding heat waves to the list of notified disasters covered by the Disaster Management (DM) Act of 2005, instead of only a natural disaster.
- **Odisha** was the first state to develop a Heat Action Plan in 1999 following more than 2,000 Heat Wave deaths in 1998. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

96. (C)

Exp:

Inflation:

- Core inflation excludes volatile items like food, beverages, vegetables, and fuel (including crude oil) from the basket used to track headline inflation. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The **Urjit Patel Committee (2013)** recommended CPI (Consumer Price Index) over WPI (Wholesale Price Index) as a measure for inflation targeting. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The current inflation target aligns with the committee's recommendation to establish a target inflation rate of 4%, accompanied by an acceptable range of deviation of +/- 2%. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

97. (B)

Exp:

BrahMos:

- BrahMos is a **two-stage supersonic cruise missile** designed for high precision and speed. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- It features a **solid-propellant booster in the first stage**, followed by a liquid-fuelled ramjet in the second stage that sustains a cruise speed of Mach 3 (three times the speed of sound), making it one of the fastest cruise missiles in the world. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- It has been developed by **BrahMos Aerospace**, a joint venture between India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) (50.5%) and Russia's NPO Mashinostroyeniya (NPOM) (49.5%). Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
- BrahMos' range has evolved from 290 km to 350 km, with future versions aiming for up to 800 km and hypersonic speeds (Mach 5+).
 - ◆ BrahMos is **three times faster, 2.5 times longer in range**, and has a higher seeker range than subsonic missiles, resulting in greater accuracy and nine times more kinetic energy.

98. (B)

Exp:

Phillips Curve:

- The Phillips Curve is an economic theory that **explains the inverse relationship between an economy's unemployment rate and inflation rate**, as initially suggested by A.W. Phillips in the 1950s.

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- The Phillips Curve originally **depicted a stable and predictable trade-off** between inflation and unemployment, suggesting that policymakers could target lower unemployment at the cost of higher inflation, or vice versa.
- However, this relationship was later **challenged during the 1970s stagflation**, when both high inflation and high unemployment occurred simultaneously, indicating the curve's limitations in the long run.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

99. (B)

Exp:

National Defence Fund:

- It was **set up in 1962** to provide for the welfare of members of the Armed Forces (including Paramilitary Forces) and their dependents. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The fund is administered by an Executive Committee with the **Prime Minister as its Chairperson** and the Home Minister, Defence Minister, and Finance Minister as its Members. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Finance Minister is the **treasurer of the fund**, as per an Office Memorandum issued by the Prime Minister's Office in October 2016. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

100. (A)

Exp:

Global Methane Pledge:

- It was launched at COP (Conference of Parties) 26 in November 2021 to catalyse action to reduce methane emissions. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Countries joining the Pledge **commit to collectively reducing methane emissions** by at least 30% below 2020 levels by 2030. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **India, which is not a part of the Global Methane Pledge**, is among the top five methane emitters globally. Most emissions can be traced back to agriculture. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ It was led by the United States and the European Union.

101. (C)

Exp:

- The **GDP price deflator** measures the change in the value of all of the goods and services produced in an economy when inflation is taken into account. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- A **base year** is a **reference point used to calculate and compare GDP figures** for other years, providing stability and a benchmark for measuring economic performance over time. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ **For example, the Consumer Price Index (CPI)** uses 2012 as the base year.

102. (D)

Exp:

Competition Commission of India:

- It is a **statutory body** established under the Competition Act, 2002, to promote fair competition in the market and prevent anti-competitive practices. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is a multi-member body consisting of a **Chairperson and six members** appointed by the Central Government. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ The Chairperson and other Members shall be whole-time Members.
- The members are drawn from various fields, including law, economics, business administration, and public affairs.
- The Commission operates through various divisions and employs a team of professionals to carry out its functions effectively.

103. (C)

Exp:

- A Supreme Court judge is appointed by the **President under Article 124 (2)** of the Constitution. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ CJI (along with a collegium of four senior-most judges of the SC) is consulted by the President for the appointment of judges in the SC and the High Court.
 - ◆ CJI appoints ad-hoc SC judges under Article 127 of the Constitution.
- As per the convention, the **senior-most judge of the Supreme Court** is designated as the Chief Justice of India (CJI). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The CJI, with the President's approval, can move the Supreme Court from Delhi to any other location. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- As the "Master of the Roster," **the CJI holds the authority to assign specific cases to particular benches** and determine the schedule for their hearings in the Supreme Court.

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104. (A)

Exp:

S-400 Triumph:

- The S-400 Triumph, **developed by Russia**, is one of the world's most advanced long-range surface-to-air missile (SAM) systems.
 - ◆ It is designed for **multi-layered air defence**, it can intercept a wide range of aerial threats, including aircraft, ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, drones, and stealth targets.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

105. (B)

Exp:

Akashteer:

- It is an **indigenous Artificial Intelligence-powered Air Defence System** which is designed and manufactured jointly by the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO), Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).
- It gathers data from **multiple sources**, **processes** it, and then allows for automated and real-time engagement decisions.
- It is part of the broader **C4ISR (Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance) framework** and works in coordination with other systems like ISRO satellites and Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (NAVIC) GPS.
- Its technology allows for monitoring of low-level airspace in battle areas and efficient control of **Ground-Based Air Defence Weapon Systems**.

- It is capable of intercepting and neutralising hostile UAVs without detection, using no active radar signatures. It relied entirely on stealth drone tracking, satellite surveillance, and AI-based decision-making.
- India is now the **first non-Western nation** to successfully integrate its autonomous drone swarms, indigenous satellite surveillance, and AI battlefield coordination into a single, real-time combat platform.
- A vehicle-based system, **Akashteer functions** autonomously, with drones capable of altering flight paths, selecting targets, and coordinating strikes without operator input.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

106. (A)

Exp:

Police Reforms Committee:

- The **Gore Committee (1971)**, the **Ribeiro Committee (1998)**, and the **Padmanabhaiah Committee (2000)** are often seen in the news in the context of police reforms.
- After independence, India retained the colonial policing structure, leading to inefficiencies, corruption, and public distrust.
 - ◆ The **Gore Committee (1971)** recommended a shift towards professional, service-oriented policing.
- The **Ribeiro Committee (1998)** and the **Padmanabhaiah Committee (2000)** reinforced earlier recommendations, advocating for independent oversight bodies, modern training, and community policing.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

107. (B)

Exp:

Sects/Tribes and their Regions:

- Over a thousand people have died in Syria as the **new government targets civilian Alawites**, seen as loyal to the ousted Alawite-led Assad regime.
 - ◆ Alawites make up about **12% of the Syrian population** and primarily live in the coastal region. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
 - ◆ Historically, the multitude of beliefs and practices has led to the community facing persecution from a range of religious movements and groups, from the Christian Crusaders to the Ottomans from Turkey.

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- **Kurds are one of the Middle East's largest ethnic groups** of between 25 and 35 million people, but without a state. Most of the Kurdish population sits in the geopolitical fault lines of regional powers like Iraq, Turkey, Syria, and Iran.

◆ **Turkey has the largest Kurdish population** (estimated at 43%), followed by Iran (31%), Iraq (18%), Syria (6%), and the former Soviet Union which includes Armenia and Azerbaijan (estimated to be 2%). **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**

- Recently in **New Zealand, the Indigenous Māori** and their tribes gained prominence amid controversy over a bill proposing to redefine the Treaty of Waitangi, sparking protests and concerns about Māori rights. **Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.**

➤ **Hence, option B is correct.**

108. (B)

Exp:

Reverse Flipping:

- Reverse flipping is a **corporate restructuring process** that allows all shareholders and investors of a **start-up to hold their equity directly in the Indian flagship company**, instead of through a foreign holding company. This Indian entity can potentially be listed on Indian stock exchanges.
- Over the past decade, many Indian start-ups established their holding companies abroad—commonly in the US or Singapore—motivated by factors such as foreign investor preferences, access to overseas stock markets, regulatory flexibility, and tax benefits.
- With the growth of India's start-up ecosystem and the successful domestic Initial Public Offering (IPOs) of several start-ups, many India-centric companies are now keen to pursue public listings within India, driving the adoption of reverse flipping structures.

➤ **Hence, option B is correct.**

109. (C)

Exp:

National Population Register (NPR):

- The **National Population Register (NPR)** was a Register for the residents of India.
- It was prepared at the local (Village/sub-Town), sub-District, District, State, and National level under provisions of the **Citizenship Act 1955** and the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003.

- It was **mandatory for every resident** of India to register in the NPR.

- The objective of the NPR was to create a comprehensive identity database of every resident in the country.

◆ However, unlike the National Register of Citizens (NRC), **the NPR is not a citizenship enumeration drive** as it records even a foreigner staying in a locality for more than six months.

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

110. (B)

Exp:

- The Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) goals are a set of standards for a company's operations that force companies to follow better governance, ethical practices, environment-friendly measures, and social responsibility. **Hence, statement I is correct.**

- **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** revised the **Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) framework**, allowing for optional core disclosure verification now, mandatory for top 500 firms from Financial Year 2025-2026. **Hence, statement II is correct.**

◆ Mandatory third-party verification will begin with the top 500 listed companies in FY26, expanding to the top 1,000 in FY27

- Although the circular relaxes some strict **BRSR core disclosure rules**, SEBI's approach is praiseworthy considering global trends in sustainability reporting and its role as a developing market regulator.

- Hence, option B is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.

111. (D)

Exp:

Quantum Computers:

- They operate using "qubits" (quantum bits), which determine the behavior of matter at the atomic scale. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- Qubits can **simultaneously represent 0 and 1** through quantum superposition, enabling quantum computers to theoretically perform parallel computations like multiple classical computers. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- **Entanglement occurs when two qubits** exist in a shared quantum state, such that a change in the state of one qubit instantaneously affects the other, regardless of the distance between them. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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- **Decoherence** is the process in which quantum particles and systems can decay, collapse, or change, converting into single states measurable by classical physics.
- Quantum interference **allows particles (such as qubits)** to be in multiple positions simultaneously due to superposition.

112. (C)

Exp:

Project Kusha:

- Project Kusha, led by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** is an ambitious defence initiative by India aimed at developing its long-range air defence system by 2028-29. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It will be capable of **detecting and destroying enemy** projectiles and armour, including cruise missiles, stealth fighter jets, and drones at long range. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It will **consist of three types of interceptor missiles**, with ranges of 150 km, 250 km, and 350 km, and advanced long-range surveillance and fire control radars. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- It is **expected to rival the effectiveness** of the renowned S-400 system of Russia and the Iron Dome system of Israel.

113. (C)

Exp:

Total Fertility Rate (TFR):

- It is the **average number of children a group of women** would have by the end of their reproductive years (ages 15 to 49) if they **followed the current fertility rates** throughout their lives, assuming no mortality. It is expressed as children per woman. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ As per the **National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5)** (2019-21), the TFR has declined to 2.0 children per woman from 2.2 children per woman (NFHS-4) (2015-16).
- A **TFR of 2.1 is considered the replacement level**, where each generation replaces itself without significant population growth or decline. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- A TFR lower than 2.1 can **lead to negative population growth**, potentially causing long-term demographic challenges, including an ageing population. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

114. (B)

Exp:

6G Technology:

- 6G will **deliver terabit-per-second speeds**, sub-millisecond latency, intelligent self-healing networks, and extensive

volumetric connectivity spanning from underwater to aerospace. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- **Bharat 6G Alliance** is an industry-led body, facilitated by the government, that provides a **collaborative platform to various technology** stakeholders comprising public/private companies, academia, research institutions, and Standard Development organizations. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **In Japan, the Integrated Optical and Wireless Network (IOWN) Forum** has published its Vision 2030 white paper for 6G, which laid out key technology directions for infrastructure evolution in four dimensions: cognitive capacity, responsiveness, scalability, and energy efficiency. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The Indian government has set up a **Bharat 6G project and appointed an apex council to oversee the project** and focus on issues such as standardisation, identification of the spectrum for 6G usage, creating an ecosystem for devices and systems, and figuring out finances for research and development, among other things.
 - ◆ The **apex council will facilitate and finance research and development, design and development of 6G technologies by Indian start-ups**, companies, research bodies, and universities.

115. (C)

Exp:

Golan Heights:

- The Golan Heights is a **1,200-square-kilometre rocky plateau** in southwestern Syria, overlooking the Jordan River Valley. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Golan is bounded by Mount Hermon (north), the Yarmūk River (south), the Jordan River and Sea of Galilee (west), and the seasonal Wadi Al-Ruqqād (east). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The area is a key **source of water for an arid region**. Rainwater from the Golan's catchment feeds into the Jordan River.
- **Israel captured most of the Golan Heights from Syria** in the 1967 Six-Day War. Syria's attempt to retake it during the 1973 war failed.
- In 1974, Israel and Syria signed the Agreement on Disengagement, which established a ceasefire following the Yom Kippur War.

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116. (C)

Exp:

- India had successfully flushed out **Valley-Based Insurgent Groups (VBIGs)** from their safe havens in the valley areas of Manipur in **Operation All-Clear (2004)**. Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.
- **Operation Black Forest (2025)** refers to a 21-day, **intensive counterinsurgency campaign** focused on dismantling Maoist bases within the densely forested and hilly region of Kurraguttalu Hills (KGH), which extends over roughly 1,200 square kilometers along the border between Chhattisgarh and Telangana. Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.
- **Operation Cactus Lily (1971 Indo-Pak War)** was an air assault operation by the Indian Army and Air Force during the Bangladesh Liberation War. Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.
- Hence, option C is correct.

117. (C)

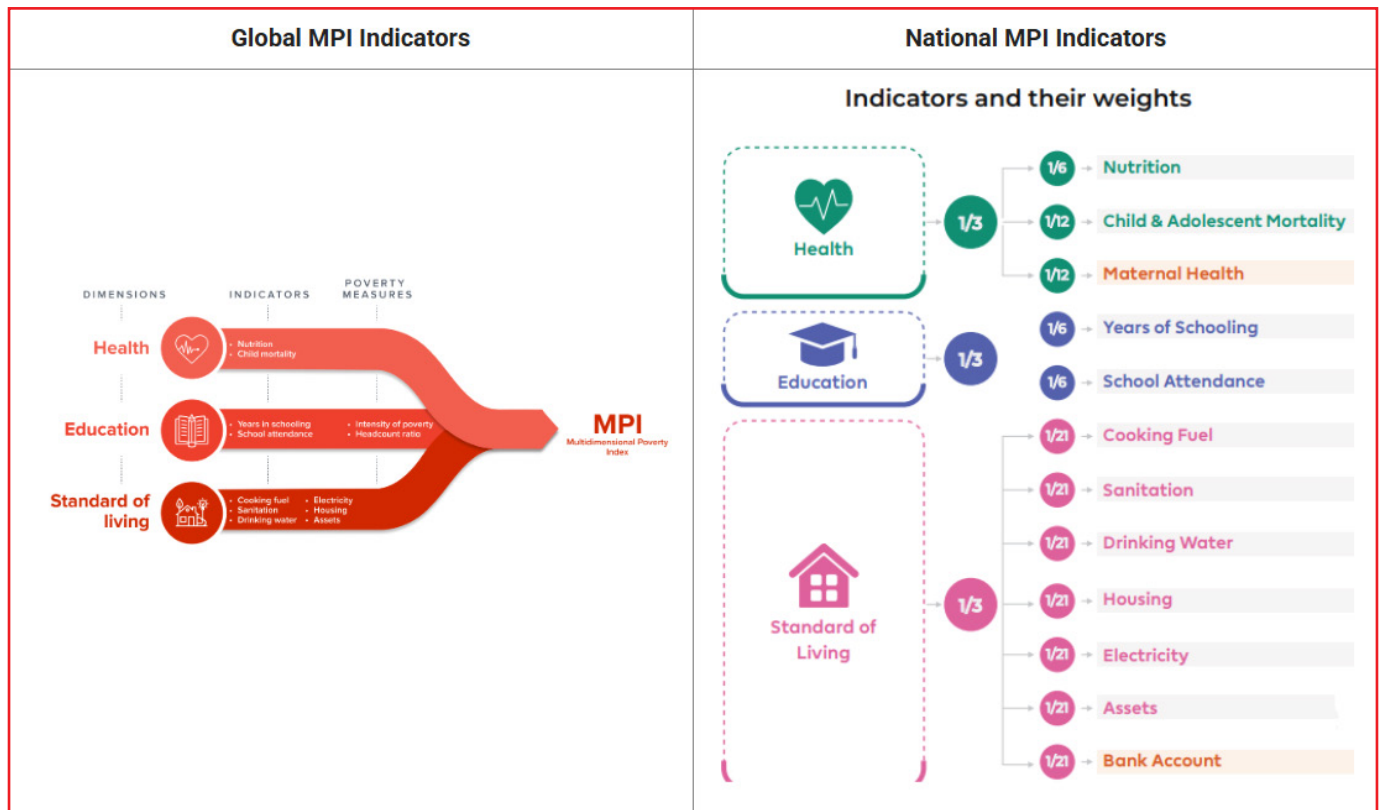
Exp:

Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI):

- MPI's global methodology is based on the **robust Alkire and Foster (AF) method** that identifies people as poor based on universally acknowledged metrics designed to assess acute poverty, providing a complementary perspective to conventional monetary poverty measures. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The **National Multidimensional Poverty measures simultaneous deprivations** across three equally weighted dimensions of Health, Education, and Standard of Living that are represented by 12 Sustainable Development Goals-aligned indicators. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
 - ◆ These include Nutrition, Child and Adolescent mortality, Maternal Health, Years of schooling, School Attendance, Cooking fuel, Sanitation, Drinking water, Electricity, Housing, Assets, and Bank Accounts.
- However, the National MPI covers 12 indicators while the global MPI covers 10 indicators.

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118. (A)

Exp:

Flue Gas Desulfurization (FGD):

- It is the **process of removing sulphur compounds** from the exhaust emissions of fossil-fueled power stations. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is done through the **addition of absorbents**, which can remove up to 95% of the sulphur dioxide from the flue gas. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ Flue gas is the material emitted when fossil fuels such as coal, oil, natural gas, or wood are burned for heat or power.
- The **wet process**, where flue gases are steam-saturated with an aqueous absorbent solution, is now the primary FGD method in large fossil-fuel power plants. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

119. (C)

Exp:

Prime Minister's Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI):

- It was launched by the **Department of Telecom (DoT)** to expand public Wi-Fi hotspots across India, especially in rural areas. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Public Data Office (PDO) establishes and operates PM-WANI-compliant Wi-Fi hotspots, providing last-mile broadband connectivity by procuring internet bandwidth

from telecom or ISP providers for subscribers. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- The Central Registry, managed by the **Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT)**, maintains the details of App Providers, PDOs, etc. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ C-DoT was established in 1984. It is an **autonomous Telecom R&D (Research and Development) centre** of DoT (Department of Telecom), Ministry of Communications. It is a registered society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.

120. (A)

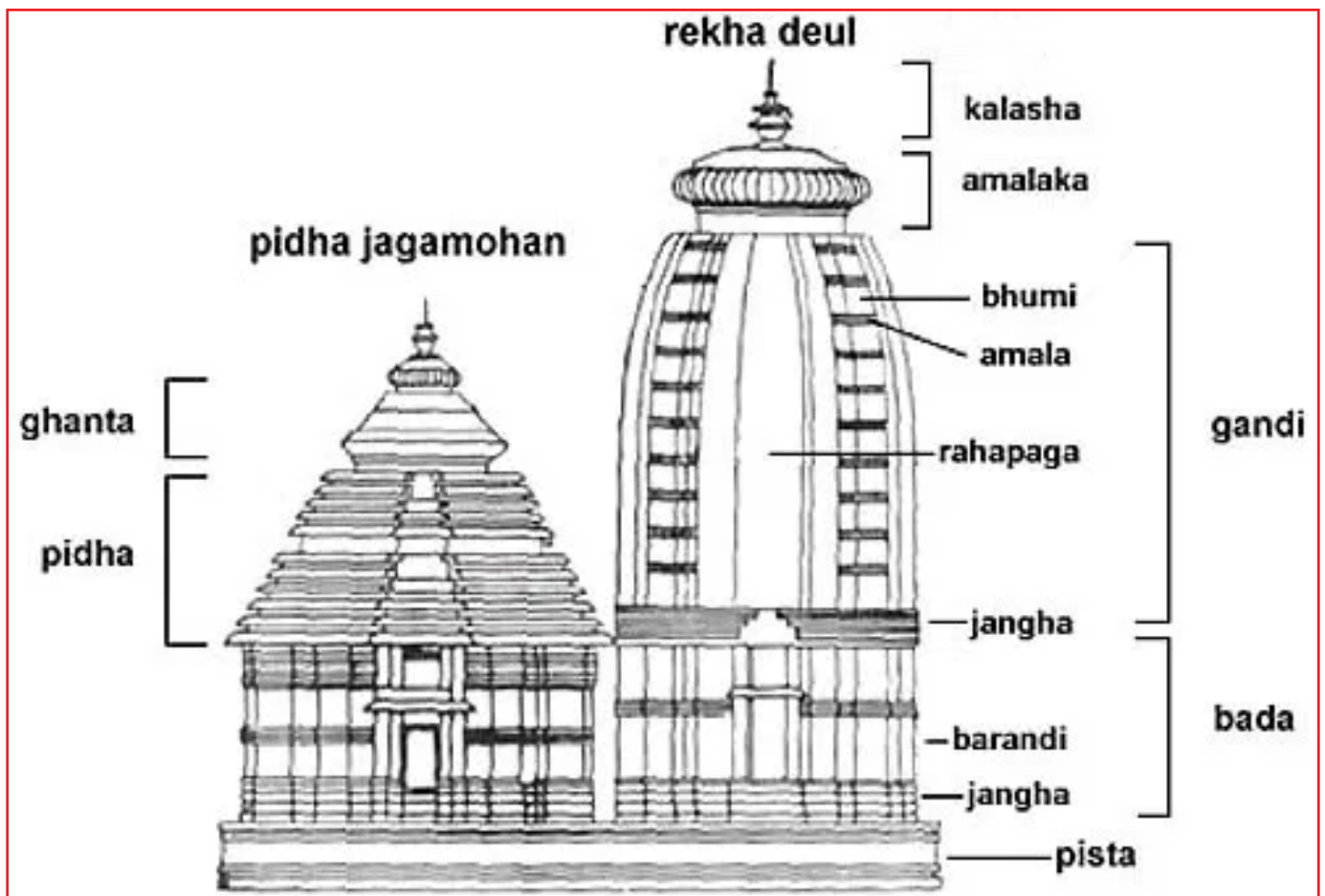
Exp:

Jagannath Temple, Puri:

- It was built by **King Anantavarman Chodaganga Deva** of the Eastern Ganga dynasty in the 12th century CE.
- The idols are made of wood (neem logs) and are replaced every 12–19 years in the **Nabakalebara ritual**.
- It is an example of **Kalinga architecture** (a sub-style of Odisha temple architecture).
- It is one of the Char Dham pilgrimage sites along with **Badrinath, Dwarka, and Rameswaram** and a major Vaishnavism centre.
- The flag atop the temple flies against the wind, and the Sudarsana Chakra appears the same from every angle (optical illusion).

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➤ Hence, option A is correct.

121. (A)

Exp:

Fungicides:

- Tricyclazole, mancozeb, and tebuconazole are **fungicides widely used in agriculture** to protect crops from fungal diseases.
 - ◆ A fungicide is a chemical substance or biological agent **used to kill or inhibit the growth of fungi** and fungal spores that cause diseases in plants, animals, or humans.
 - ◆ Fungicides help protect crops and other plants from fungal infections, thereby improving yield and quality.
- Regulatory conflicts have arisen in India, such as **proposals to ban these fungicides**, while trade negotiations seek to maintain or raise import tolerance levels for exports.
 - ◆ The lack of clear domestic regulations, especially around issues like ethylene oxide contamination, creates challenges in assuring importers about crop safety standards.
- Hence, option A is correct.

122. (D)

Exp:

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI):

- It occurs when a **firm or individual invests directly** in business interests located in another country. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It involves **direct control and investment in a company**, unlike Foreign Portfolio Investment, where a foreign investor only buys stocks or bonds without business control. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- FDI in India is governed by the **Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999**, and is administered by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- In India, **FDI up to 100% is allowed** in non-critical sectors through the automatic route, not requiring security clearance from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**

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- ◆ Prior government approval or security clearance from MHA is required for investments in **sensitive sectors such as defence, media, telecommunication, satellites**, private security agencies, civil aviation, and mining, besides any investment from Pakistan and Bangladesh.

123. (D)

Exp:

Cybersecurity:

- The government, under the **Information Technology Act of 2000**, has the power to declare any data, database, IT network, or communications infrastructure as Critical Information Infrastructure (CII) to protect that digital asset. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ◆ The Information Technology Act of 2000 defines Critical Information Infrastructure as a computer resource, the incapacitation or destruction of which shall have a debilitating impact on national security, economy, public health, or safety.
- The **Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)** provides essential advisories and information-sharing, but it lacks automated, real-time threat intelligence and proactive vulnerability scanning that is necessary for a robust defence. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

124. (D)

Exp:

Initiatives of the National Payments Corporation of India:

- **NACH (National Automated Clearing House)** is a **funds clearing platform** set up by NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India).
- **Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM)** is developed by the National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI), a not-for-profit company for providing retail payment systems in the country under guidance from the Reserve Bank of India.
- **Immediate Payment Service (IMPS)** is an interbank **electronic funds transfer system** in India, launched by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
 - ◆ It allows transfer funds instantly and securely through mobile banking, internet banking, or even ATMs.
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

125. (B)

Exp:

- The **All-India Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers (CPI-AL)** measures changes in cost-of-living for rural agricultural laborers and is used to adjust minimum wages for agricultural workers across different states. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- CPI(AL) is a **subset of CPI-RL(Rural Labourers)**, which tracks cost-of-living changes for rural laborers. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The base year for both CPI-AL and CPI-RL is 1986-87. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The base year is a **reference point** for comparing statistical changes over time. E.g., GDP, inflation, etc.

126. (A)

Exp:

Methane (CH₄):

- Methane (CH₄) is the **simplest hydrocarbon**, made up of one carbon atom bonded to four hydrogen atoms, and is the main component of natural gas.
- It is an **odourless, colourless, tasteless gas** that is lighter than air.
- When burned completely with **oxygen, methane produces** a blue flame and emits carbon dioxide (CO₂) and water (H₂O).
- Methane's **Global Warming Potential (GWP) is 28**, indicating it traps 28 times more heat in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide over a specific time period.
- Classified as a **short-lived climate pollutant (SLCP)**, methane remains in the atmosphere for about 12 years and has a higher warming impact than CO₂ in the short term.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

127. (A)

Exp:

- **Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM):**
 - ◆ It is a policy by the **European Union (EU)** that taxes carbon emissions embedded in certain imports to prevent carbon leakage and promote cleaner production.
 - ◆ CBAM **initially applies to sectors including steel, cement, aluminum, fertilizers, hydrogen, and electricity.**
 - ◆ Importers must start **reporting carbon emissions from October 2023**, and from 2026, they will be required to purchase certificates that correspond to EU carbon pricing.

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- ◆ The **mechanism complies with World Trade Organization (WTO)** rules and accounts for carbon costs already paid in exporting countries.

➤ Hence, option A is correct.

128. (C)

Exp:

Akashteer:

- The system provides a **common, real-time air picture** to all involved parties (control room, radars, and Defence Gun), enabling coordinated air defense operations.
- It is a system **designed to automate the detection**, tracking, and engagement of enemy aircraft, drones, and missiles. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It **integrates various radar systems**, sensors, and communication technologies into a single operational framework. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Akashteer gathers data from multiple sources, processes it, and allows for automated, real-time engagement decisions.
- Akashteer is part of the **broader C4ISR** (Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance) framework, working in coordination with other systems.
- The system is **vehicle-based, which makes** it mobile and easier to handle in a hostile environment. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Unlike traditional air defence models that rely on **ground-based radars and manual decisions**, Akashteer enables autonomous monitoring of low-level airspace in battle zones and efficient control of Ground-Based Air Defence Weapon Systems.

129. (A)

Exp:

National Investigation Agency (NIA):

- The NIA is a **federal agency** of the Indian government responsible for investigating and prosecuting crimes related to Terrorism, Insurgency, and other national security matters.
 - ◆ Federal agencies in a country typically have **jurisdiction over matters that affect the country as a whole**, rather than just individual states or provinces.
- It was established in 2009 following the Mumbai terrorist attacks in 2008, and operates under the National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act, 2008, under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- The National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Act, 2019, amended the NIA Act, 2008.

- The NIA can take over investigations of terrorism-related cases from state police forces and other agencies.
- It also has the **authority to investigate cases across state boundaries** without obtaining prior permission from state governments.

➤ **The NIA can take up a probe in different ways:**

- ◆ The State government can refer cases related to **scheduled offences to the Central government** for NIA investigation under Section 6 of the NIA Act 2008.
- ◆ The Central government can also direct the NIA to investigate a scheduled offence, either within or outside India, on its own accord.
 - The schedule for the Act specifies a list of offences which are to be investigated and prosecuted by the NIA.

➤ Hence, option A is correct.

130. (B)

Exp:

Census:

- The Population Census is the total **process of collecting, compiling, analyzing, and disseminating demographic, economic, and social data** about a specific time, of all persons in a country or a well-defined part of a country.
- It also provides the **trends in population characteristics**.
- The Indian Census is one of the **largest administrative exercises** undertaken in the world.
- The **decennial Census** is conducted by the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- Until 1951, the Census Organisation was set up on an **ad-hoc basis for each Census**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Census is conducted under the provisions of the Census Act, 1948.
- The population census is a **Union subject** under **Article 246** of the India Constitution. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ It is listed at serial number 69 of the seventh schedule of the Constitution.
- The information collected during the population Census is so confidential that it is **not even accessible to the courts of law**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The confidentiality is guaranteed by the **Census Act, 1948**.

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- ◆ The law specifies penalties for both public and census officials for non-compliance or violation of any provision of the Act.

131. (D)

Exp:

Curative Petition:

- A curative petition is a **legal recourse** available after the dismissal of a review plea against a final conviction. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Constitutionally, a final ruling of the Supreme Court can typically be challenged only through a review petition, and even then, only on narrow procedural grounds.
 - ◆ The curative petition serves as a **sparingly used judicial innovation** to rectify a grave miscarriage of justice. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Curative petitions are typically **decided by judges in chambers**, though open-court hearings may be granted upon specific request. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Principles governing curative petitions were established by the Supreme Court in the case of **Rupa Ashok Hurra Vs Ashok Hurra & another Case, 2002**. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**

132. (C)

Exp:

- **Fair use is a legal doctrine** of the US (as the US Supreme Court observed recently) that allows for **limited use of copyrighted material** without permission, under certain circumstances. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ Determining whether an **AI-generated work qualifies as fair use requires** considering factors such as the purpose, nature, amount, and effect of the use.
 - ◆ **Transformative use**, which involves adding new meaning or expression to a copyrighted work, is often a crucial factor in fair use analysis.
- The **Indian Copyright Act, 1957, and the Patents Act, 1970** provide specific provisions for fair dealing and enumerated exceptions to copyright infringement. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The use of copyrighted materials for training AI models is considered to be in a **legal grey area**.
- As it stands now, **copyright laws do not safeguard any creation** that is wholly generated by AI, regardless of whether it stemmed from a human-crafted text prompt.

133. (A)

Exp:

Trading Practices:

- **Insider trading refers to the illegal practice** of buying or selling a publicly traded company's stock or securities based on **material, non-public information (MNPI)** about the company. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It gives the trader an **unfair advantage over other investors** and undermines market fairness.
 - ◆ An insider can include company executives, directors, employees with access to confidential data (impacts stock prices), their relatives or associates, and professionals such as lawyers, bankers, or auditors working with the company.
 - ◆ In India, **insider trading is prohibited under the SEBI Act, 1992**, and regulated by the SEBI (Prohibition of Insider Trading) Regulations, 2015, which set the rules for prohibiting and restricting insider trading.
- **Front-running is an illegal practice** where traders or brokers use advance knowledge of pending client trades to profit from expected price movements. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ Unlike insider trading, it exploits knowledge of large orders rather than non-public company information.
- **Both practices (Insider trading and Front-running) are prohibited under SEBI regulations** in India. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

134. (D)

Exp:

Rubber:

- Rubber is an **elastic material that deforms** when an external force is applied to it, but then quickly regains its original shape when the force is removed.
- It can be **natural or synthetic**, and is made up of polymers of the organic compound isoprene, along with other organic compounds. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Rubber, **native to the Amazon rainforest**, is a tropical tree that thrives in consistently high temperatures between 20° and 35°C, with an average monthly mean of 27°C. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **Rubber Board is a statutory body constituted** under the **Rubber Act, 1947**, for the overall development of the rubber industry in the country. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ It functions under the **Ministry of Commerce & Industry**.

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135. (D)

Exp:

Government e-Marketplace (GeM):

- Launched by the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** in 2016, it enables online procurement of common-use goods and services for Government departments, organizations, and PSUs. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The current version of GeM, i.e., **GeM 3.0** was launched in 2018.
 - ◆ It provides the **tools of e-bidding, reverse e-auction**, and demand aggregation to facilitate the government users, achieve the best value for their money and aims to enhance transparency, efficiency, and speed in public procurement.
- The integration of India's postal system, **India Post**, and **Common Service Center (CSC)** with the GeM is operational across the country. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ This allows **India Post to provide logistics services** to the remotest parts of the country to sellers and buyers transacting via GeM.
- The **National Bamboo Mission** and GeM have created a dedicated window on the GeM portal for marketing Bamboo Goods. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

136. (A)

Exp:

Copyright:

- Copyright is a **legal right** that protects original works of literature, art, music, films, and computer programs, among others, in India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It safeguards expressions of ideas rather than the ideas themselves.
- The owner of a copyright has **exclusive rights to adapt**, reproduce, publish, translate, and communicate the work to the public. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Copyright Act, 1957, has **undergone several revisions** since it was first passed in 1958. The most recent amendment was in 2012. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- The **Copyright (Amendment) Rules 2021** were enacted to align copyright laws with other related legislation. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**
- **Under the rules:**
 - ◆ Provisions have been introduced to **ensure accountability** and transparency in the collection and distribution of royalties.

- ◆ The **Copyright Board** has been merged with the Appellate Board, and the compliance requirements for software registration have been reduced.

137. (C)

Exp:

Panchayat Advancement Index:

- It is a composite index released by the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj**, designed to assess the performance and progress of Gram Panchayats (GPs) across India using socio-economic indicators, identify development gaps, and support evidence-based planning. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It aligns with the **Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs)** and the **National Indicator Framework (NIF)** developed by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It reflects **India's commitment to the SDG 2030 Agenda** by promoting participatory, bottom-up governance, assessing GPs' development through socio-economic indicators, identifying gaps, and enabling evidence-based planning.

138. (D)

Exp:

Strategic Petroleum Reserves:

- Strategic petroleum reserves are **huge stockpiles of crude oil** to deal with any crude oil-related crisis, like the risk of supply disruption from natural disasters, war, or other calamities.
- According to the agreement on an **International Energy Programme (I.E.P.)**, each International Energy Agency (IEA) country must hold emergency oil stocks equivalent to at least 90 days of net oil imports. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ In case of a severe oil supply disruption, IEA members may decide to release these stocks to the market as part of a collective action.
- India became an associate member of the International Energy Agency in 2017.
- The construction of the **Strategic Crude Oil Storage facilities in India** is being managed by Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ ISPRL is a **wholly owned subsidiary** of the Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB) under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.

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139. (A)

Exp:

Remittances:

- Remittances are **funds sent by overseas workers** to support families back home, playing a key role in household income and the economy.
- Remittances, recorded as **unilateral transfers under India's Balance of Payments current account**, constitute about 3% of GDP and play a significant role in the country's current account balance. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- For India, the **US has overtaken the Gulf Co-operation Council** as the largest source of remittances, contributing 27.7% (2023-24) of the total, followed by the UAE, UK, Saudi Arabia, and Singapore. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

140. (A)

Exp:

- **Digital Bhashini** is an AI-powered platform that enables voice-based internet access and content creation in Indian languages. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Bharat Gen** is the country's first government-funded multimodal large language model, enhancing public service delivery through foundational AI models in language, speech, and computer vision. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **IndiaAI Datasets Platform** is a unified platform that provides seamless access to quality non-personal datasets for startups and researchers. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

141. (C)

Exp:

Data Privacy:

- In 2011, the **Justice AP Shah Committee** proposed the introduction of privacy legislation. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In 2017, the Supreme Court declared privacy to be a fundamental right in the **Justice KS Puttaswamy (Retd) vs Union of India case**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023**, empowers individuals with the right to control their personal data, including access, correction, and erasure. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ It requires explicit consent for data processing, with clear consent forms.

142. (A)

Exp:

Extended Fund Facility (EFF):

- It offers financial support to countries experiencing **significant medium-term balance** of payments difficulties due to structural weaknesses that need time to resolve. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It aims to **assist countries in carrying out medium-term structural reforms**, the EFF provides longer program durations and extended repayment terms.
- It is typically **approved for periods of 3 years**, but may be approved for periods as long as 4 years to implement deep and sustained structural reforms. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

143. (B)

Exp:

Blockchain:

- It is a shared database that stores data in cryptographically linked blocks, unlike traditional databases. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Decentralized blockchains are immutable, meaning that once data is recorded, it cannot be changed or undone. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** launched the **National Blockchain Framework (NBF)**, an online platform designed to enhance digital governance by ensuring transparency and trust through blockchain technology. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

144. (C)

Exp:

Arctic Region:

- It is located in the **northernmost part of Earth** and includes the **Arctic Ocean and parts of several countries**, including Canada, Russia, the United States, Norway, and Greenland. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The region is covered by ice, including sea ice and ice caps, which play a crucial role in **regulating the Earth's climate** by reflecting sunlight. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Arctic holds rich coal, gypsum, diamonds, zinc, lead, gold, and quartz deposits, with **Greenland owning about a quarter** of global rare earth reserves. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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145. (D)

Exp:

- **Data centres** are specialized facilities used to store, manage, and process large volumes of electronic data. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Public Records Act, 1993**, prohibits the removal of public records from India, introducing the first local data storage requirement. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **India's first hyperscale data centre**, Yotta D1, has been set up in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, marking a significant

milestone in India's data centre capacity. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

- The **National Informatics Centre (NIC)** established advanced National Data Centres to support government initiatives and digital infrastructure. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**

146. (A)

Exp:

- The **Supreme Court (SC)** has declared **ex-post facto environmental clearances (ECs)** (granted after a project has already commenced) as illegal, and has invalidated

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the 2017 Environment Ministry notification and the 2021 Office Memorandum (OM) that permitted retrospective clearances for projects.

- SC noted that the **concept of post-clearance approval is in derogation of Article 21** (Right to life in a pollution-free environment) and Article 14 (right to equality before law), as the OM applied to all project proponents who “were fully aware” of the consequences of violations.
- The SC noted that prior clearance is mandatory under the **Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006**, to scrutinize a project’s impact on the environment, natural resources, human health, and social infrastructure. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- The Court emphasized that development cannot come at the cost of environmental degradation and reaffirmed the constitutional duty under **Article 51A(g) to protect nature. Hence, statement II is correct.**
- Hence, option A is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement I.

147. (B)

Exp:

Farmers Producer Organisation:

- An FPO is a type of producer organisation (PO) with farmers as its members, and its promotion is supported by the Small Farmers’ Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC).
- The FPOs came into existence in 2008, inspired by economist **YK Alagh’s recommendation (2002)** to amend the Companies Act, 1956. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- FPOs help small farmers by **facilitating bulk input purchases**, improving bargaining power, and ensuring better price realization with reduced costs. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ A Producer Organisation is a group of producers, agricultural, non-farm, or artisan, that can take legal forms like producer companies or cooperatives, sharing profits among members.
 - ◆ Objectives & Need: Indian agriculture is dominated by small and marginal farmers (87% owning less than 2 hectares), facing weather and market risks, and struggling to get fair prices.
- FPOs can be registered under the **Companies Act, 2013**, the Societies Registration Act, 1860, or as Public Trusts under the Indian Trusts Act, 1882. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

148. (A)

Exp:

Spoofing:

- Spoofing is when traders place **fake buy or sell orders** in the market with the intention of canceling them before they are executed.
- It is essentially the **act of creating fake orders** without any plan to complete the transaction.
- Market regulator SEBI has prohibited stock broker Patel Wealth Advisors (PWAPL) from trading in securities using its proprietary account.
 - ◆ The ban is due to allegations of involvement in ‘spoofing’ activity by PWAPL.
 - ◆ PWAPL reportedly placed multiple fully disclosed buy and sell orders in various stocks with large quantities.
 - ◆ These orders were placed at prices significantly below or above the prevailing market price without any intention to execute them.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

149. (C)

Exp:

Safe Harbour Rules:

- Social media platforms are not held legally liable for **user-generated content, as long as they act to remove or address flagged objectionable content**, thus supporting free speech and ensuring platforms are not responsible for preemptive content control. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In India, **Safe Harbour protection** is provided under **Section 79 of the Information Technology Act, 2000.**
- The **Information Technology Rules, 2021**, require social media companies with over 5 million users to appoint a **chief compliance officer**, who can be held criminally liable for non-compliance with takedown requests or other regulations. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

150. (B)

Exp:

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC):

- The SAARC concept took shape in 1980 when Bangladesh’s President Ziaur Rahman proposed regional cooperation to promote peace and stability.
- 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.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

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151. (A)

Exp:

- Refugees are individuals who have fled their home countries due to severe threats to their life, physical safety, or freedom, requiring international protection.
 - ◆ These threats can stem from persecution, armed conflict, violence, or significant public unrest in their country of origin.
- Since India has not adopted the international definitions and standards outlined in the Refugee Convention, there is no specific legal framework or definition of refugees under Indian law. Hence, statement I is correct.
- In India, the term refugees is not legally defined, as the country is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol. Hence, statement II is correct.
- This absence makes it difficult to distinguish between economic migrants and genuine refugees seeking asylum.
- Hence, option A is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement I.

152. (A)

Exp:

- India has the world's fifth-largest bauxite reserves, the ore used to produce aluminium. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
 - ◆ It is a rock consisting mainly of hydrated aluminium oxides.
 - ◆ Bauxite is primarily used to produce alumina through the Bayer process.
- Nearly 60% of India's bauxite reserves are concentrated in Odisha. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
 - ◆ The deposits of Bauxite are mainly associated with laterites and occur as capping on hills and plateaus, except in coastal areas of Gujarat and Goa.
- Australia continued to be the major producer and accounted for about 29% share in the total production, followed by China (19%), Guinea (18%), Brazil (10%), and India (7%).
- Economically, Aluminium ranks as the third most important base metal after iron ore and Copper. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

153. (B)

Exp:

Non-Performing Asset (NPA):

- It refers to loans or advances issued by banks or financial institutions that no longer bring in money for the lender since the borrower has failed to make payments on the principal and interest of the loan for at least 90 days. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- For agricultural loans, a loan granted for short-duration crops will be treated as NPA if the installment of principal or interest thereon remains overdue for two crop seasons. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
 - ◆ A loan granted for long-duration crops will be treated as an NPA if the installment of principal or interest remains overdue for one crop season.

154. (A)

Exp:

Capital Account Transaction:

- Capital Account Transaction refers to transactions that alter the assets or liabilities outside India of residents in India or vice versa.
 - ◆ Key transactions under this category include the transfer or issuance of foreign securities, borrowing or lending in foreign exchange or rupees between residents and non-residents, export/import of currency notes, and acquisition or transfer of immovable property in India or abroad.
- Current Account Transaction includes transactions that are not related to capital account transactions.
 - ◆ It encompasses payments for foreign trade, services, and income from investments, as well as transfers such as remittances and foreign aid.
- Hence, option A is correct.

155. (C)

Exp:

Bond:

- A bond is a borrowing instrument issued by a government or company to raise funds. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
 - ◆ Since Government Bonds (referred to as G-secs in India, Treasury in the US, and Gilts in the UK) come with the sovereign's guarantee, they are considered one of the safest investments.
- A bond's yield is its effective rate of return, which varies as the bond's price changes. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

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- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** employs **Open Market Operations (OMOs)** as a tool to manage bond yields and regulate monetary conditions within the economy. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

156. (D)

Exp:

Akash Weapon System:

- It is an **Indian-made surface-to-air missile (SAM) system** designed to defend against various airborne threats, such as aircraft, helicopters, and missiles.
 - ◆ The system was developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**, and it is primarily used by the Indian Armed Forces. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It has a range of approximately 25–30 km, allowing it to engage targets at medium altitudes. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- The missile uses radar-guided homing for target acquisition and interception, with the **Rajendra Radar** being used for tracking and guidance. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- The system is capable of tracking multiple targets simultaneously and engaging them.
- It is designed to **operate autonomously for both point defense** of critical assets and area defense of larger regions. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**

157. (B)

Exp:

Galapagos Archipelago:

- They are located in the **Pacific Ocean** and are part of Ecuador. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In 1978, the islands became UNESCO's first World Heritage Site. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Galápagos is home to the **critically endangered** Galápagos penguin, Galápagos fur seal and Galápagos sea lion. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**



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158. (B)

Exp:

- The **Great Barrier Reef**, the world's largest coral reef system stretching 2,300 km off Queensland, Australia, has been a **UNESCO World Heritage site** since 1981 and habitat to endangered species like the dugong and green turtle. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Ningaloo Reef (a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2011) is a 300-km fringing reef along Australia's west coast.
 - ◆ **Fringing reefs** are coral reefs that form along **coastlines or islands**, with little to no separation from the shore. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ Ningaloo Coast harbors rich biodiversity, deep-sea habitats, karst caves, and Cape Range landscapes.
 - ◆ It hosts 300-500 whale sharks annually and unique endemic species like the Exmouth Spiny-tailed Gecko, Western Netted Dragon, and West Coast Banded Snake.
- **Coral Bleaching** is the loss of coral color (turning white) due to environmental stress, mainly rising sea temperatures, causing corals to **expel symbiotic algae (zooxanthellae)** that provide nutrients and color. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ Bleaching-level heat stress affected 83.6% of global reefs since 2023, with coral bleaching reported in 81 countries.

159. (D)

Exp:

- India celebrates **Hindi Diwas every September 14** to commemorate the adoption of Hindi as the Union's official language under **Article 343** of the Constitution. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Kothari Commission's (1964-66) three-language formula** proposed introducing Hindi early in non-Hindi-speaking states and a non-Hindi Indian language in **Hindi-speaking states**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Hindi language is **one of the 22 languages** of the **Eighth Schedule** of the Constitution of India. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

160. (A)

Exp:

Economic Capital Framework (ECF):

- The ECF is a structured mechanism adopted by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to determine the appropriate level of **risk provisions and the surplus (profit) that can be**

transferred to the Government of India under **Section 47 of the RBI Act, 1934.**

- The framework was recommended by the former RBI Governor, **Bimal Jalan Committee (2018)**, and formally adopted in 2019.
- It aims to strike a **balance between maintaining adequate financial buffers for monetary and financial stability** and ensuring prudent surplus distribution.
- It enables the RBI to **maintain a Contingency Risk Buffer (CRB)** as a financial safeguard against unforeseen shocks like currency volatility and economic crises.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

161. (A)

Exp:

Jal Jeevan Mission:

- **Launched in 2019**, it aims to **provide tap water to all 16 crore rural households** by December 2024. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ Currently, **75% coverage has been achieved**, with nearly 4 crore households still pending.
- The fund sharing pattern between **Centre and State is 90:10** for the Himalayan (Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh) and North-Eastern States, 100:0 for UTs, and 50:50 for the rest of the States. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Goa and Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu (D&NH and D&D)** are the **first 'Har Ghar Jal' certified States** and UTs in the country, respectively. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

162. (C)

Exp:

- The **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** currently uses the Coupled Forecasting System (CFS) developed under the **Monsoon Mission Project**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The original CFS model framework was created by the US-based National Center for Environmental Prediction.
 - ◆ For India, the CFS was **customized to generate forecasts** for the Indian monsoon region at various spatial and temporal scales.
 - ◆ Additionally, IMD operates the **Global Forecasting System (GFS)**, a coupled model considering both oceanic and atmospheric factors, to provide weather forecasts from a few hours up to a season.

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- The **Bharat Forecast System (BFS)** is India's first indigenously developed deterministic weather model with the highest resolution, and will soon be adopted by the India Meteorological Department (IMD). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

163. (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.**
 - ◆ It was launched in 2014 with a Rs 20,000 crore budget until 2021, and now extended to March 2026 with Rs 22,500 crore.
- Under the **Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM)**, a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) by the winning bidder handles Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) development, operation, and maintenance.
 - ◆ 40% of costs are paid post-construction, 60% over the project's lifespan.
- In December 2022, 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. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

164. (D)

Exp:

- Over the years, **several expert committees** have examined the adequacy of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) capital buffers** and the quantum of surplus to be transferred:
 - ◆ V. Subrahmanyam Committee (1997)
 - ◆ Usha Thorat Committee (2004)
 - ◆ **YH Malegam Committee (2013) recommended higher transfers** to the government while maintaining prudent reserves.
 - ◆ **Bimal Jalan Committee (2018) introduced the revised Economic Capital Framework (ECF)**, balancing risk provisioning with fiscal needs.
- Following these recommendations, particularly the Malegam and Jalan Committees, the **RBI has progressively increased its surplus transfers** to the government, ensuring both macroeconomic stability and fiscal space for public spending.
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

165. (B)

Exp:

Coal Sector:

- India has the **world's 5th largest coal reserves** and is the **2nd biggest coal consumer**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ In 2023, **China was by far the largest consumer of coal in the world**. India and the United States followed as the second and third largest coal consumers, with wide margins between all three countries.
 - ◆ Coal remains vital, contributing **55% to India's energy mix** and powering over 74% of electricity generation.
 - ◆ **Odisha, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh** are the top three coal-rich states in India, together holding about 69% of the country's total coal reserves. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The government has approved the **revised SHAKTI policy** to boost coal availability and simplify power sector operations by replacing the **nomination-based coal allocation system** with a transparent auction and tariff-based bidding. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ It introduces two streamlined windows- Window I and Window II, replacing eight older categories to enhance the ease of doing business.

166. (B)

Exp:

State Development Loans (SDLs):

- They are **debt securities issued by state governments** within their borrowing limits to finance budget deficits. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- They typically pay interest twice a year and return the principal amount upon maturity, **usually after 10 years**, though other durations are possible. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The returns or yields on SDLs tend to be higher than those on central government bonds.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) manages SDL issuances and monitors the timely payment of interest and principal by the states, **but it does not provide any guarantee on these loans**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The repayment of SDLs (interest and principal) is the responsibility of the issuing state government.

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- ◆ SDLs are **considered to have a “sovereign guarantee”** in the sense that they are backed by the state’s revenues and, in practice, defaults are extremely rare.
- SDLs are **tradable electronically and are primarily held by banks**, insurance firms, mutual funds, provident funds, and other institutional investors, along with retail investors.

167. (D)

Exp:

Rice:

- Rice is a **staple food** for most Indians and is **cultivated using irrigation** in low-rainfall areas.
- In southern states and West Bengal, the climatic conditions allow the cultivation of **two or three crops of rice in an agricultural year**.
- **India ranks second after China** in rice production, with roughly one-fourth of its total cropped land dedicated to rice cultivation. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ◆ **Leading Producer States:** West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, and Punjab.

- ◆ **High-Yielding States:** Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, West Bengal, and Kerala.

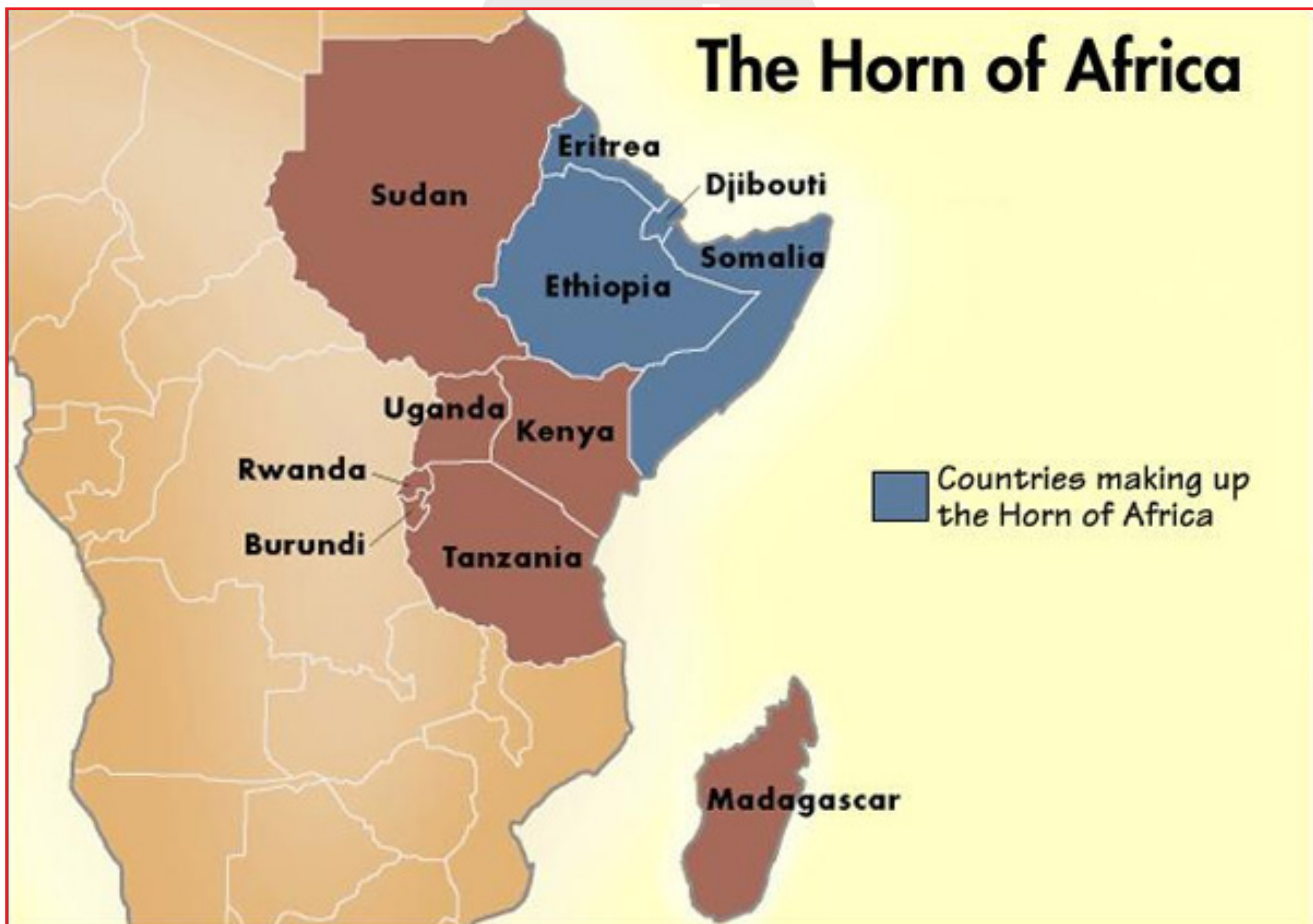
- It is a **kharif crop** that requires high temperature (above 25°C) and high humidity with annual rainfall above 100 cm. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

168. (D)

Exp:

Horn of Africa:

- The Horn of Africa comprises the countries of **Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia**.
- It is a **peninsula and region in East Africa** that juts out into the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean, forming the easternmost point of the African continent.
- ◆ The region has experienced **conflicts, droughts, famines, and migration crises**, but is also rich in cultural history and biodiversity.
- ◆ It’s a critical area for **climate resilience, pastoralism, and Red Sea trade**.



- Hence, option D is correct.

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169. (B)

Exp:

- **Article 19(2)** of the Indian Constitution **outlines the eight grounds** for imposing reasonable restrictions on the right to freedom of speech and expression, as **guaranteed under Article 19(1)(a)**.
 - ◆ These grounds include sovereignty and integrity of India, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality, contempt of court, defamation, and incitement to an offence. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- In ***Shreya Singhal versus Union of India (2015)***, the Supreme Court struck down Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, ruling that vague grounds like “insult” or “hatred” cannot justify criminalising speech. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ It affirmed that even “offensive” or “disturbing” speech is protected under Article 19(1)(a), and any restriction must meet the test of reasonableness under Article 19(2).
- In ***Kaushal Kishor versus State of Uttar Pradesh (2023)***, a Constitution Bench reaffirmed that the grounds under Article 19(2) are exhaustive.

170. (C)

Exp:

Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POSCO), 2012:

- The POCSO Act, 2012, was enacted to address sexual exploitation and abuse of children, defining a child as anyone below 18 years. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The Act is gender-neutral, protecting both boys and girls from sexual abuse.
- It was enacted because India ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1992). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It provides for **interim compensation by Special Courts** and immediate relief through the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) for urgent needs. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- A support person is appointed to assist the child through legal proceedings.
 - ◆ Section 23 of the act ensures confidentiality by prohibiting the victim’s identity disclosure in the media.

171. (B)

Exp:

- According to the **Refugee Convention, 1951**, refugees are people forced to flee their own country and seek safety in another country. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ They are unable to return to their own country because of feared persecution as a result of who they are, what they believe in, or say, or because of armed conflict, violence, or serious public disorder.
- **Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)** are individuals who have been forced to flee their homes but have not crossed an international border. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ They seek safety in various locations, such as nearby towns, schools, settlements, internal camps, or even in forests and fields.
 - ◆ IDPs encompass those displaced by internal conflicts and natural disasters, making them the **largest group assisted by the UNHCR**.
 - ◆ Unlike refugees, **IDPs are not protected by international law** and often do not qualify for many forms of aid, as they remain under the legal protection of their own government.
- **India is not a signatory** to the Refugee Convention, 1951, or its 1967 Protocol, resulting in a lack of a legal definition for refugees within the country. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ This absence of international standards creates challenges in distinguishing between genuine refugees seeking asylum and economic migrants.

172. (D)

Exp:

Baltic States:

- The Baltic states (Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania) are located in **northeastern Europe**, bordered by the Baltic Sea (west & north), Russia (east), Belarus (southeast), and Poland & Russia (Kaliningrad)(southwest). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ They gained independence from the USSR in 1991.
- All 3 countries are members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) (since 2004), the European Union (EU), the Eurozone, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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173. (C)

Exp:

Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD):

- It is a climate phenomenon that influences sea surface temperatures and weather patterns across the Indian Ocean region. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In a positive IOD phase, **warm waters shift to the western Indian Ocean**, and cold, deep waters rise to the surface in the eastern Indian Ocean near Indonesia and Australia. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- During a negative IOD phase, this pattern is reversed — the **eastern Indian Ocean becomes warmer**, and the

western Indian Ocean experiences cooler conditions. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

174. (C)

Exp:

- The **Narasimham Committee on Banking Sector Reforms**, commissioned by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in 1998, underscored the importance of addressing money laundering concerns within the Indian financial system. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ◆ Money laundering is a complex process used by individuals and organisations to conceal the origins

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of illegally obtained money. It involves making illicit funds appear legitimate through a series of transactions.

- The **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002** was enacted by India's Parliament under Article 253, which empowers it to make laws for implementing the international conventions. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

175. (D)

Exp:

Brahmaputra River:

- It originates under the name of Siang or Dihang, from the **Chemayungdung glacier** of the Kailash range near Mansarovar Lake. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- It enters India west of Sadiya town in Arunachal Pradesh. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

◆ **Tributaries:** Dibang, Lohit, Siang, Burhi Dihing, Tista, and Dhansari.

- It is a perennial river and has several peculiar characteristics due to its geography and prevailing climatic conditions. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

◆ It is flooded twice annually. One flood is caused by the melting of the Himalayan snow in summer, and the other is due to the monsoon flows.

- The river is in itself dynamic, as frequent landslides and geological activity force it to change course very often.



176. (C)

Exp:

Vostro Account:

- Nostro and Vostro accounts are held in a foreign denomination.
- A Vostro account is an account that a correspondent bank holds on behalf of another bank. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- Vostro accounts **enable domestic banks to provide international banking services** to clients with global banking needs. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Vostro account services **include executing wire transfers, performing foreign exchange transactions**, enabling deposits and withdrawals, and expediting international trade. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **A Nostro account is an account held by a bank in another bank.**

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- ◆ It allows the customers to deposit money in the bank's account in another bank.
- ◆ It is often used if a bank has no branches in a foreign country.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has established Special Rupee Vostro Accounts (SRVAs) with 22 countries.

177. (A)

Exp:

Article 142:

- Article 142 provides **discretionary power to the Supreme Court** as it states that the SC, in the exercise of its jurisdiction, may pass such decree or make such order as is necessary for **doing complete justice** in any cause or matter pending before it.
- **Other Articles:**

Article	Subject	Key Feature
Article 32	Right to Constitutional Remedies	Direct access to Supreme Court for enforcement of fundamental rights via writs
Article 131	Original Jurisdiction of Supreme Court	Exclusive power to resolve disputes between states and/or the Union
Article 136	Special Leave to Appeal by Supreme Court	Discretionary power to grant leave to appeal in exceptional cases from any court/tribunal

- Hence, option A is correct.

178. (C)

Exp:

- India holds **10% of the world's coal reserves** but only 0.7% of its natural gas reserves, making coal the most reliable and affordable energy source in the country. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- India aims for **50% of its electricity generation** from non-fossil fuels by 2030. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ As of November 2024, India has 213,701 MW from non-fossil fuel sources, making up 46.8% of total electricity capacity.
 - ◆ At **UNFCCC COP 29 in Baku, Azerbaijan**, developed countries promised only USD 300 billion in annual climate finance, falling short of the required USD 1 trillion.
 - ◆ This may **force India to continue its dependence on coal** and may require it to adjust its climate targets.
- The **Nuclear Energy Mission** seeks to develop indigenous Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) with a target to operationalize at least five by 2033. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**

179. (B)

Exp:

Quadrilateral Security Dialogue(Quad):

- It is a **strategic forum of the US, Japan, India, and Australia** aimed at regional security and economic cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

- The Quad operates **without a formal alliance structure**, secretariat, or decision-making body. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**
- Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) and Maritime Initiative for Training in the Indo-Pacific (MAITRI) are its initiatives. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) **enhances real-time monitoring** of illegal fishing and maritime activities.
 - It 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.

180. (D)

Exp:

National Company Law Tribunal(NCLT):

- It is a **quasi-judicial body**, established under the **Companies Act, 2013**, to adjudicate corporate law matters. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Eradi Committee (2000)**, headed by Justice V. Balakrishna Eradi, first recommended the constitution of an NCLT. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- The primary objective of NCLT is to **provide a specialized forum** for the resolution of disputes and matters pertaining to company law and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Act, 2016 (IBC). Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**
- The tribunal plays a crucial role in ensuring corporate governance and protecting the interests of shareholders, creditors, and other stakeholders.

181. (D)

Exp:

Parts of Capital Account:

- The **balance of payments (BOP)** is the record of all international transactions made by the residents of a country.
 - ◆ It **measures the relative demand** for the rupee against foreign currencies, which is crucial in influencing exchange rates and economic stability.
- The **Current Account and Capital Account** are the two main constituents of the BoP.
- **Capital Account:** It reflects the **net change in a nation's assets** and liabilities over a specific period.
 - ◆ **Assets:** It reflects investments such as **Foreign Direct Investment** and **Foreign Institutional Investor (FII)**, essential for economic growth and stability.
 - ◆ **Liabilities:** It also reflects factors such as commercial borrowings, loans, and capital.

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- **Current Account:** It includes those transactions that do not change the assets or liabilities position of a country.
 - ◆ **Merchandise:** It includes trade in physical imports and exports, indicating the balance of trade. A deficit suggests higher imports than exports.
 - ◆ **Invisibles:** It includes services (e.g., banking, insurance IT, tourism, transport, etc.), transfers (e.g., gifts, grants, remittances etc), and **factor incomes** (such as the income earned from investments).

➤ Hence, option D is correct.

182. (C)

Exp:

'DRR Dhan 100 (Kamala)' and 'Pusa DST Rice 1':

- 'DRR Dhan 100 (Kamala)' and 'Pusa DST Rice 1' are **India's first genome-edited rice varieties** developed to boost yield, climate resilience, and resource efficiency. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It is based on the popular Samba Mahsuri variety.
- They have been **developed by ICAR** using advanced CRISPR-Cas9 genome-editing technology. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **No foreign DNA** is introduced in them, making them comparable to traditionally bred crops. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

183. (A)

Exp:

e-Zero FIR:

- The Union Home Minister has **launched the e-Zero FIR initiative as a pilot project in Delhi** under the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) to improve the efficiency of investigating cyber financial frauds, supporting the vision of a Cyber Secure Bharat.
- A Zero FIR **can be filed at any police station**, regardless of the jurisdiction, for a cognisable offence and is transferred to the proper jurisdiction for investigation.
 - ◆ **e-Zero FIR** is the electronic version of Zero FIR and is enabled under Section 173(1) and 1(ii) of the BNSS.
- Hence, option A is correct.

184. (C)

Exp:

- The Andaman and Nicobar Islands **originated from the tectonic collision** between the **Indian Plate and the Burma Microplate** (part of the Eurasian Plate), a process akin to the formation of the Himalayas. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Indira Point**, situated on Great Nicobar Island, is the southernmost tip of the Nicobar Islands. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **Ten Degree Channel** is a narrow strait that separates the Andaman Islands and the Nicobar Islands. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**



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185. (B)

Exp:

- **Remittances** are funds sent by overseas workers to support families back home, playing a key role in household income and the economy.
- In 2024, India received a record USD 129.1 billion in remittances, the highest ever for any country in a single year, accounting for 14.3% of global remittances. Mexico and China followed as the next largest recipients.
- The **Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999** regulates all foreign exchange transactions in India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Under the **Liberalized Remittance Scheme (LRS)**, a part of FEMA, Indian residents can remit up to USD 250,000 per year for personal and investment purposes, with higher amounts requiring RBI approval.
 - ◆ However, **LRS prohibits remittances for gambling, speculative trading, and terrorist financing. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Remittances are **recorded under the current account** of the Balance of Payments (BoP) as unilateral transfers. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ They represent foreign income inflows that do not create liabilities.

186. (A)

Exp:

Measles & Rubella:

- Measles and rubella are **contagious viral diseases** primarily affecting children.
- Measles, caused by the **highly infectious Morbillivirus**, can result in severe complications or death, while rubella, caused by the **rubella virus, is milder** but can cause serious birth defects if contracted during pregnancy. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **National Zero Measles-Rubella Elimination Campaign (2025-26)**, launched during World Immunization Week under the Universal Immunization Programme, aims to achieve 100% immunization coverage to eliminate Measles and Rubella in India by 2026. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

187. (C)

Exp:

Oil Spills:

- Oil Spills refer to the **release of liquid petroleum hydrocarbons** into the environment, particularly into oceans, rivers, or coastal waters as a result of human activities.

- Oil coats the feathers of seabirds and fur of marine mammals, **leading to hypothermia and death**. It clogs fish gills, impairs reproduction, and becomes toxic when ingested by marine life.

➤ **Measures to Clean Oil Spills:**

- ◆ Bioremediation uses oil-degrading bacteria (e.g., *Cycloclasticus*, *Oleispira*) to break down hydrocarbons; eco-friendly and accelerates natural detoxification. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- ◆ Sorbents absorb or adsorb oil from water and are particularly useful for small spills or residual oil after primary cleanup. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
 - Natural sorbents (Straw, Volcanic ash), Synthetic (Polyester-derived plastic shavings).
- ◆ Containment Booms are floating barriers that restrict oil spread, aiding in containment, recovery, and minimizing environmental impact. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**

➤ **Hence, option C is correct.**

188. (A)

Exp:

- The **Merchant Shipping Act, 1958**, serves as the primary maritime legislation on Oil Pollution Control in India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOS-DCP) of 1993**, implemented by the Indian Coast Guard, provides a key **non-binding framework** for coordinated and timely oil spill response among stakeholders. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Bunker Oil Convention (2001)** was ratified by India in 2015. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ Under the IMO, this convention ensures prompt and adequate compensation for damage caused by fuel oil spills from ships' bunkers, protecting those affected by such pollution incidents.

189. (D)

Exp:

International Solar Alliance (ISA):

- It is a joint India-France initiative, **conceptualized at COP21 in Paris in 2015**, aimed at combating climate change by implementing solar energy solutions. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is the first international intergovernmental organization to be **headquartered in India**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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- Following a 2020 amendment to its Framework Agreement, **all UN member states** are now eligible to join the Alliance. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- The ISA is guided by its “Towards 1000’ strategy, which aims to mobilise USD 1,000 billion of investments in solar energy solutions by 2030 while delivering energy access to 1,000 million people using clean energy solutions and resulting in the installation of 1,000 GW of solar energy capacity.

190. (C)

Exp:

Mangroves:

- They are **salt-tolerant trees and shrubs** that thrive in estuarine and intertidal regions where freshwater meets saltwater. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ They possess unique adaptations, **such as aerial roots and waxy leaves**, allowing them to survive in saline environments.
 - ◆ They **represent a littoral forest ecosystem**, which means they thrive in saline or brackish waters in coastal regions.
 - ◆ Some common mangrove trees include **Red mangrove, Grey mangrove**, and Rhizophora.
- The Sundarbans (spread across India and Bangladesh) is the **largest contiguous mangrove forest** in the world. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ Bhitarkanika is second only to Sunderbans in terms of mangrove cover in India
- The Union Budget 2023-24 announced the **MISHTI initiative for mangrove plantations** along the coastline and on salt pan lands. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

191. (D)

Exp:

- The IMD describes the **Mascarene High as a high-pressure area** found around the Mascarene Islands (in the south Indian Ocean) during the monsoon period. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The variation in the intensity of high pressure is responsible for heavy rains along India’s west coast.
- **Somali Jet is a low-level**, inter-hemispheric cross-equatorial wind band originating near Mauritius and north Madagascar. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- ◆ During May, after crossing the east coast of Africa, it reaches the Arabian Sea and the west coast of India. A strong Somali jet is associated with the strengthening of monsoon winds.

- Monsoon Trough is an **elongated low-pressure area** extending from the heat low over northwestern India to the north Bay of Bengal. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ The north-south swinging of this trough causes rainfall during the June–September period across the core monsoon zone.
- **Cyclonic Monsoon Vortex**, also known as a Monsoon Onset Vortex (MOV), is a **synoptic-scale cyclonic circulation** that forms over the Arabian Sea during the Indian summer monsoon. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**
 - ◆ These vortices can intensify into tropical cyclones and play a crucial role in the onset and advance of the monsoon.

192. (B)

Exp:

Special Drawing Rights (SDR):

- The SDR itself is **not a currency but an asset that holders** can exchange for currency when needed. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The SDR serves as the **unit of account of** the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other international organizations. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The SDR basket is **not explicitly based on the five largest economies by GDP (Purchasing Power Parity (PPP))**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ Its value is **determined by a basket of five currencies**, which include the US dollar, the euro, the Chinese renminbi, the Japanese yen, and the British pound sterling.
 - ◆ For example, **India is a large economy by PPP**, but its currency (Indian Rupee) is **not included in the SDR basket**.
- The IMF **created the SDR as a supplementary international reserve** asset in 1969, when currencies were tied to the price of gold and the US dollar was the leading international reserve asset. The IMF defined the SDR as equivalent to a fractional amount of gold that was equivalent to one US dollar.
- When fixed exchange rates ended in 1973, the IMF redefined the SDR as equivalent to the value of a basket of world currencies.

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193. (C)

Exp:

Committees Related to Poverty:

- **The Alagh Committee (1979)**, constituted by the **Planning Commission** and chaired by Y.K. Alagh, **defined the poverty line for rural and urban India** based on minimum nutritional requirements and corresponding consumption expenditure. **Hence, 1 is correct.**
- **Lakdawala Committee (1993)**, Chaired by D.T. Lakdawala, recommended **continuing the calorie-based poverty line** but introduced state-specific poverty lines updated using CPI-AL for rural and CPI-IW for urban areas, and excluded scaling based on National Accounts Statistics. **Hence, 2 is correct.**
- **Tendulkar Committee (2009)**, headed by Suresh Tendulkar, **shifted poverty estimation from calorie intake** to actual consumption expenditure, incorporating private spending on health and education, and recommended a uniform poverty line basket for both rural and urban areas. **Hence, 4 is correct.**
- The **Shanta Kumar Committee (2015)** focused on **restructuring the Food Corporation of India (FCI)** to improve its efficiency in food grain procurement, storage, and distribution. **Hence, 3 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

194. (C)

Exp:

UJALA Scheme:

- It was launched in 2015 **to promote energy efficiency** by replacing traditional incandescent and compact fluorescent lamps with energy-saving LED bulbs. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is a joint project between the Government of India's Public Sector Undertakings, the **Union Ministry of Power's Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)**, and DISCOMs (Distribution Companies). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

195. (A)

Exp:

Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO):

- Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) is a **transient eastward-moving system** of winds, clouds, and pressure disturbances that travels around the equator. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It was identified in 1971 by Roland Madden and Paul Julian, scientists at the National Centre for Atmospheric Research in Colorado.

- ◆ The MJO typically **travels eastward at 4–8 m/s**, and completes one global cycle in 30–60 days, though sometimes it takes up to 90 days.
- It **influences the weather in tropical regions**, especially between 30°N and 30°S, which includes India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It can **trigger cyclones and cause** brief but intense rainfall spells, even during dry periods. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

196. (B)

Exp:

Cryptocurrency:

- A cryptocurrency is a **decentralized digital currency secured by cryptography**, operating without control from any government or institution. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Cryptocurrency transactions are **recorded on a public digital ledger** called the blockchain, which is maintained and verified by a global network of computers. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ The decentralization and use of cryptography make it **difficult for anyone to manipulate the currency** or the transactions recorded on the blockchain.
 - ◆ Some examples of cryptocurrencies include Bitcoin, Ethereum, and Litecoin.

197. (C)

Exp:

- In the **2025 Human Development Report**, India ranked **130th out of 193 countries**, staying in the **medium human development category** but approaching the high development threshold (HDI ≥ 0.700). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- According to the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**, India's per capita income is USD 2,800, ranking 140th globally and the lowest among its BRICS peers, with Brazil at USD 10,296, Russia at USD 14,953, China at USD 12,969, and South Africa at USD 6,377. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- At the 10th NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) Governing Council Meeting, NITI Aayog CEO announced that **India has overtaken Japan to become the world's 4th largest economy**, with its GDP crossing USD 4 trillion. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ India remains the world's fastest-growing major economy and is the only country projected to grow over 6% annually for the next two years.

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198. (A)

Exp:

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI):

- It refers to a **foreign investor's acquisition of a lasting interest** in a business enterprise in another country, enabling significant influence or control over its management. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It can **stimulate domestic industries** by improving productivity, creating employment, and fostering innovation through competition and collaboration. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- FDI in India is governed by the **Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999**, and is administered by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ FDI under sectors is permitted either through the Automatic route or the Government route.

199. (A)

Exp:

Small Modular Reactors (SMRs):

- SMRs are **advanced nuclear reactors** with a capacity of up to 300 MW(e), about one-third of traditional reactors. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- They are **compact, factory-assembled**, and transported for installation, making them suitable for remote or space-constrained areas.
- They **require refueling every 3 to 7 years**, unlike conventional plants that need it every 1 to 2 years. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The Union Budget 2025–26 announces the launch of a Nuclear Energy Mission with a focus on research and development of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) and to develop **at least 5 indigenously designed** and operational SMRs by 2033. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

200. (C)

Exp:

- India's gaming regulations are fragmented, especially concerning online gaming activities.
- After Independence, the Constitution assigned betting and gambling regulation to **individual States**, while games of skill came under central government control. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ Consequently, skill-based real-money games like poker, rummy, and fantasy sports are legally recognized as legitimate businesses throughout India.

- ◆ However, the legality of games of chance or gambling differs across States, with varying permissibility.

- The **Public Gambling Act of 1867**, still followed by many States, prohibits public gambling but allows exemptions for games of skill. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

201. (B)

Exp:

National Quantum Mission:

- **India is the seventh country** to have a dedicated quantum mission after the US, Austria, Finland, France, Canada, and China. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The mission helps in **developing magnetometers** with high sensitivity for precision timing (atomic clocks), communications, and navigation. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ It also **supports design and synthesis of quantum materials** such as superconductors, novel semiconductor structures and topological materials for fabrication of quantum devices.
- It is implemented by the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)** under the Ministry of Science & Technology. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- The mission is planned for 2023-2031 and aims to seed, nurture, and scale up scientific and industrial R&D and create a vibrant & innovative ecosystem in Quantum Technology (QT).

202. (A)

Exp:

National Statistics Office (NSO):

- The NSO serves as the **nodal agency for statistical development** in India, ensuring standardization, coordination, and dissemination of data.
- NSO consists of the **Central Statistical Office (CSO)**, the Data Informatics & Innovation Division (DIID) and the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO).
- **NSO compiles and releases the Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**, conducts the **Annual Survey of Industries (ASI)**, and provides statistical insights on industrial growth and economic trends.
 - ◆ The **Financial Stability Report (FSR)** is published by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** biannually on behalf of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC).
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

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203. (A)

Exp:

- The **Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS)** is the **primary global standard setter for the prudential regulation of banks** and provides a forum for regular cooperation on banking supervisory matters for the central banks of different countries. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR)** and the Net Stable Funding Ratio (NSFR) were **introduced by Basel III in 2010.**
 - ◆ The **Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR)** requires banks to hold a buffer of high-quality liquid assets sufficient to deal with the cash outflows encountered in an acute short term stress scenario as specified by supervisors. This is to prevent situations like "Bank Run". **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **Net Stable Funds Rate (NSFR)**, introduced under Basel III, requires banks to maintain a **stable funding profile in relation to their off-balance-sheet assets and activities.**
 - ◆ NSFR requires banks to fund their activities with stable sources of finance (reliable over the one-year horizon). **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The minimum NSFR requirement is 100%. Therefore, LCR measures short-term (30 days) resilience, and NSFR measures medium-term (1 year) resilience.

204. (D)

Exp:

International Energy Agency (IEA):

- The IEA was **created in 1974 by member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** to help industrialized countries respond to major 1973-1974 oil crises.
- All three reports are published by the International Energy Agency (IEA).
 - ◆ **Global Energy Review (GER)** provides an annual assessment of key trends in global energy demand and CO2 emissions, offering early insights into how energy markets and emissions evolve year-to-year.
 - ◆ **Energy Technology Perspectives** explores the role of technology innovation and deployment in transforming the global energy system to meet climate goals, providing detailed scenarios and pathways for decarbonization.
 - ◆ **The India Energy Outlook** examines India's energy demand and supply outlook, policy implications, and pathways to sustainable growth in India's unique context.
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

205. (D)

Exp:

Minimum Support Price (MSP):

- The MSP regime was **established in 1965 by setting up the Agricultural Prices Commission (APC)** (later renamed as CACP) as a form of market intervention to enhance national food security and protect farmers from significant decline in market prices.
- The Minimum Support Price (MSP) is the **rate at which the government buys crops** from farmers to protect them from a sudden drop in agricultural prices. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Government declares MSP at the **start of the sowing season**, following the recommendations made by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

206. (B)

Exp:

- **General Theory of Relativity:** Albert Einstein's theory explains how objects move around massive ones. A fundamental consequence of the general theory of relativity is the existence of a black hole. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- **Quantum Theory:** The study of tiny particles' behavior, like atoms, at the smallest level. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- **Einstein's Principle of Equivalence:** The idea that nature's laws are the same in a small region with gravity as without it. **Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.**
- **Hawking Radiation:** It is a theoretical concept proposed by Stephen Hawking, which suggests that black holes can emit radiation due to quantum effects near the event horizon known as Hawking radiation. **Hence, pair 4 is not correctly matched.**
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

207. (B)

Exp:

Cybersecurity:

- The terms Adware, Ransomware, and Trojans refer to **types of malicious software** that pose threats to computers and digital systems.
- They are **commonly associated with cybersecurity** because cybercriminals use them to steal data, block access, or damage systems.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**



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