



Monthly Editorial Quiz

CONSOLIDATION

October 2025



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Practice Questions

1. With reference to Initial Public Offer (IPO), consider the following statements:

1. It is the process by which a listed company can raise capital for growth and expansion.
2. It is regulated by the Reserve Bank of India.

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

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

2. With reference to Special Intensive Revision (SIR) conducted by Election Commission of India, consider the following statements:

1. The exercise was carried out under the ECI's special powers without explicit statutory backing.
2. It is the first time SIR has been conducted in Bihar.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

3. Consider the following statements:

1. In recent years, wages and profits have increased in an equally proportionate manner.
2. According to the World Employment and Social Outlook 2025, generative artificial intelligence is expected to impact the roles of one in every four workers.
3. Since 2010-11, the share of formal manufacturing in the Gross Domestic Product has nearly halved.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

4. With reference to Indian Economy, consider the following statements:

1. Economic Survey showed agriculture's share in employment increased in 2023-24 compared to 2017-18.

2. The share of manufacturing in India's GDP increased in 2023-24 compared to 2013-14.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

5. With reference to the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), consider the following statements:

1. NCAP aims to reduce PM10 levels to 40 percent by 2026.
2. None of the 131 target cities have recorded any improvement in pollution levels compared to 2017.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

6. With reference to Electrolyser technology used in Green Hydrogen production, consider the following statements:

1. At present, Alkaline (ALK) and Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) electrolyzers are commercially used.
2. China dominates the global manufacturing capacity of Alkaline electrolyzers.
3. PEM electrolyzers require precious metals such as iridium, platinum, and titanium.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

7. Recently, India has announced anti-dumping investigations on several products. Consider the following statements regarding anti-dumping measures:

1. Imposing anti-dumping duties is a violation of World Trade Organization (WTO) rules.
2. The investigation of dumping and recommendation for anti-dumping duty is done by the Ministry of Finance.

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3. Anti-dumping measures protect domestic industries from unfairly priced foreign imports.

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

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

8. "Rudra" and "Bhairav", recently seen in the news, refer to:

- A. Integrated tri-services Command.
B. Stealth Missile Frigates
C. Battle formations of the Army.
D. Advanced Light Helicopters.

9. With reference to tokenisation of financial assets, consider the following statements:

1. It represents digital ownership of a financial or real asset.
2. It increases the dependence on financial intermediaries.
3. It facilitates easier and faster cross-border trading.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

10. With reference to the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), consider the following statements:

1. It is mandated to keep inflation below 2%, as per the Urijit Patel Committee recommendations.
2. All members of the MPC are appointed by the Central Government.
3. The MPC controls money supply through instruments like the Repo Rate.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

11. With reference to the calculation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for crops, consider the following statements:

1. The final decision on MSP is taken by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).

2. The method of MSP calculation includes the value of unpaid family labour.

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

12. Which of the following statements is *not* correct regarding the Consumer Confidence Survey ?

- A. It is conducted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
B. It is measured through two indices - Current Situation Index (CSI) and Future Expectations Index (FEI).
C. The range of the index is 0–100, with 100 indicating the highest confidence.
D. It is calculated separately for rural and urban consumers.

13. With reference to the Shanta Kumar Committee (2015), consider the following statements:

1. It was set up to suggest reforms in the functioning of the Food Corporation of India (FCI).
2. According to the Committee's report, only about 6% of farmers benefit from the Minimum Support Price (MSP) system.
3. The Committee recommended that FCI should centralize the procurement operations of wheat and rice.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

14. With reference to Sir Creek, consider the following statements:

1. It is located in the Kathiwar Peninsula of Gujarat.
2. It forms a part of the Indus River Delta system.
3. It is a tidal waterway lying between India and Pakistan.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

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15. With reference to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), consider the following statements:
1. It was established at the COP21 conference held in Paris in 2015.
 2. Its headquarters are located in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.
 3. All member countries of the United Nations are also members of IRENA.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- A. Only one
 - B. Only two
 - C. Only three
 - D. None
16. With reference to the influence of Indian Culture on South and Southeast Asia, consider the following statements:
1. Angkor Wat is dedicated to Lord Vishnu and is located in Laos.
 2. Borobudur temple in Indonesia is dedicated to Mahayana Buddhism.
 3. During Ashoka's reign, a sapling of the Bodhi tree was planted in Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
 - B. 2 and 3 only
 - C. 1 and 3 only
 - D. 1, 2 and 3
17. With reference to the peace initiatives related to the Israel–Palestine conflict, consider the following statements:
1. The Oslo Accords of the 1990s aimed to establish a framework for a two-state solution and created the Palestinian Authority.
 2. The Abraham Accords were peace agreements between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, facilitated by the United States.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
 - B. 2 only
 - C. Both 1 and 2
 - D. Neither 1 nor 2
18. The term “**Xenobiology**”, sometimes seen in news, refers to:
- A. The study of alien life forms and extraterrestrial biology.

- B. The branch of synthetic biology that designs and creates biological systems using non-natural molecules or genetic codes.
- C. The study of microorganisms found in extreme environments like hydrothermal vents.
- D. The application of nanotechnology in biological systems.

19. Consider the following statements regarding Disaster Management in India:

1. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is chaired by the Prime Minister of India.
2. The National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
3. The Disaster Management Act, 2005 provides for the creation of District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs) headed by the Chief Minister of the State.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. Only one
 - B. Only two
 - C. All three
 - D. None
20. With reference to macronutrients in human diet, consider the following statements:
1. Proteins act as the primary source of energy in the human body under normal conditions.
 2. Fats provide more energy per gram than carbohydrates.
 3. Dietary fibre is a source of roughage but provides negligible calories.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
 - B. 2 and 3 only
 - C. 1 and 3 only
 - D. 1, 2 and 3
21. With reference to Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms in India, consider the following pairs:
- | ADR Mechanism | Feature/Characteristic |
|----------------|--|
| 1. Arbitration | Decision of a neutral third party is binding and enforceable in law. |
| 2. Mediation | A neutral facilitator assists parties to voluntarily arrive at a mutually acceptable solution. |

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3. Conciliation Similar to mediation but has legal recognition under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996.
4. Lok Adalat Statutory forum whose award is deemed as a decree of a civil court.

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

22. With reference to Artificial Intelligence (AI), consider the following statements:

1. AI is capable of performing tasks requiring human intelligence, such as problem-solving, speech recognition, and decision-making.
2. AI systems are inherently free from bias and always make objective decisions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

23. With reference to the External Commercial Borrowings (ECB), consider the following statements:

1. ECBs are regulated by the Reserve Bank of India.
2. ECBs are allowed in the real estate sector.
3. Under the automatic route, firms can raise up to \$100 millions in a financial year.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- A. Only one
B. Only two
C. Only three
D. All are correct.

24. With reference to the protection and conservation of wildlife in India, consider the following statements:

1. The highest authority for approving any alteration of boundaries in a National Park or Wildlife Sanctuary is the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL), which is chaired by the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

2. Captive breeding is a recognized conservation strategy under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 for the purpose of reintroduction into the wild.

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

25. With reference to Euthanasia, consider the following statements:

1. In Common Cause Case (2018), Supreme Court recognised person Right to Die with Dignity.
2. In India both passive as well as active euthanasia are legal.

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

26. With reference to Propylene Glycol, often seen in news, consider the following statements:

1. It is a low-toxicity synthetic alcohol.
2. It is used as a solvent in pharmaceuticals.
3. It is also used as an aircraft deicing fluid.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

27. Consider the following statements regarding the recently launched Mission for Atmanirbharta in Pulses:

1. The mission will be implemented over a period of six years from 2025-26 to 2030-31.
2. It includes a focus on research and development of climate-resilient pulse varieties.
3. It aims to expand the area under pulse cultivation to 310 lakh hectares.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

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

1. It measures price changes from the perspective of a retail consumer.
2. All types of Consumer Price Indices in India are compiled and released by the Labour Bureau.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

29. With reference to the 2025 Nobel Prize in Physics, consider the following statements:

1. The prize was awarded to scientists for their contribution to quantum tunnelling research using superconducting electrical circuits.
2. The experiments used semiconductors separated by an insulating layer known as a Josephson junction.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

30. With reference to Contempt of Court in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Supreme Court and High Courts derive their power to punish for contempt from the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971.
2. Truth can be used as a valid defence in contempt proceedings if it is made in public interest and with bona fide intent.

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

31. Consider the following:

Assertion (A): Fire safety in India is primarily governed by the National Building Code (NBC), 2016.

Reason (R): Fire services are a subject under the Union List, and therefore, the Ministry of Home Affairs directly enforces fire safety regulations across India.

Which of the following is/are true:

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

32. Which of the following best describes the Gold Monetisation Scheme as envisaged in India's financial self-reliance framework?

- A. A scheme for compulsory declaration of household gold for taxation purposes.
- B. A voluntary mechanism to mobilise idle household gold into the formal economy for productive use.
- C. A subsidy scheme for gold importers to reduce the trade deficit.
- D. A foreign exchange hedging instrument designed by the Reserve Bank of India.

33. With reference to preventive detention in India, consider the following Acts:

1. National Security Act, 1980
2. Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities (COFEPOSA) Act, 1974
3. Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967

Which of the above Acts empower the government to detain individuals for reasons related to national security or public order?

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

34. With reference to domestic capital and economic growth in India, consider the following statements:

1. In the post-COVID period, profits of the formal sector surged, but private investment remained subdued, with public investment sustaining growth momentum.
2. India's outward FDI flows grew at a CAGR of 3.9% over the past five years, reflecting Indian capital's limited interest in foreign markets.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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35. With reference to Metal–Organic Frameworks (MOFs), consider the following statements:

1. MOFs consist of metal ions or clusters connected by organic ligands forming a 3D network.
2. MOFs have applications in carbon dioxide capture, water harvesting, and hydrogen storage.

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

36. In the context of global finance, what does the term “de-dollarization” refer to?

- A. The process of reducing the use of the U.S. dollar in international trade and reserves.
- B. The complete elimination of the U.S. dollar from global markets.
- C. The increase in the U.S. dollar’s share of global reserves.
- D. The adoption of the U.S. dollar as the sole global currency.

37. With reference to invasive species in India, consider the following statements:

1. Lantana camara and Parthenium hysterophorus are invasive alien species that disrupt native ecosystems.
2. The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, explicitly provides measures to control invasive alien species 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

38. With reference to preventive detention under Article 22 of the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. Preventive detention can be imposed for reasons related to public order, but not mere law and order.
2. Advisory boards must review all preventive detention orders irrespective of duration.
3. Courts can examine the procedural compliance of preventive detention orders but cannot assess the substantive reasons for detention.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

39. With reference to India’s Model Code of Conduct (MCC), consider the following statements:

1. The MCC is legally enforceable and violation can lead to criminal prosecution.
2. The MCC comes into force immediately after the announcement of election dates by the Election Commission of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

40. Consider the following statements about environmental governance in India:

1. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) was established to provide effective and speedy disposal of cases relating to environmental protection.
2. The NGT can hear appeals only against decisions of the Supreme Court relating to environmental matters.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

41. With reference to the 2025 Nobel Prize in Literature, consider the following statements:

1. The award was given to László Krasznahorkai, a Hungarian novelist known for his long, philosophical sentences and apocalyptic themes.
2. His most famous work, Satantango, portrays rural decay and despair and has been adapted into a film.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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42. With reference to the Gaza Strip, consider the following statements:

1. It shares land borders with both Israel and Egypt.
2. The Mediterranean Sea lies to its west.
3. The Jordan River forms its eastern boundary.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

43. "The silent pandemic" often mentioned in global health discussions refers to:

- A. Chronic malnutrition
- B. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)
- C. Air pollution-related mortality
- D. Zoonotic spillover diseases

44. With reference to the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017, consider the following statements:

1. The Act decriminalizes suicide attempts by individuals and mandates government support for their rehabilitation.
2. It guarantees every person the right to access mental healthcare services funded by the State.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

45. With reference to the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, consider the following statements:

1. The Act provides for the creation of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.
2. The Act allows free hunting of animals listed in Schedule I.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

46. With reference to the Petroleum & Explosives Safety Organization (PESO), consider the following statements:

1. PESO functions under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

2. PESO is responsible for the regulation of safety in the manufacture, storage, transport, and handling of explosives, petroleum, and compressed gases.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

47. With reference to the geography of Afghanistan, consider the following statements:

1. Wakhan Corridor borders Tajikistan to the north and Pakistan to the south.
2. The Amu Darya River forms the northern boundary of Afghanistan with Central Asian countries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

48. Consider the following statements regarding the Nobel Peace Prize:

1. The 2025 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to a group called "Defenders of Free Media in Authoritarian Regimes".
2. The Nobel Peace Prize is presented annually in Oslo, Norway, whereas the other Nobel Prizes are awarded in Stockholm, Sweden.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

49. According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) Report on Crime and Prison Statistics 2023, match the following causes with their corresponding effects:

Cause	Effect
A. Ethnic violence in Manipur	1. Surge in crimes against Scheduled Tribes
B. Greater Internet penetration	2. Increase in cybercrimes
C. Sluggish wage growth and social stress	3. Increase in suicides among men

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Which of the following options is correct ?

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

50. With reference to India's demographic trends, consider the following statements:

1. India's population growth rate declined from about 1.5% per annum during 2001–2011 to around 1.0% per annum during 2011–2021.
2. The urban population growth rate has consistently exceeded the rural population growth rate in the last three decades.
3. Higher female literacy rates are associated with a decline in Total Fertility Rate (TFR) in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

51. Diethylene Glycol (DEG), recently in the news, is associated with which of the following?

- A. It was developed as a biodegradable polymer additive for green plastics.
- B. It was detected as a contaminant in Indian-manufactured cough syrups linked to child deaths abroad.
- C. It was recommended by WHO as a stabilizing agent in vaccine formulations.
- D. It was used as a catalyst in renewable hydrogen fuel production.

52. Arattai, recently in the news, is associated with which of the following?

- A. It is an indigenous social media platform launched by ISRO for secure space communication.
- B. It is a multilingual AI-based chat assistant developed by NIC for Digital India.
- C. It is a homegrown instant messaging app developed by Zoho Corporation that witnessed a massive surge in new users.
- D. It is a government-backed messaging platform replacing WhatsApp for official use.

53. Why are Rabi crops more dependent on irrigation compared to Kharif crops?

- A. They are grown during the dry winter season when monsoon rains are absent.
- B. They require more water than Kharif crops like rice.
- C. They are mainly cultivated in high-rainfall regions.
- D. They are sensitive to humidity rather than rainfall.

54. Consider the following statements about sustainable energy transition in India:

1. India aims to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070.
2. Under the Panchamrit commitments, India pledged to meet 50% of its energy requirements from renewable sources 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

55. With reference to the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005, consider the following statements:

1. Every citizen of India has the right to obtain information from any public authority, which must respond within a prescribed time limit under the Act.
2. Matters relating to national security, sovereignty, and personal information are exempted from disclosure under certain provisions of the Act.
3. The Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners are appointed by the President of India on the recommendation of a committee chaired by the Prime Minister.

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

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

56. With reference to the geography of the Nicobar Islands, consider the following statements:

1. The Indira Point on Great Nicobar Island lies close to the Tropic of Cancer.
2. The Nicobar Islands experience an equatorial type of climate.

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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

57. Which of the following newspapers was founded by Mahatma Gandhi during his stay in South Africa?

- A. Harijan
- B. Young India
- C. Indian Opinion
- D. Navajivan

58. With reference to ecological pyramids, consider the following statements:

1. The pyramid of energy in any ecosystem is always upright.
2. The pyramid of biomass in an aquatic ecosystem is usually upright due to high phytoplankton biomass.

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

59. With reference to the Nobel Prize in Economics 2025, consider the following statements:

1. It was awarded to Joel Mokyr, Philippe Aghion, and Peter Howitt.
2. The research of the awardees highlights that technological progress alone is sufficient to sustain economic growth without institutional support.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

60. With reference to the conservation of Snow Leopards in India, consider the following statements:

1. India's Snow Leopard population is found only within the boundaries of the Great Himalayan National Park.
2. It is listed as "Vulnerable" on the IUCN Red List.
3. It is included in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

61. With reference to India's recent economic growth performance, consider the following statements:

1. India's GDP growth for FY 2024–25 is projected by the IMF to be higher than that of China.
2. The Reserve Bank of India has projected India's real GDP growth for FY 2024–25 at 6.6%.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

62. With reference to the geography of the Pakistan–Afghanistan border, consider the following statements:

1. The Durand Line serves as the international boundary between Pakistan and Afghanistan.
2. The Khyber Pass connects Peshawar in Pakistan with Kabul in Afghanistan through the Hindu Kush range.

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

63. *Model Code of Conduct (MCC)*, issued by the Election Commission of India, comes into effect:

- A. From the date of announcement of election schedule by the ECI
- B. One month before the polling date
- C. From the date of filing nomination papers
- D. After the publication of the final electoral rolls

64. With reference to the Right to Information Act, 2005, consider the following statements:

1. The RTI Act mandates every public authority to publish certain categories of information suo motu.
2. The Central Information Commission (CIC) and State Information Commissions (SICs) are constitutional bodies established under Article 324 of the Constitution.

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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

65. With reference to different types of inflation, consider the following statements:

1. Demand-pull inflation occurs when aggregate demand exceeds aggregate supply.
2. Cost-push inflation arises due to rising input costs like wages or raw materials.
3. Imported inflation results from depreciation of the domestic currency.
4. Structural inflation is primarily caused by temporary supply shocks in the economy.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

66. Sharm el-Sheikh, often in news, is geographically located along which of the following water bodies?

- A. Gulf of Suez
- B. Gulf of Aqaba
- C. Mediterranean Sea
- D. Persian Gulf

67. With reference to India–Taiwan relations, consider the following statements:

1. India and Taiwan do not share formal diplomatic relations but maintain representative offices in each other's capitals.
2. The India–Taiwan trade relationship is primarily dominated by agricultural exports from India and semiconductor imports from Taiwan.

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

68. With reference to the rivers of Ladakh, consider the following statements:

1. The Zaskar River is a tributary of the Indus that joins it near Nimmu, west of Leh.
2. The Indus River enters Ladakh near Demchok.

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

69. Consider the following statements regarding Bharat Stage (TREM) Emission Standards:

1. Bharat Stage (TREM) standards apply to non-road diesel engines, including tractors and construction equipment.
2. Bharat Stage (TREM) V standards, to be implemented by 2026, will align Indian regulations with U.S. Tier 4f and EU Stage V norms.
3. TREM stands for "Transport Emission Regulation for Motorized Vehicles."

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

70. With reference to hydrogen-powered internal combustion engines (H₂-ICE), consider the following statements:

1. Hydrogen engines operate on the same principle as conventional petrol or diesel engines but use hydrogen as the fuel.
2. Hydrogen combustion in engines produces water vapor as the only byproduct.

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. With reference to India–Canada relations, consider the following statements:

1. Canada supplies critical minerals such as lithium and cobalt to India under the 2022 Critical Minerals Cooperation Agreement.
2. Canada is a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and supports India's membership in it.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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72. Consider the following statements regarding the biodiversity of Kerala:

1. Kerala forms part of the Western Ghats–Sri Lanka biodiversity hotspot.
2. The Lion-tailed Macaque and Malabar Civet are among the Western Ghats endemics recorded in the state.
3. The Silent Valley region represents one of the last tracts of tropical evergreen rainforest in India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

73. With reference to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), consider the following countries of South Asia:

1. Bangladesh
2. Bhutan
3. Nepal
4. Sri Lanka

Which of the above have formally joined the BRI?

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

74. With reference to the legal framework governing refugees and foreign nationals in India, consider the following statements:

1. India is a signatory to both the 1951 UN Convention on the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol.
2. The Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025 replaced all pre-Independence laws dealing with foreigners.
3. The Citizenship Act, 1955 defines "refugee" and "infiltrator"

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

75. With reference to the representation of women in the Indian judiciary, consider the following statements:

1. According to the India Justice Report 2025, women constitute less than 5% of the judges in the Supreme Court of India.

2. Women account for more than one-third of the judges in the lower judiciary.

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

76. With reference to the development and certification of Green Crackers, consider the following statements:

1. Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) is responsible for the storage, transportation, and licensing of green crackers.
2. CSIR–NEERI holds the patent for the formulations used in green crackers and licenses manufacturers through agreements.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

77. With reference to the North-East Monsoon (NEM) in India, consider the following statements:

1. The North-East Monsoon primarily affects the south-eastern parts of the Indian Peninsula, especially Tamil Nadu and coastal Andhra Pradesh.
2. The winds associated with the North-East Monsoon blow from land to sea and are, therefore, generally dry over most parts of 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

78. In the question given below, there are two statements marked as Assertion (and Reason (R)). Mark your answer as per the codes provided:

Assertion (A): Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) have overtaken communicable diseases as the leading cause of death in India.

Reason (R): Improved healthcare, vaccination, and sanitation have reduced the incidence of infectious diseases over time.

Which of the options given below is/are correct?

- A. Both A and R are correct, and R is the correct explanation of A.

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

79. Which one of the following best describes the term “Time Rondeau Crystal (TRC)” sometimes seen in the news?

- A. A superconducting phase of matter that exhibits zero electrical resistance at ambient temperature.
 B. A new form of crystal exhibiting periodic arrangement of atoms in three-dimensional space.
 C. A phase of matter that shows long-term order and short-term randomness in time rather than in space.
 D. A new state of plasma exhibiting extremely high temperature and magnetic confinement.

80. With reference to Intellectual Property Rights in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks (CGPDTM) functions under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
2. Copyrights in India are administered by the Department of Legal Affairs under the Ministry of Law and Justice.

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

81. Match the following Committees of the Constituent Assembly with their respective chairpersons:

List-I (Committee)	List-II (Chairperson)
a. Drafting Committee	1. Jawaharlal Nehru
b. Union Powers Committee	2. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar
c. Provincial Constitution Committee	3. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. a-1, b-2, c-3
 B. a-1, b-3, c-2
 C. a-2, b-1, c-3
 D. a-3, b-2, c-1

82. With reference to the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958, consider the following statements:

1. It provides for the preservation of ancient and historical monuments and archaeological sites and remains of national importance.
2. Under the Act, construction is prohibited within 300 metres of a protected monument.

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. Which of the following statements correctly describes the DNA mark-recapture technique used in India's elephant census?

- A. It involves counting elephants visually from aerial and ground surveys.
- B. It identifies individual elephants through unique genetic markers from dung samples.
- C. It uses thermal imaging cameras to record elephant movements.
- D. It estimates population size based on herd sighting frequency.

84. With reference to the governance structure of Jammu and Kashmir, consider the following statements:

1. The Lieutenant Governor exercises discretionary powers even in matters where the Legislative Assembly has competence.
2. The elected government in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir cannot introduce or pass any law without prior assent from the Union Home Ministry.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

85. With reference to India-China relations, consider the following statements:

1. The McMahon Line forms the boundary between India and China in the eastern sector.
2. The Line of Actual Control (LAC) was formally delineated through the Shimla Agreement of 1914.

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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

86. With reference to the Right to Information (RTI), consider the following statements:

1. The RTI movement, which began in the 1990s with public hearings in Rajasthan demanding access to local government records, was led by activists of the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS).
2. The RTI Act, 2005, mandates that public authorities proactively disclose certain categories of information to promote transparency.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

87. Which of the following correctly describes the "Quota System" of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)?

- A. It determines only the voting power of each member country.
- B. It determines both the financial contribution and voting power of member countries.
- C. It determines only the financial assistance eligibility of a country.
- D. It determines developing countries' borrowing limits from the IMF.

88. The rising human–wildlife conflict can be primarily attributed to which of the following factors?

1. Habitat loss due to diversion of forest land for infrastructure projects.
2. Fragmentation of wildlife corridors.
3. Encroachment of forest areas by human settlements.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

89. Which of the following mechanisms or provisions were established under the Paris Agreement (2015)?

1. Global Stocktake
2. Technology Mechanism
3. Green Climate Fund
4. Article 6 Market Mechanism

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

90. Which one of the following best describes the term "Millisecond Pulsars" sometimes seen in the news?

- A. A class of neutron stars that rotate hundreds of times per second and emit electromagnetic radiation across multiple wavelengths.
- B. A category of white dwarfs that emit visible light during their final collapse phase.
- C. Massive supernova remnants that release bursts of gamma rays during explosion.
- D. Black holes that emit periodic jets of charged particles while accreting matter.

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

1. The New Development Bank (NDB), established by BRICS, is headquartered in Shanghai, China.
2. The Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) under BRICS aims to provide short-term liquidity support to members during balance of payments crises.

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

92. Which of the following Indian States/Union Territories are landlocked and share international borders?

1. Bihar
2. Sikkim
3. Haryana
4. Ladakh

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 2 and 4 only

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

93. Straighthead disease in rice, recently mentioned in scientific studies, is caused by which of the following?
- A. A fungal infection that affects the rice panicle.
 - B. Accumulation of arsenic-derived organic compounds that disrupt grain filling.
 - C. A virus that prevents pollination of rice flowers.
 - D. A deficiency of silicon and nitrogen in paddy soils.

94. With reference to the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023, consider the following statements:
1. The Act applies only to personal data processed in India and excludes data processed outside India.
 2. The Act mandates that data processing must be done only for lawful purposes with the consent of the individual.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

95. Regarding bonded labour, consider the following statements:
1. Article 24 of the Indian Constitution categorically outlaws human trafficking and forced labour, deeming such practices unconstitutional.
 2. The Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, as amended in 2016, bars the employment of children below 16 years in hazardous occupations.
 3. India is yet to ratify the International Labour Organisation's Convention No. 182 (1999) on the Worst Forms of Child Labour.

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

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

96. Regarding the minimum wages for agricultural and industrial workers, consider the following statements:
1. The Minimum Wages Act, 1948, empowers both the central and state governments to fix, review, and revise the minimum wages.

2. The government revises minimum wage rates biannually, aligning the adjustments with changes in the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW).

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

97. Regarding Geothermal Energy, consider the following statements:

1. It is derived from the Earth's internal heat produced by radioactive decay, is a renewable and reliable source of continuous baseload power available around the clock.
2. India's first National Policy on Geothermal Energy, released in 2025, permits 100% FDI and promotes domestic innovation and collaboration with the oil and gas sector.
3. Northeast India's first geothermal production well has been successfully drilled in Dirang, Arunachal Pradesh.

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

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

98. Which of the following best describes the Competition Commission of India (CCI)?
- A. A constitutional body established to regulate financial markets and ensure monetary stability.
 - B. A statutory body aimed at promoting fair competition and preventing anti-competitive practices.
 - C. An executive agency responsible for overseeing public sector enterprises and their performance.
 - D. A regulatory body created to monitor foreign trade and investment policies.

99. The term deepfake, often seen in news, is best described as:

- A. Synthetic media created using artificial intelligence to manipulate or fabricate audio, video, or images.
- B. A cyberattack technique used to steal personal data through phishing websites.

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- C. A method of encrypting digital files using deep web algorithms.
- D. A digital watermarking tool used to verify the authenticity of online content.

100. Regarding Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF), consider the following statements:

1. These are government-owned funds created from state surpluses, often from a variety of sources like natural resources, trade surpluses, or budget excesses.
2. They help governments generate wealth through strategic investments, ensuring financial stability and economic growth.
3. The Santiago Principles are 24 voluntary guidelines ensuring transparency, good governance, and prudent investment by SWFs.

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

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

101. With reference to the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), consider the following statements:

1. It was established at the Baghdad Conference in 1960.
2. Venezuela is not one of the founding members of OPEC.
3. OPEC is a part of the International Energy Agency (IEA).

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

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

102. With reference to the Solar Power development in India, consider the following statements:

1. India has an aim for 500 GW of solar capacity by 2030.
2. India has allowed 100% foreign direct investment in the renewable energy sector.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only

- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

103. With reference to the United Nations Charter, consider the following statements:

1. India is one of the founding members of the United Nations and ratified the UN Charter even before Independence.
2. The UN Charter has never been amended since its adoption in 1945.

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.

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

1. It has been established under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
2. The Shailesh Nayak Committee is related to the review and recommendations for the CRZ.

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

105. With reference to Rare Earth Permanent Magnet (REPM), consider the following statements:

1. These are known for high magnetic strength and resistance to demagnetisation.
2. REPM can also include iron along with other rare earth elements.

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

106. With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), consider the following statements:

1. The scheme is administered by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
2. The premium rate to be paid by farmers is uniform at 2% for both Kharif and Rabi crops.

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3. The coverage under the scheme is available exclusively to the registered landowners and not to sharecroppers or tenant farmers.

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

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

107. With reference to the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), consider the following statements:

- 1. India has signed the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement with EFTA.
- 2. European Free Trade Association countries are not part of the Schengen area.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

108. With reference to the National Quantum Mission, consider the following statements:

- 1. This mission aims to develop a satellite based quantum communication channel.
- 2. Developing quantum materials such as superconductors is one of its objectives.

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

109. With reference to the Cloud Seeding, consider the following statements:

- 1. Chemicals like silver iodide and dry ice are dispersed into clouds for water droplet formation.
- 2. Cloud seeding can be done to prevent hailstorms and dissipate fog.

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

110. With reference to the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), consider the following statements:

- 1. This tribunal has been established under the Companies Act, 2013.
- 2. The appeal against the order of NCLT lies with the Supreme Court.

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

111. With reference to WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is the first WTO agreement on protecting Marine Resources.
- 2. Under this, WTO members must give details of their fishing activities and subsidies.
- 3. The WTO Fish Fund was established to aid developing countries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

112. With reference to the Northeast monsoon, consider the following statements:

- 1. This rain is crucial for Rabi crops in Tamil Nadu.
- 2. It occurs when northeasterly winds pick up moisture while passing over the Bay of Bengal, leading to rainfall in the region.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

113. With reference to the SOAR (Skiing for AI Readiness) initiative launched by the Ministry of Education, consider the following statements:

- 1. It aims to introduce Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a skill subject in schools affiliated with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).

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2. Under this initiative, AI has been introduced from Class VI onwards with structured modules, while a separate AI curriculum for Classes III–V will begin from the 2026–27 academic session.

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

114. With reference to the India Newborn Action Plan (INAP), consider the following statements:

1. It was launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2014.
2. Its primary goal is to achieve a single-digit Neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR) and Stillbirth Rate (SBR) 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

115. With reference to the National Manuscripts Mission, consider the following statements:

1. It was launched in 2003 by the Ministry of Culture under the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA).
2. Its primary objective is to locate, document, conserve, and make accessible India's manuscript wealth.
3. IGNCA was established in 1987 as an autonomous institution for research and dissemination in the arts.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

116. Which of the following best describes the International Space Station (ISS)?

- A. A lunar orbital platform established under the Artemis Program.
- B. A multinational, permanently crewed laboratory orbiting the Earth in Low Earth Orbit.
- C. A solar observation spacecraft operated jointly by NASA and ESA.

- D. A communication satellite used for global positioning and weather forecasting.

117. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC)?

1. It was established in 2001 as India's first and only integrated tri-service command.
2. It is responsible for securing India's western coastline and the Arabian Sea.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

118. With reference to Dark Sky Reserves, consider the following statements:

1. A Dark Sky Reserve is designated by the International Dark Sky Association (IDSA) based on its efforts to minimize artificial light pollution.
2. Hanle in Ladakh was chosen for India's first Dark Sky Reserve due to its clear, dry skies and low atmospheric water vapour, ideal for astronomical observations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

119. With reference to Article 19 of the Constitution of India, consider the following statements:

1. Article 19 guarantees certain fundamental freedoms exclusively to Indian citizens, including the right to freedom of speech and expression.
2. The State may impose reasonable restrictions on these freedoms in the interests of public order, morality, or sovereignty and integrity of India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

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

1. The Western Ghats are older than the Himalayas and exhibit a very high level of biological diversity and endemism.

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2. Hydropower projects, tourism, and plantations have emerged as major threats to their ecosystem.
3. Eucalyptus and acacia, introduced during the colonial period, have enhanced biodiversity in the region.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

121. Which of the following are major tributaries of the Yamuna River?

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

122. With reference to India–Nepal trade and investment relations, consider the following statements:

1. India is Nepal's largest trading partner, accounting for nearly 65% of its total international trade.
2. Indian firms contribute about one-third of the total foreign direct investment (FDI) stock in Nepal.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

123. With reference to India's recent extradition efforts, consider the following statements:

1. India has signed extradition treaties with 48 countries and has extradition arrangements with 12 other countries.
2. More than one-third of all persons extradited to India since 2002 have been accused of economic offences such as financial fraud and forgery.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only

- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

124. With reference to the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (RVP), consider the following statements:

1. The award is the highest national recognition for outstanding and inspiring contributions in the fields of science, technology, and innovation.
2. The awards are conferred under four categories — Vigyan Ratna, Vigyan Shri, Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, and Vigyan Team.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

125. Consider the following statements regarding the Louvre Museum:

1. The Louvre was originally built as a royal palace on the site of a 12th-century fortress commissioned by King Louis XIII.
2. The museum was first opened to the public in 1793 during the French Revolution.

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

126. Consider the following statements regarding the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954:

1. The Act defines magic remedy.
2. The Act extends to the whole of India and also applies to persons domiciled in India even if they are outside Indian territory.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

127. Which of the following countries are members of the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones for which IMD serves as the Regional Centre?

1. Bangladesh
2. Oman

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3. Thailand
4. Saudi Arabia
5. Maldives

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

128. Consider the following statements regarding the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM):

1. The CBAM is part of the European Union's "Fit for 55 in 2030" package aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 55% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels.
2. Under CBAM, importers in the EU will be required to surrender CBAM certificates corresponding to the embedded carbon emissions of imported goods.

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

129. Consider the following statements regarding the International Maritime Organization (IMO):

1. The IMO has set a target of achieving net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from international shipping by 2050.
2. The FuelEU Maritime Regulation, adopted under IMO, aims to gradually tighten global fuel standards for ships.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

130. Which of the following languages were added to the Eighth Schedule by the 92nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003?

1. Bodo
2. Maithili
3. Dogri
4. Santhali

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

131. Consider the following statements regarding the types of Electoral Rolls in India:

1. The Service Electoral Roll includes personnel of the armed forces and certain government employees serving outside their place of ordinary residence.
2. The Overseas Electoral Roll allows Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) to vote through postal ballots from abroad.

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

132. Which of the following substances is/are most commonly used as nuclei agents in cloud seeding experiments?

1. Sodium chloride
2. Silver iodide
3. Dry ice (solid CO₂)
4. Ammonium nitrate

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

133. Consider the following statements regarding the naming of tropical cyclones in the North Indian Ocean region:

1. Cyclone names are maintained and approved by the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones.
2. Names of the cyclone are used in alphabetical order based on the country of origin.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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134. The concept of “creative destruction”, associated with Economics, refers to:

- The process of reducing economic inequalities through redistribution.
- The replacement of outdated technologies and industries by new innovations driving economic growth.
- The destruction of inefficient government policies to promote fiscal discipline.
- The elimination of monopolies to promote free-market competition.

135. Consider the following statements regarding the East Asia Summit (EAS):

- The East Asia Summit is an initiative led by the ASEAN countries and includes eight dialogue partners.
- It serves as the primary forum for addressing political, security, and economic issues in the Indo-Pacific region.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

136. Which of the following best defines Crony Capitalism?

- A system where business growth is primarily driven by innovation and market competition.
- A system where business growth depends on close political connections and arbitrary state favouritism.
- A system where government support is extended transparently to strengthen strategic industries.
- A system where the State regulates business activities to ensure fair competition.

137. Consider the following statements regarding Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's reformist role:

- He worked actively for women's emancipation, prohibition, and the removal of caste discrimination in Gujarat and beyond.
- He integrated the farmers' struggles of Kheda and Bardoli with the broader national freedom movement.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

138. Which of the following are included under the Eight Core Industries forming part of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP)?

- Coal
- Automobiles
- Fertilizers
- Steel
- Textiles

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- 1, 3 and 4 only
- 2, 3 and 5 only
- 1, 2 and 4 only
- 3, 4 and 5 only

139. Consider the following statements regarding the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN):

- ASEAN was established in 1967 through the signing of the Bangkok Declaration.
- Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and the Philippines were the founding members of ASEAN.
- Timor-Leste became the 11th and newest member of ASEAN in 2025.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

140. Consider the following statements regarding the Paris Agreement, 2015:

- It is a legally binding international treaty adopted at COP21.
- It aims to limit the increase in global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5°C.
- The Agreement entered into force in 2018 after being ratified by more than 150 countries.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

141. What is Cloud Seeding?

- A. A process of dispersing pollutants into the atmosphere to reduce air temperature.
- B. A weather modification technique that enhances precipitation by introducing artificial nuclei into clouds.
- C. A natural process of rainfall formation through solar heating.
- D. A technique of removing moisture from clouds to prevent floods.

142. Consider the following statements regarding the PM-SHRI Scheme (Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India):

1. The scheme aims to upgrade over 14,500 existing schools to serve as model institutions for implementing the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
2. Under the funding pattern, all States and Union Territories receive 100% financial assistance from the Central Government.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answers

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

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Practice Explanation

1.

Ans: C

Exp:

Initial Public Offer (IPO)

- It is the process by which a privately held company, or a company owned by the government such as LIC, raises funds by offering shares to the public or to new investors. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Following the IPO, the company is listed on the stock exchange.
- Stock exchange is an organized market for the sale and purchase of securities such as shares, stocks, and bonds.
- A listed company can raise share capital for growth and expansion in the future through a follow-on public offering or FPO.
- While coming up with an IPO, the company has to file its offer document with the market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The offer document contains all relevant information about the company, its promoters, its projects, financial details, the object of raising the money, terms of the issue, etc.
- SEBI is a statutory body established in 1992 in accordance with the provisions of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.

2.

Ans: D

Exp:

Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Electoral Rolls

- SIR is a comprehensive, door-to-door verification and update of electoral rolls undertaken by the Election Commission of India (ECI) to ensure accurate and error-free voter lists.
- **Legal Basis:**
 - ◆ Conducted under **Section 21(3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950**, and empowered by Article 324 of the Constitution, allowing the ECI discretionary powers to revise rolls as it deems fit. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

Key Features:

- Intensive house-to-house verification by Booth Level Officers (BLOs).
- Inclusion of eligible voters, deletion of duplicates, deceased, and ineligible names.

- Submission of documents for residency and citizenship verification.

Historical Precedent:

- Previous SIRs have been conducted intermittently (at least nine times) since the 1950s in various states, reflecting evolving priorities like migration and delimitation.
- The last SIR in Bihar prior to the ongoing 2025 exercise was conducted in 2003. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

3.

Ans: C

Exp:

Wage-Profit Gap in India

- The Annual Survey of Industries (2023-24) shows factory profits grew by 7%, while worker wages rose only 5.5%.
- The Economic Survey (2024-25) highlights weak wage growth even as corporate profits touched a 15-year high. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

Manufacturing Sector Concerns

- The share of formal manufacturing in GDP has nearly halved since 2010-11. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- This decline reduces the availability of stable and high-quality jobs.

Global Labour Market Challenges

- The ILO warns that one in four workers may see their jobs transformed by generative AI. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Young entrants face shrinking entry-level opportunities, limiting skill-building and wealth creation.
- This may lead to stagnant wages and a widening intergenerational wealth gap.

4.

Ans: A

Exp:

Agriculture and the Jobs Crisis

In advanced economies, agriculture's role in employment consistently shrinks as development progresses. For instance, in the United States, farm work accounts for just **1.2% of employment**.

- By contrast, India has witnessed a reversal. According to the 2023-24 Economic Survey, agriculture's employment share has increased from **44.1% in 2017-18 to 46.1% in 2023-24**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- This trend signals distress, as surplus labour shifts back to agriculture due to the lack of industrial and service-sector jobs.

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Manufacturing should be the preferred growth engine because:

- Its GDP share has declined from **16.7% in 2013–14** to **15.9% in 2023–24**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- It generates **more direct and indirect jobs** compared to services.
- **Historical lessons:**
 - ◆ **US** built its middle class through manufacturing in the 1950s.
 - ◆ **China** achieved rapid growth through manufacturing in the 2000s.

5.

Ans: A

Exp:

National Clean Air Programme (NCAP):

To address this, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) launched the **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)** in January 2019.

Objectives of NCAP

The programme sets ambitious targets to control particulate matter pollution:

- **Initial Target (2019):** Reduce PM10 and PM2.5 levels by 20% by 2024–25, using 2017 as the baseline year.
- **Revised Target:** Achieve a **40% reduction in PM10 levels** or meet the **national standard of 60 µg/m³** by 2025–26. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

Coverage and Scope

- NCAP covers **131 non-attainment cities**, i.e., cities that consistently failed to meet the national air quality standards.
- The programme focuses on improving **urban air quality management** through stricter monitoring, city-specific action plans, and multi-sectoral interventions.

Progress So Far

According to the Union Environment Ministry:

- **95 out of 131 cities** showed overall improvement in PM10 levels in 2021 compared to 2017.
- **20 cities**, including **Chennai, Madurai, and Nashik**, have already achieved the national PM10 standard (60 µg/m³). Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

6.

Ans: D

Exp:

Electrolyser Technology and Green Hydrogen

- Hydrogen is widely used in industries such as oil refining, ammonia, and methanol production.

- At present, most hydrogen is produced using fossil fuels, which contributes to carbon emissions.
- Green hydrogen, produced through renewable energy, depends heavily on **electrolyser technology**.
- The Alkaline (ALK) and Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) electrolyzers are commercially used. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

Types of Electrolysers

1. Alkaline (ALK) Electrolysers

- A mature and low-cost technology.
- Built using nickel and steel, both abundantly available.
- Less efficient when handling fluctuating renewable energy loads.

2. Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) Electrolysers

- More efficient and capable of producing high-purity hydrogen.
- Perform better under variable loads from renewable sources.
- Rely on scarce and expensive precious metals such as iridium, platinum, and titanium, making cost reduction challenging. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

Global Supply Chain

- China dominates nearly **85% of global ALK electrolyser manufacturing capacity**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- This dominance in electrolyzers mirrors China's role in the solar PV supply chain.

7.

Ans: D

Exp:

Anti-Dumping Measures in India

What is Dumping?

- **Definition:** Dumping occurs when a country exports goods to another country at a price **lower than what it normally charges in its own domestic market**.
- **Nature:** It is considered an **unfair trade practice**.
- **Impact:** Dumping can distort international trade, harming domestic industries in the importing country.

Objective of Anti-Dumping Duty (ADD)

- **Corrective Measure:** ADD is imposed to **rectify the distortive effects of dumped goods** on domestic markets.
- **Protection:** It protects domestic producers from unfairly priced foreign imports. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
- **Long-Term Effect:** In some cases, ADD may reduce international competition for domestic companies producing similar goods.

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- **Nature of ADD:** It is a **protectionist tariff** but permitted under **WTO rules** as a tool for fair competition. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

Administration in India

- **Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR)** administers anti-dumping and anti-subsidy measures.
 - ◆ Operates under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.
 - ◆ It recommends the imposition of ADD.
- **Ministry of Finance** levies the anti-dumping duty on imports. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

8.

Ans: C

Exp:

“Rudra” and “Bhairav” - Indian Army Upgrades

- A key aim is to create **self-contained Integrated Battle Groups (IBGs)** of soldiers.

Key Structural & Technical Upgrades

1. Rudra All-Arms Brigades

- Single-arm brigades are being restructured into **integrated combat units**.
- Combines **infantry, tanks, artillery, engineers, UAVs, and Special Forces**.
- Tailored for **specific operational roles** in modern warfare.

2. Bhairav Light Commando Battalions

- Planned raising of **40–50 agile, lethal battalions** for **swift border incursions**.
- Designed to **supplement existing Para-Special Force (SF) and Para (Airborne) units**.
- Hence, option (c) is correct.

9.

Ans: B

Exp:

- Tokenisation refers to creating a digital representation of ownership of financial assets (money, bonds) or real assets (commodities, real estate) on distributed ledger technology (DLT). Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- It eliminates intermediaries like brokers and registrars, reducing transaction time and costs. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

Two key features drive its efficiency:

- **Programmability:** Assets and money are stored in secure code and transferred instantly.
- **Interoperability:** Standardised ledgers allow seamless cross-border trading. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

Examples:

Already, central banks have launched CBDCs, companies issue stablecoins, and banks are exploring tokenised deposits. Deposit tokenisation, in particular, retains the legal status of deposits while enabling real-time settlement, smart contracts, and global transactions.

Risks:

However, tokenisation poses risks: faster automated finance can trigger sudden crashes, complex products may create vulnerabilities, and contagion effects could resemble the 2008 crisis.

10.

Ans: A

Exp:

Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)

- Constituted under **Section 452B** of the **RBI Act, 1934** (amended in 2016).
- Empowers the **central government** to form a six-member committee responsible for monetary policy decisions.

Objective

- The MPC is tasked with **determining the policy rate necessary to achieve the inflation target**.
- The inflation target is set at **4% (± 2%)**, as recommended by the **Urjit Patel Committee**.
- **Decisions of the MPC are binding** on the Reserve Bank of India. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

Composition:

The MPC consists of six members:

1. **RBI Governor** – ex-officio chairperson
2. **Deputy Governor** in charge of monetary policy
3. **One RBI officer** nominated by the Central Board
4. **Three members appointed by the central government**
 - ◆ Must be **persons of ability, integrity, and standing**
 - ◆ Should have **expertise in economics, banking, finance, or monetary policy**. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

Tools of Monetary Policy

The MPC uses **quantitative and qualitative tools** to achieve its objectives:

- **Quantitative Tools** (primarily market operations)
 - ◆ **Repo Rate** – rate at which RBI lends to commercial banks. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
 - ◆ **Reverse Repo Rate** – rate at which RBI borrows from banks
 - ◆ Other instruments to control liquidity and credit flow

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- **Qualitative Tools** (regulatory and credit measures)
 - ◆ Directives to banks on lending priorities
 - ◆ Measures to regulate credit availability to specific sectors

11.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** is the guaranteed price at which the government procures farmers' produce, serving as a safety net against sharp market price fluctuations.
- The **MSP is recommended by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)** and finalized by the **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by the Prime Minister. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ Its primary objectives are to ensure remunerative prices for farmers and to encourage crop diversification by making alternative crops more profitable.
- **To determine MSP, CACP uses three cost concepts:**
 - ◆ **A2 cost**, which covers all direct paid-out expenses like seeds, fertilisers, hired labour, irrigation, fuel, and leased land
 - ◆ **A2 + FL cost**, which adds the imputed value of unpaid family labour to A2. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ **C2 cost**, a comprehensive measure that includes A2 + FL along with rentals and interest on owned land and fixed capital assets.
 - ◆ CACP considers **both A2+FL and C2 costs while recommending MSP.**

12.

Ans: C

Exp:

- **Consumer Confidence Survey** is conducted **bi-monthly** by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**. The survey captures:
 - ◆ **Current perceptions** (compared to a year ago), and
 - ◆ **Expectations for the next one year** regarding the general economic situation, income, employment, and spending.
- **Indices Used in CCS**
 - ◆ **Current Situation Index (CSI)**
 - Measures consumer sentiment on **current** economic, employment, and price conditions.
 - Compared with the situation **a year ago.**
 - ◆ **Future Expectations Index (FEI)**
 - Reflects consumers' **expectations for the next one year** regarding economic, employment, and price conditions.

- **Index Value:**

- ◆ **Below 100:** Negative consumer confidence
- ◆ **Above 100:** Positive consumer confidence.
- ◆ A score of **100 represents a neutral sentiment, while any value above 100 indicates increased consumer confidence. Hence, statement (c) is not correct.**

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

13.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Shanta Kumar Committee** was constituted by the Government of India in **2014** to recommend reforms in the **Food Corporation of India (FCI)**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The objective was to improve the efficiency of India's food grain procurement, storage, and distribution system, which had become burdened with rising costs and operational inefficiencies.
 - ◆ The committee submitted its report in **2015**, highlighting serious issues in the functioning of the MSP and Public Distribution System (PDS).
- **Key Findings of the Committee**
 - ◆ Only about **6% of Indian farmers** directly benefit from the **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** system. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ Procurement operations are highly concentrated in a few states such as **Punjab, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh**, leaving farmers in other regions outside the MSP net.
 - ◆ The **Food Corporation of India (FCI)** had become financially and administratively inefficient, requiring major reforms.
- **Major Recommendations**
 - ◆ **Decentralization of Procurement:** The **committee recommended that states should take a larger role in the procurement of wheat and rice**, while FCI should focus mainly on maintaining buffer stocks and moving grains between surplus and deficit regions. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ **Use of Technology:** Modern storage and transportation methods should be adopted to minimize food grain losses.
 - ◆ **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT):** The committee proposed that food subsidy should gradually shift to DBT to reduce leakages and ensure that benefits reach the targeted population efficiently.

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14.

Ans: B

Exp:

Sir-Creek

- **Sir Creek** is a 96-kilometre-long tidal waterway situated in the marshlands of the **Rann of Kutch, Gujarat**.
 - ◆ **Kathiawar, also known as Saurashtra**, is a peninsula in the south-west of Gujarat. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ It forms the boundary between India's Kutch region and Pakistan's Sindh province, opening into the Arabian Sea.
- Geographically, it lies within the **Indus River Delta system**, making it an ecologically sensitive zone rich in mangroves and marine biodiversity. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ It is a **tidal estuary**, influenced by the ebb and flow of seawater rather than river discharge, and surrounded by marshy mudflats and saline wetlands. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

15.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)** is an intergovernmental organization that promotes the adoption and sustainable use of renewable energy worldwide.
- It plays a key role in supporting countries' energy transitions and facilitating knowledge sharing.
 - ◆ IRENA was **established in 2009**. **Hence, statement, 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ Its **headquarters are in Abu Dhabi, UAE**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Membership is open to all UN member states, but **not all UN members have joined IRENA**, as of now, it has **170 members (169 countries and the EU)**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

16.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **Angkor Wat**: Although Angkor Wat is indeed dedicated to Lord Vishnu, it is located in **Cambodia, not Laos**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ Built in the **early 12th century** by **King Suryavarman II**, it originally served as a Hindu temple and later gradually became a Buddhist site, reflecting the region's religious syncretism.

- **Borobudur Temple**: This monument in Central Java, Indonesia, is a Mahāyāna Buddhist temple. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ It was built during the Sailendra dynasty (8th–9th century CE).
 - ◆ Its structure represents Buddhist cosmology, with relief panels depicting the life of Buddha and Jataka tales.
- **Bodhi Tree in Anuradhapura**: During Ashoka's reign (3rd century BCE), his son Mahinda brought a sapling of the Bodhi tree from Bodh Gaya to Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ It marked the introduction of Buddhism to the island and establishing a lasting religious link with India.

17.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Oslo Accords (1993 and 1995)** were signed between **Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)**. They aimed to create a **path toward a two-state solution** and established the **Palestinian Authority (PA)** to govern parts of the West Bank and Gaza. It was a landmark step toward mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Abraham Accords (2020)** were **not** between Israel and the Palestinians. They were **normalization agreements** between **Israel and Arab states** such as the **UAE, Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan**, mediated by the **United States**. The Palestinian Authority actually **criticized** these accords for bypassing the Palestinian issue. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct**
- **Hence, Option A is correct.**

18.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **Xenobiology** (from Greek *xeno* = foreign) is a subfield of **synthetic biology** that explores **life forms or biological systems based on non-standard biochemistry**, such as **alternative genetic codes, artificial nucleotides (XNA), or amino acids**.
- It does **not study extraterrestrial life** (that would be *astrobiology*), nor is it limited to extremophiles or nanotech applications.
- Its goal is to **create new biological systems** that could be safer (non-interacting with natural life) or useful for **biotechnology, medicine, or environmental applications**.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

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19.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** is indeed chaired by the **Prime Minister of India**. It is the apex body responsible for laying down policies, plans, and guidelines for disaster management. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM)** functions under the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**. It is the premier institute for training, research, and capacity building in disaster risk reduction and management. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA)** is **headed by the District Collector or District Magistrate**, not the Chief Minister. The elected representative of the local authority acts as co-chairperson. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Hence, Option B is correct.**

20.

Ans: B

Exp:

- Carbohydrates, not proteins, are the *primary* source of energy under normal conditions. Proteins are used for tissue repair and only as an energy source in extreme deprivation. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Fats yield *about 9 kcal/g*, while carbohydrates yield *4 kcal/g*. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Dietary fibre aids digestion but is *indigestible* and provides negligible caloric value. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, Option B is correct.**

21.

Ans: D

Exp:

- **Arbitration-** In arbitration, the dispute is referred to a **neutral arbitrator** whose **decision (award)** is **binding and legally enforceable** under the *Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996*. Commonly used for commercial disputes. **Hence, Pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- **Mediation** involves a **mediator** who helps parties reach a **voluntary and mutually acceptable settlement**. The mediator **does not impose** a decision. **Hence, Pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- **Conciliation** is **similar to mediation** but has **statutory recognition** under **Part III of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996**. The conciliator can **formally propose terms of**

settlement, and once signed, it becomes binding. **Hence, Pair 3 is correctly matched.**

- **Lok Adalats** are established under the **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987**. Their **award is final, binding**, and treated as a **civil court decree**. They handle both **pending and pre-litigation** disputes. **Hence, Pair 4 is correctly matched.**
- **Hence, Option D is correct.**

22.

Ans: A

Exp:

- AI systems are designed to **simulate human intelligence**, performing tasks like pattern recognition, reasoning, and decision-making. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct**
- AI systems **can be biased** due to **biased data or algorithms**. Human oversight is often needed. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct**
- **Hence, Option A is correct.**

23.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **External Commercial Borrowings**
 - ◆ **External Commercial Borrowing** is a loan availed by an Indian entity from a nonresident lender with a minimum average maturity.
 - ◆ It is regulated by the Reserve Bank of India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **RBI Guidelines:**
 - ◆ The negative list, for which the ECB proceeds cannot be utilised, include **real estate** activities, investment in capital market, equity investment, working capital purposes (except from foreign equity holders), repayment of Rupee loans (except from foreign equity holders). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The RBI has a borrowing limit of \$750 million per financial year under the automatic route. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

24.

Ans: B

Exp:

- While the **National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)**, established under the **WPA, 1972**, is the highest authority for granting permissions for projects within Protected Areas, it is chaired by the **Prime Minister of India**, not the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

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- The **WPA, 1972**, recognizes and provides the legal framework for both **in-situ (on-site)** and **ex-situ (off-site)** conservation.
 - ◆ **Captive breeding programmes** (ex-situ) in recognized zoos or conservation centres are a formal strategy for severely endangered species, **explicitly with the aim of increasing their population for eventual reintroduction** into their natural habitat. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

25.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Euthanasia:** Euthanasia is the practice of ending the life of a patient to limit the patient's suffering.
 - ◆ The **Supreme Court of India** in a landmark judgement in **Common Cause vs Union of India (2018)** recognised a person's right to die with dignity. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **There are two types of Euthanasia**
 - ◆ **Passive euthanasia**
 - Passive euthanasia is the act of withholding or withdrawing medical treatment, such as withholding or withdrawing life support, with the intention of allowing a person to die. **It is legal in India**
 - ◆ **Active euthanasia**
 - Active euthanasia occurs when the medical professionals, or another person, deliberately do something that causes the patient to die, such as administering a lethal injection. It is illegal in India. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

26.

Ans: D

Exp:

- **Propylene Glycol (PG), $C_3H_8O_2$** , is a **versatile, low-toxicity synthetic alcohol used across numerous industries**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It functions primarily due to its ability to absorb water and act as a solvent.
- **Key uses include:**
 - ◆ **Humectant:** Keeps foods (E1520), cosmetics, and medicines moist and fresh.
 - ◆ **Solvent/Carrier:** Dissolves and distributes food colors/ flavors and active drug ingredients in pharmaceuticals. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ **Chemical Feedstock:** A major component in making polyester resins (plastics).
 - ◆ **Theatrical Fog:** Generates artificial smoke for training and entertainment.

- ◆ **Antifreeze/Deicer:** Used as a non-toxic base in coolants and aircraft deicing fluids. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

27.

Ans: D

Exp:

- **Mission for Atmanirbharta in Pulses**
 - ◆ India has launched an ambitious **six-year mission (2025-26 to 2030-31)** to achieve self-reliance in pulses amid rising imports, which touched **7.3 million tonnes worth \$5.5 billion in 2024-25**, surpassing the previous record of 6.6 mt in 2016-17. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Key Features:**
 - ◆ **Research & Innovation:** Focus on developing high-yield, climate-resilient pulse varieties. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ **Expansion Goal:** Increase cultivation area to **310 lakh hectares** and boost production to **350 lakh tonnes**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ **Assured Procurement:** Agencies like **NAFED** and **NCCF** will procure **100% of farmers' produce** in participating states for the next four years.

28.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Consumer Price Index:** It measures price changes from the **perspective of a retail buyer**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Four types of CPI are as follows:**
 - ◆ CPI for Industrial Workers (IW)
 - ◆ CPI for Agricultural Labourer (AL).
 - ◆ CPI for Rural Labourer (RL).
 - ◆ CPI (Rural/Urban/Combined).
 - ◆ Of these, the first three are compiled by the Labour Bureau in the **Ministry of Labour and Employment**.
 - Fourth (CPI (Rural/Urban/Combined)) is compiled by the National Statistical Office (NSO) in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Base Year for CPI is 2012.**

29.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The 2025 Nobel Prize in Physics was awarded to **John Clarke, Michel Devoret, and John Martinis** for their experimental work on **quantum tunnelling in superconducting circuits**,

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advancing understanding of quantum behaviour at a macroscopic scale. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The experiments used **superconductors**, not *semiconductors*, separated by an insulating layer known as a **Josephson junction**, which enables the flow of current without applied voltage. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Hence, Option A is correct**

30.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The power to punish for contempt is not derived from any statute but from the **Constitution itself — Article 129** for the Supreme Court and **Article 215** for High Courts. These are **inherent constitutional powers**, though the **Contempt of Courts Act, 1971** regulates their procedure. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The **Contempt of Courts (Amendment) Act, 2006** introduced **truth** as a valid defence, provided it is made **in public interest** and with **bona fide intention**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Hence, option B is correct**

31.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The **National Building Code (NBC), 2016**, issued by the **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**, indeed provides detailed guidelines for **fire prevention, life safety, and fire protection systems**. **Hence, the Assertion (A) is correct.**
- **Fire services** are listed under the **State List (Entry 5, Seventh Schedule)** of the Constitution. States regulate and maintain fire services, while the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** and **NDMA** only play advisory and coordination roles. **Hence, the Reason (R) is not correct.**
- **Hence, Option C is correct**

32.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The reimagined **Gold Monetisation Scheme (GMS)** aims to **mobilise idle gold reserves** held by households, allowing them to deposit gold with banks and earn interest while channelling it into productive sectors.
- It is **voluntary, trust-based**, and focuses on **reducing imports, strengthening the current account, and creating domestic capital**.
- It is **not a tax enforcement or subsidy programme**.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

33.

Ans: D

Exp:

- **NSA, 1980** - empowers detention to maintain **public order and national security**.
- **COFEPOSA, 1974** - provides for **preventive detention** to prevent **smuggling and foreign exchange violations**.
- **UAPA, 1967** - though primarily a criminal law, it contains **preventive detention provisions** for dealing with **unlawful and terrorist activities** affecting national integrity.
- **Hence, Option D is correct.**

34.

Ans: A

Exp:

- In the post-COVID period, the surge in formal sector profits was largely driven by factors such as consolidation of market share, easing input costs, and operational efficiencies.
 - ◆ However, a climate of global uncertainty and weak domestic demand suppressed private investment, shifting the burden of sustaining economic growth onto government-led public investment. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- India's outward FDI flows grew at a CAGR of **12.6%**, well above the global average of 3.9%, showing a strong preference for foreign investments. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Hence, Option A is correct**

35.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The **2025 Nobel Prize in Chemistry** was jointly awarded to **Susumu Kitagawa, Richard Robson, and Omar M. Yaghi** for their groundbreaking work in the development of **metal-organic frameworks (MOFs)**. These innovative materials have opened new avenues in chemistry and materials science.
- Metal-Organic Frameworks (MOFs) are crystalline materials formed from metals and organic linkers. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- MOFs are used in CO₂ capture, water harvesting, pollutant removal, and hydrogen storage. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Hence, option C is correct**

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36.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **De-dollarization:** It refers to the process by which countries actively **reduce their dependence on the U.S. dollar for international trade, finance, and reserve holdings.**
- This is often achieved by promoting local or alternative currencies in bilateral trade or diversifying foreign exchange reserves.
- **Hence, Option A is correct.**

37.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Both *Lantana camara* and *Parthenium hysterophorus* are recognized invasive alien species in India. They spread rapidly, outcompete native flora, and alter habitat structure, affecting biodiversity and ecosystem services. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**, primarily deals with the protection of wildlife and their habitats.
 - ◆ It does **not explicitly regulate invasive alien species.** Management of invasive species falls under the purview of the **Biological Diversity Act, 2002**, and state biodiversity boards. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Hence, Option A is correct**

38.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **Supreme Court rulings** such as **S.K. Nazneen vs Telangana (2023)** clarified that preventive detention must concern **public order**, not minor law and order issues. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Advisory boards review cases **after 3 months**; not all orders are reviewed automatically. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Courts can examine **procedural compliance**, but cannot question the subjective satisfaction of the detaining authority regarding necessity. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, Option B is correct**

39.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The **MCC is not legally enforceable**; it is a set of guidelines issued by the ECI to ensure free and fair elections. Violations may attract administrative action but **not criminal prosecution.** **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**

- The **MCC comes into effect from the date of announcement of elections** by the Election Commission, guiding candidates and parties until the completion of polling. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

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

40.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** established under the **NGT Act, 2010** ensures **effective environmental justice.** **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **NGT** hears appeals against orders of authorities under laws such as the **Environment (Protection) Act**, not Supreme Court decisions. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Hence, Option A is correct**

41.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The **2025 Nobel Prize in Literature** has been awarded to **László Krasznahorkai**, a Hungarian novelist known for his long, philosophical sentences and apocalyptic themes. His prose is noted for its dense, philosophical structure and bleak, apocalyptic tone. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- His most famous work, **Satantango (1985)**. It depicts the **decline of a collective farm (rural decay)** and was later made into a celebrated film by Béla Tarr. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Hence, Option C is correct**

42.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The Gaza Strip borders **Israel** to the east and north, and **Egypt** (Rafah border) to the southwest. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Mediterranean Sea** lies to the west of Gaza, providing it with a narrow coastline. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **Jordan River** lies far east of the Gaza Strip, forming part of the boundary between Jordan and the West Bank, not Gaza. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Hence, Option A is correct**

43.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)** is often described as the **"silent pandemic"**, as it causes nearly **5 million deaths annually worldwide** but lacks the visibility of outbreaks like COVID-19.

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- WHO and UNEP have warned that without urgent measures, common infections could become untreatable.

➤ Hence, option B is correct.

44.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The **Mental Healthcare Act, 2017**, decriminalizes suicide under **Section 115**, assuming the person was under severe stress and requiring government support. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- The Act guarantees every individual the **right to affordable and accessible mental healthcare services**, obligating the government to provide such services. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- Hence, Option C is correct

45.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The WPA 1972 provides for the establishment of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries to conserve wildlife. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- **Hunting of animals listed in Schedule I is strictly prohibited** except under rare exemptions with government permission, free hunting is not allowed. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**
- Hence, Option A is correct

46.

Ans: B

Exp:

- PESO is under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion)**, not the Ministry of Environment. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**
- PESO is responsible for regulating safety in the manufacture, storage, transport, and handling of explosives, petroleum, and compressed gases to prevent industrial accidents. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- Hence, Option B is correct

47.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The **Wakhan Corridor** is a narrow strip of land in northeastern Afghanistan that **borders Tajikistan to the north and Pakistan to the south**, and connects Afghanistan to China at its eastern end. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

- The **Amu Darya River** forms Afghanistan's **northern boundary** with Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan. It is a major river of Central Asia and an important part of the **Aral Sea basin**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

➤ Hence, Option C is correct

48.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The **2025 Nobel Peace Prize** was awarded to **María Corina Machado**, a Venezuelan opposition leader, for her efforts to promote democracy and peaceful political change. It was **not** awarded to a group called "Defenders of Free Media in Authoritarian Regimes". Hence, **Statement 1 is not correct.**
- The **Nobel Peace Prize** is presented annually in **Oslo, Norway**, while the other Nobel Prizes (Physics, Chemistry, Medicine, Literature, and Economic Sciences) are awarded in **Stockholm, Sweden**. Hence, **Statement 2 is correct.**
- Hence, Option B is correct

49.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **NCRB Report on Crime and Prison Statistics 2023** reports a **28.8% rise in crimes against STs**, which is one of the largest increases in recent years.
 - ◆ The spike is largely **concentrated in Manipur**, where ethnic violence has created an acute vulnerability for tribal populations.
 - ◆ Other states like **Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan** also show high rates, but the Manipur unrest accounts for the most dramatic jump. Hence, **A-1 is correct.**
- Cybercrimes rose by **31.2% in 2023**, largely due to greater access to digital platforms and online financial services. The growth is attributed to **digital frauds, financial scams, and sexual exploitation online**, reflecting the risk of rapid digitisation without adequate safeguards. Hence, **B-2 is correct.**
- NCRB 2023 notes that **men account for 72.8% of suicides**, highlighting gendered economic and social pressures. Contributing factors include **family issues, financial stress, unemployment, and agrarian distress**. Sluggish wage growth, combined with socio-economic pressures, is a key driver of male suicides. Hence, **C-3 is correct.**
- Hence, Option A is correct.

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50.

Ans: D

Exp:

- India's decadal population growth rate fell from **17.7% (2001–2011)** to an estimated 12% (**2011–2021**), implying a fall in the **annual growth rate from around 1.5% to 1.0% per year**. This reflects declining fertility and improvements in health and education outcomes. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- As per Census data and UN Population Division estimates, the **urban population growth rate has consistently outpaced rural growth** due to migration and urban expansion. Urbanisation increased from **27.8% in 2001 to nearly 36% in 2023 (UN data)**, confirming this trend. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Data from **NFHS-5 (2019–21)** show that states with **higher female literacy (e.g., Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh)** have significantly **lower TFR**, well below replacement level. This confirms the strong inverse relationship between women's education and fertility rates. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

51.

Ans: B

Exp:

- In **2022–23**, the **World Health Organization (WHO)** issued global alerts after cough syrups manufactured in **India** were found contaminated with **Diethylene Glycol (DEG)** and **Ethylene Glycol (EG)**. These toxic industrial chemicals were linked to the deaths of **dozens of children in The Gambia, Uzbekistan, and Cameroon**.
- **DEG is an industrial solvent and antifreeze component, not intended for pharmaceutical use.** When ingested, it causes **acute kidney failure, metabolic acidosis, and neurological damage**. It is sometimes **illegally substituted for pharmaceutical-grade glycerin** due to its lower cost.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

52.

Ans: C

Exp:

- Arattai is a **homegrown messaging platform** developed by **Zoho Corporation**, launched to provide a **secure and Indian alternative** to global messaging apps. In **September 2025**, it witnessed a **100× surge in new users**, rising from around **3,000 to 3.5 lakh sign-ups per day**, amid renewed **privacy concerns** over foreign platforms.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

53.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Rabi crops** (like wheat, barley, mustard) are sown **after the withdrawal of the southwest monsoon** and depend on **irrigation or residual soil moisture** rather than rainfall.
 - ◆ This is the reason why **Rabi crops rely more heavily on irrigation compared to Kharif crops**, as they are grown in the absence of monsoon rainfall.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

54.

Ans: C

Exp:

- At **COP26 (Glasgow, 2021)**, India announced its **net-zero target for 2070**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- As part of the **Panchamrit** commitments, India pledged to meet **50% of its energy requirements from renewables by 2030**, along with installing **500 GW of non-fossil capacity**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

55.

Ans: C

Exp:

- Under the **Right to Information Act, 2005**, every Indian citizen can seek information from any public authority, which is obligated to reply **within 30 days (or 48 hours in cases concerning life or liberty)**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Section 8** of the RTI Act specifies exemptions from disclosure, including information that could affect **national security, sovereignty, strategic interests, or personal privacy** where no public interest is involved. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **Chief Information Commissioner (CIC)** and other **Information Commissioners (ICs)** are appointed by the **President of India** on the recommendation of a **committee comprising the Prime Minister (Chairperson), the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, and a Union Cabinet Minister** nominated by the Prime Minister. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

56.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The **Indira Point** lies near **6°45' N latitude**, which is close to the **equator**, not the **Tropic of Cancer (23 1/2° N)**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

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- Owing to its equatorial proximity, the **Nicobar Islands** experience a **hot, humid, and equatorial climate**, characterized by heavy rainfall and dense tropical vegetation. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

➤ **Hence, option B is correct.**

57.

Ans: C

Exp:

- In **1903**, Gandhi launched the newspaper **Indian Opinion** in **South Africa** to voice concerns of the Indian community and promote civil rights. It was his first major step in using journalism for socio-political reform.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

58.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **pyramid of energy** always remains **upright**, as energy flow in an ecosystem is unidirectional with energy being lost as heat at each trophic level. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In **aquatic ecosystems**, the **pyramid of biomass** is usually **inverted**, because phytoplankton (producers) have very low biomass but reproduce rapidly to sustain higher trophic levels. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

59.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The 2025 Nobel Prize in Economics was awarded jointly to **Joel Mokyr, Philippe Aghion, and Peter Howitt** for their research on the relationship between **innovation, institutions, and sustained economic growth**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Their work highlights that **technological innovation must be supported by open institutions and scientific reasoning**; innovation alone cannot guarantee progress. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

60.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **Snow Leopards** are distributed across several parts of India—Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh — not limited to the Great Himalayan National Park. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- They are listed as “Vulnerable” on the **IUCN Red List** due to habitat loss, prey depletion, and poaching. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- They are protected under **Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, offering the highest legal protection in India. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

- **Hence, option (b) is correct.**

61.

Ans: C

Exp:

- According to the **IMF's World Economic Outlook (April 2025)**, India's GDP growth for FY 2024–25 is projected at 6.5 percent, while China's growth is estimated at around 4.6 percent.

- ◆ Thus, India remains the fastest-growing major economy. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The Reserve Bank of India, in its April 2025 Monetary Policy Report, projected India's real GDP growth at **6.6 percent for FY 2024–25**, reflecting optimism about domestic demand and investment. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**

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

62.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The **Durand Line**, drawn in 1893 between British India and Afghanistan, serves as the **de facto boundary between Pakistan and Afghanistan**, although it remains politically disputed by Kabul. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The **Khyber Pass**, one of the most important mountain passes in the region, connects Peshawar (Pakistan) with Kabul (Afghanistan) and cuts through the Hindu Kush foothills, serving as a historic trade and invasion route. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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

63.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Model Code of Conduct (MCC)** comes into force **immediately after the ECI announces the election schedule** and remains in effect until the completion of elections.

- It governs the behavior of political parties and public officials to ensure free and fair elections.

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

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64.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Section 4 of the RTI Act, 2005 requires **every public authority to publish information suo motu to promote transparency** and reduce the need for individual requests. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **CIC and SICs are statutory bodies**, not constitutional ones, established under the provisions of the RTI Act itself—not Article 324 (which relates to ECI). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

65.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Demand-pull inflation** occurs when aggregate demand outpaces aggregate supply in an expanding economy, often during periods of strong income and investment growth. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Cost-push inflation** happens when production costs such as wages, raw materials, or energy prices increase, raising overall prices. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Imported inflation** arises when a domestic currency depreciates, making imported goods and energy costlier, thereby raising domestic prices. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Structural inflation** stems from **long-term supply-side bottlenecks**, poor infrastructure, or productivity gaps, not temporary shocks. **Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

66.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **Sharm el-Sheikh** is a resort city on the **southern tip of the Sinai Peninsula**, Egypt. It lies along the **Gulf of Aqaba**, part of the Red Sea. Hence, it is a major tourist and diplomatic hub.
- The location gives it **strategic maritime importance** connecting the Red Sea and Indian Ocean trade routes.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

67.

Ans: C

Exp:

- India and Taiwan have **no formal diplomatic ties** due to the “One China” policy, but both operate **de facto embassies** — the India–Taipei Association and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Center (TECC). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- Bilateral trade is dominated by **India’s exports of agricultural and mineral goods** and **Taiwan’s exports of electronics and semiconductors**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Taiwan is a **leading hub of semiconductor manufacturing**, especially through firms like **TSMC**, and India has sought cooperation for the Make in India initiative. **Hence, this aligns with India’s tech priorities.**
- Economic cooperation focuses on **electronics, EVs, renewable energy, and education exchanges**, strengthening ties without formal diplomacy.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

68.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The **Zaskar River rises in the Zaskar Range** and joins the Indus River at Nimmu, west of Leh, forming a famous confluence site. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Indus River originates in Tibet and **enters India (Ladakh) near a place called Demchok**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ It flows northwest through the **Leh district**, serving as the lifeline of the region, providing water for agriculture and human settlements, making it the most significant water resource in Ladakh
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

69.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Bharat Stage (TREM)** standards regulate emissions from **non-road diesel engines**, such as tractors, harvesters, and construction equipment. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **TREM V (2026)** aims to bring Indian tractors and machinery in line with **U.S. Tier 4f and EU Stage V standards**, ensuring global compatibility. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- “TREM” stands for **Tractor and Construction Equipment Emission Regulations**, not “Transport Emission Regulation for Motorized Vehicles.” **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

70.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Hydrogen-powered internal combustion engines (**H₂-ICEs**) use hydrogen in a modified conventional ICE design, with spark ignition or compression ignition systems. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- While combustion produces **mainly water vapor**, it can still generate **nitrogen oxides (NO_x)** at high temperatures. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

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- H₂-ICEs are easier to adapt for commercial vehicles due to familiarity with current engine architecture. They serve as a transitional technology until **fuel-cell electric vehicles (FCEVs)** become more widespread.
- Hence, option A is correct.

71.

Ans: B

Exp:

- While India and Canada are working to build a critical minerals supply chain, there is no specific "2022 Critical Minerals Cooperation Agreement." Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- Canada is a member of the **Nuclear Suppliers Group** and has supported India's candidature following the 2008 civil nuclear agreement. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The India–Canada **Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement** was signed in **2010** and came into force in 2013. Relations have since diversified into clean energy and critical minerals.
- Hence, option B is correct.

72.

Ans: D

Exp:

- Kerala forms part of the **Western Ghats–Sri Lanka Biodiversity Hotspot**, one of the eight most critical biodiversity regions in the world. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The State is home to several endemic species including the **Lion-tailed Macaque, Malabar Civet, Nilgiri Tahr, and Malabar Tree Toad**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The Silent Valley National Park in Kerala is famous for preserving one of the last remaining stretches of tropical evergreen rainforest in the country. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- Kerala's diverse rainfall pattern and altitudinal variation account for its exceptional species richness and endemism.
- Hence, option D is correct.

73.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka** have formally joined the **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)** through cooperation agreements signed with China. Hence, 1, 3 and 4 are correct. **Bhutan** is the **only South Asian country** that has **not joined the BRI**, maintaining cautious diplomatic engagement with China due to boundary concerns. Hence, 2 is not correct.

- India too has **not joined** the initiative, citing sovereignty concerns over the **China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)** passing through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Most South Asian countries view BRI as an opportunity for **infrastructure development and trade connectivity**.

- Hence, option (a) is correct.

74.

Ans: A

Exp:

- India is **not a signatory** to the **1951 Refugee Convention** or its **1967 Protocol**, hence lacks a binding international refugee framework. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- The **Immigration and Foreigners Act (2025)** replaced older colonial laws such as the **Foreigners Act, 1946**, the **Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939**, and the **Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The **Citizenship Act, 1955** does not define the term "refugee"; it only uses the term "illegal migrant." Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
- India's refugee management remains governed by ad hoc executive and humanitarian measures.
- Hence, option A is correct.

75.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The India Justice Report 2025 indicates that women constitute only about **3.1% of the judges in the Supreme Court**, reflecting a severe under-representation at the apex level. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Women make up nearly **38% of judges in the lower judiciary**, owing to open and competitive recruitment processes through state judicial services. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The lower judiciary exhibits a comparatively higher level of gender inclusion than the higher judiciary. This contrast highlights the need for structural reform in the appointment process for High Courts and the Supreme Court.
- Hence, option C is correct.

76.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The **Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO)** under the Ministry of Commerce regulates **licensing, storage, and transportation** of all fireworks, including green crackers. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

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- **CSIR–NEERI** developed patented formulations for green crackers and issued **Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs)** to licensed manufacturers. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The licensing ensures that only verified units use approved eco-friendly formulations. These collaborations have resulted in the mass production of certified green crackers across India.
- **Hence, option (c) is correct.**

77.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The **North-East Monsoon (October–December)** brings rainfall mainly to **Tamil Nadu, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Puducherry, and parts of Kerala**, accounting for nearly 50% of Tamil Nadu's annual rainfall. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **winds blow from the northeast to southwest**, originating over land, so they are **dry for most of India**, except where they pick up moisture over the Bay of Bengal. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- This monsoon is sometimes called the **"Retreating Monsoon."** Its activity is influenced by **cyclonic depressions over the Bay of Bengal.**
- **Hence, option (c) is correct.**

78.

Ans: A

Exp:

- NCDs such as cardiovascular diseases, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases, and diabetes account for **over 60% of total deaths** in India. **Hence, Assertion (A) is correct.**
- The decline in communicable diseases is due to **better vaccination, hygiene, and health infrastructure**, leading to a shift in disease burden. **Hence, Reason (R) correctly explains A.**
- This epidemiological transition reflects India's move from an infectious to a lifestyle-disease profile. WHO and MoHFW reports confirm this demographic and health shift.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

79.

Ans: C

Exp:

- A **Time Rondeau Crystal (TRC)** is a newly discovered **phase of matter** that exhibits **temporal order** instead of spatial order. Unlike an ordinary **time crystal**, which repeats motion at fixed intervals, a TRC combines **short-term randomness** with **long-term periodic regularity** in time.

- It was created by controlling the **spins of carbon-13 nuclei in diamond** using microwave pulses at quasi-random intervals.
- The discovery expands understanding of "temporal order," revealing that patterns in time can exist between perfect order and complete randomness.
- **Hence, option (c) is correct.**

80.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks (CGPDTM)** operates under the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, Ministry of Commerce & Industry. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Copyrights** are administered by the **Department of Higher Education** under the **Ministry of Education**, not the Ministry of Law and Justice. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- India's IP administration covers **five key areas: patents, trademarks, designs, GIs, and copyrights.** India is a member of **WIPO and TRIPS** under the WTO framework.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

81.

Ans: C

Exp:

- **Drafting Committee** – Chaired by **Dr. B. R. Ambedkar**, prepared the draft Constitution. **Hence, A-2 is correct.**
- **Union Powers Committee** – Chaired by **Jawaharlal Nehru**, it dealt with division of powers. **Hence, B-1 is correct.**
- **Provincial Constitution Committee** – Chaired by **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**. **Hence, C-3 is correct.**
- **Hence, option (a) is correct.**

82.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **AMASR Act, 1958** aims to preserve and protect monuments and archaeological sites of **national importance** across India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Act prohibits construction within **100 metres (prohibited area)** and regulates it up to **200 metres (regulated area)** around protected monuments, not 300 metres. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The **ASI** enforces these provisions through regional circles. The Act was amended in **2010** to strengthen protection and introduce the **National Monuments Authority (NMA).**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

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83.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The **DNA mark-recapture method** uses **genetic profiles from dung samples** to identify individual elephants.
- In India's elephant census, over **21,000 dung samples** were collected, and **4,065 genetic profiles** were created.
- The method is similar to that used in **tiger population estimation**, ensuring accuracy and avoiding double counts.
- It represents a shift towards **scientific, DNA-based wildlife monitoring** in India.
- Hence, option B is correct.

84.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Under the **J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019**, the **Lieutenant Governor (L-G)** retains significant discretionary powers and may act independently of the Council of Ministers in specific matters. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Bills passed by the Assembly require the **L-G's assent**, but **not direct prior approval** from the Union Home Ministry for introduction. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- The L-G represents the President and controls subjects like police, public order, and All-India Services. This limits the scope of self-governance within the UT framework.
- Hence, option A is correct.

85.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **McMahon Line**, drawn during the **1914 Shimla Convention**, separates **India and China in the eastern sector**, particularly along **Arunachal Pradesh**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The **Line of Actual Control (LAC)** is a de facto boundary that came into being **after the 1962 India-China war**, not through the Shimla Agreement. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- The LAC has **three sectors** - Western (Ladakh), Middle (Uttarakhand-Himachal), and Eastern (Arunachal). The boundary dispute persists due to differing perceptions of the LAC.
- Hence, option A is correct.

86.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The **RTI movement** originated in **Beawar, Rajasthan**, in the 1990s through *jan sunwayis* (public hearings) led by

Aruna Roy, Nikhil Dey, and activists of MKSS, demanding public access to local expenditure and records. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- The **Right to Information Act, 2005** under **Section 4(1)(b)** requires all public authorities to **proactively disclose information**, such as organizational details, functions, and budget allocations, to ensure transparency and accountability. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The grassroots campaign at Beawar became the foundation for the **national RTI framework** that institutionalized the citizen's right to know.
- Hence, option (c) is correct.

87.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) **quota system** determines a country's **financial contribution, voting power, and access to financing**.
- The IMF was indeed established in **1944 at Bretton Woods** to promote **international monetary cooperation** and stability.
- Hence, option (b) is correct.

88.

Ans: D

Exp:

- The increase in human-wildlife conflict is mainly driven by **habitat loss resulting from diversion of forest land** for projects such as roads, railways, hydel schemes, and transmission lines. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- **Fragmentation of wildlife corridors** disrupts natural animal movement, increasing contact between humans and wildlife. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- **Encroachment of forest areas** and agricultural expansion into wildlife habitats have intensified conflict incidents near forest boundaries. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- Hence, option (d) is correct.

89.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The **Global Stocktake**, to be conducted **every five years**, evaluates the collective progress towards the long-term temperature and adaptation goals of the Paris Agreement. Hence, 1 is correct.
- The **Technology Mechanism**, consisting of the **Technology Executive Committee** and the **Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN)**, operates under the UNFCCC but supports the implementation of the Paris Agreement by promoting low-carbon technologies. Hence, 2 is correct.

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- The **Green Climate Fund (GCF)** was established earlier, under the **Copenhagen Accord (2009)** and operationalised at **Cancún (2010)**—and is **not a creation of the Paris Agreement**, though it serves as its key finance channel. **Hence, 3 is not correct.**
- **Article 6** of the Paris Agreement establishes **market and non-market mechanisms** that allow countries to cooperate voluntarily in achieving emission-reduction targets. **Hence, 4 is correct.**
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

90.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Millisecond Pulsars** are **rapidly rotating neutron stars** that spin hundreds of times per second, emitting radiation in radio, X-ray, and gamma-ray wavelengths.
- They are the **collapsed cores of massive stars** that have exploded as supernovae and later been spun up by accreting matter from a companion star.
- These pulsars act as **highly stable cosmic clocks**, enabling precise measurements in astrophysics and tests of general relativity.
- In recent research, emissions from millisecond pulsars have been proposed as an **alternative explanation for the diffuse gamma-ray glow** detected near the centre of the Milky Way.
- The **Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope** has confirmed that such pulsars are significant gamma-ray sources within our galaxy.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

91.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The **New Development Bank (NDB)** was established by the **BRICS nations in 2015** with its **headquarters in Shanghai, China**, and its first regional office in Johannesburg, South Africa. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA)** is a framework among BRICS countries designed to **provide short-term liquidity and support** during **balance of payments pressures or external financial shocks**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Both initiatives aim to promote **financial stability and reform global financial governance** by reducing dependence on Western-dominated institutions like the IMF and World Bank.
- **Hence, option (c) is correct.**

92.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **Bihar** shares an international border with **Nepal** and has **no coastline**, making it landlocked. **Hence, 1 is correct.**
- **Sikkim** is also **landlocked**, sharing borders with **Nepal, Bhutan, and China**. **Hence, 2 is correct.**
- **Haryana** is **landlocked but does not share an international border**. **Hence, 3 is not correct.**
- **Ladakh** is landlocked, sharing borders with China and Pakistan. **Hence, 4 is correct.**
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

93.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **Strawhead disease in Rice** is caused by **arsenic-induced physiological disorder**. It results from rice plants absorbing **dimethylarsinic acid (DMA)** and **dimethylated mono thioarsenate (DMMTA)**, leading to **unfilled grains and erect panicles** that fail to droop.
- The condition can cause **up to 70% yield loss** in affected areas. Therefore, it is a **toxin-related physiological disorder**, not an infectious disease.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

94.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023, applies to **data processed within and outside India**, if such data pertains to Indian citizens. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It mandates that personal data may be processed **only for lawful purposes** and **after obtaining consent** or under **legitimate use conditions** defined in the law. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- This ensures both **individual privacy** and **legitimate business operations**.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

95.

Ans: D

Exp:

Bonded Labour:

- **Article 23** explicitly prohibits human trafficking and forced labour, declaring it unconstitutional, while **Article 24** prohibits the employment of children below 14 years

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in factories, mines, or hazardous occupations. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 (amended 2016) prohibits children under 14 from working, and restricts adolescents (14–18 years) from hazardous occupations. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **India has ratified** the International Labour Organisation's Convention No. 182 (1999) on the Worst Forms of Child Labour. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

96.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The **Minimum Wages Act, 1948**, empowers both the central and state governments to fix, review, and revise the minimum wages. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ A minimum or floor wage represents the lowest remuneration that employers are legally required to pay their workers.
- The government revises minimum wage rates **biannually**, aligning the adjustments with changes in the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ The **Labour Bureau**, Ministry of Labour and Employment, releases CPI-IW.

97.

Ans: C

Exp:

- It is derived from the **Earth's internal heat** produced by radioactive decay, is a renewable and reliable source of continuous baseload power available around the clock. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- India's first National Policy on Geothermal Energy, released in 2025, permits 100% FDI and promotes domestic innovation and collaboration with the oil and gas sector. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Northeast India's first geothermal production well has been successfully drilled in Dirang, Arunachal Pradesh. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

98.

Ans: B

Exp:

- Competition Commission of India (CCI) is a **statutory body** established under the Competition Act, 2002 to promote fair competition, prevent anti-competitive practices, and protect consumer interests.

- The Commission consists of one Chairperson and **six Members** who shall be appointed by the Central Government.

➤ **Hence, option B is correct.**

99.

Ans: A

Exp:

Deepfakes:

- Deepfakes are synthetic media (videos, images, or audio) that are digitally altered using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to make it look like someone said or did something they never actually did. They blur the line between reality and manipulation.
 - ◆ Deepfakes are powered by deep learning, a subset of machine learning, which itself is a subset of AI.
- They're created using Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs), where two neural networks (a generator and a discriminator) work together to create and refine fake content.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

100.

Ans: D

Exp:

Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF):

- SWFs are **government-owned funds** created from state surpluses, often from a variety of sources like natural resources, trade surpluses, or budget excesses. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- SWFs help **governments generate wealth** through strategic investments, ensuring financial stability and economic growth. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **Santiago Principles** refer to a set of 24 voluntary guidelines that promote transparency, good governance, accountability, and prudent investment practices for Sovereign Wealth Funds (SWFs). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ These principles were established in 2008 by the International Forum of Sovereign Wealth Funds (IFSFW), a voluntary organisation of global SWFs.

101.

Ans: B

Explanation:

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. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

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- Its founding members include Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and **Venezuela**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- Its headquarters is located in Vienna, Austria.
- OPEC aims to coordinate and unify petroleum policies among its member countries to ensure fair and stable prices for producers.
- **Members:** Currently, the Organization has a total of 12 Member Countries: Algeria, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Venezuela.
- OPEC nations produce about 30% of the world's crude oil.
- OPEC is not a part of the International Energy Agency (IEA). Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

102.

Ans: B

Explanation:

India's Current Advancements in the Solar Energy Sector

- At COP26, India pledged to achieve 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based energy by 2030, part of the Panchamrit initiative—the world's largest renewable energy expansion plan.
- India aims for **280 GW of solar capacity by 2030**, forming the backbone of its 500 GW renewable goal. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- **100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** is allowed under the automatic route for renewable energy generation and distribution projects, subject to The Electricity Act 2003. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- The launch of **PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana** in 2024 has catalyzed residential solar adoption, targeting middle- and lower-income households.
- India is reducing import dependency through the **Production Linked Incentive (PLI)** scheme, fostering large-scale manufacturing of high-efficiency solar PV modules.

103.

Ans: A

Explanation:

UN Charter

- It was signed on **26th June, 1945**, in San Francisco at the end of the UN Conference on International Organisation and came into force on 24th October 1945.
- India is one of the founding members and ratified the UN charter on 30th October, 1945. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The Charter of the United Nations serves as the foundational document of the UN. It is an instrument of international law, and UN Member States are bound by it.

- It outlines key principles of international relations, including the equal rights of all countries and the ban on using force between nations.
- It has been amended three times since its incorporation—in 1963, 1965, and 1973. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- The UN focuses on maintaining international peace and security, providing humanitarian assistance, protecting human rights, and upholding international law.

104.

Ans: C

Explanation:

Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ)

- The Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, which regulates coastal development activities, is indeed issued under the powers granted by the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Hence, **Statement 1 is correct**.
- This Act provides the central government with the authority to take measures to protect and improve the environment.
- The Shailesh Nayak Committee was constituted in 2014 by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) to comprehensively examine the various issues and concerns related to the implementation of the CRZ Notification, 2011, and to recommend a new framework. Hence, **Statement 2 is correct**.
- Its recommendations formed the basis for the CRZ Notification, 2018.

105.

Ans: C

Explanation:

Rare Earth Magnets:

- Rare earth magnets are the strongest type of permanent magnets commercially available, valued for their high magnetic strength and resistance to demagnetisation. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- They are primarily made from rare earth elements such as neodymium, praseodymium, and dysprosium, often combined in alloys like neodymium-iron-boron (NdFeB). Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- **Applications:** These magnets are essential in miniaturised and energy-efficient devices where weight, space, and thermal resistance are critical.
- **Usage Areas:** They are widely used in electric motors, sensors, speakers, and other high-performance components requiring strong magnetic fields.

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106.

Ans: B

Explanation:

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)

- The PMFBY, launched in 2016, is administered by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare with the key objective of providing insurance coverage against crop failure due to natural calamities, pests, and diseases. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Premium Rate:** The premium rates are not uniform; they are **2% for all Kharif crops and 1.5% for all Rabi crops.** **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- There is no upper limit on Government subsidies on the balance premium, negating the "fixed maximum limit" clause.
- **Eligibility:** The eligibility criteria clearly state that farmers, including **sharecroppers and tenant farmers**, growing notified crops in the notified areas are eligible for coverage, meaning it is not exclusively for registered landowners. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

107.

Ans: A

Explanation:

- **European Free Trade Association (EFTA)**
 - ◆ The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) is an intergovernmental organisation consisting of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland. It was established in 1960 to promote free trade and economic integration among its member states.
 - ◆ EFTA members are not part of the European Union (EU).
 - ◆ However, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland are part of the Schengen Area. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **India–EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA):**
 - ◆ Signed on 10th March 2024, after 21 rounds of negotiations since 2008. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The agreement came into force on 1st October 2025.
 - ◆ It aims to boost trade, attract investment, and create employment by reducing tariffs and non-tariff barriers.

108.

Ans: C

Explanation:

National Quantum Mission

- It'll be implemented by the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)** under the Ministry of Science & Technology.

- The mission planned for **2023-2031** aims to seed, nurture, and scale up scientific and industrial R&D and create a vibrant & innovative ecosystem in Quantum Technology (QT).
- **Major Objectives:**
 - ◆ It targets the development of quantum computers with 20–1000 qubits over 3–8 years using superconducting and photonic platforms.
 - ◆ **Plans satellite-based quantum communication over 2000 km** within India and internationally for secure data transfer. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ Implements inter-city Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) across 2000 km using optical fibers.
 - ◆ Establishes multi-node quantum networks with entanglement swapping and quantum repeaters.
 - ◆ Develops advanced **quantum sensors**, clocks, and **materials for high-precision computing** and communication. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

109.

Ans: C

Explanation:

Cloud Seeding:

- Cloud seeding, a weather modification technique, enhances precipitation by dispersing chemicals like silver iodide, potassium iodide, or dry ice into clouds, which serve as nuclei for water droplet formation, leading to rainfall. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Applications of the Technique:**
 - ◆ Cloud seeding is also used to enhance winter snowfall and increase mountain snowpack, supplementing the natural water supply for nearby communities.
 - ◆ Cloud seeding can also be done to prevent hailstorms, dissipate fog, induce rainfall in drought-prone regions, or reduce air pollution. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

110.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)**
 - ◆ The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) is a quasi-judicial body in India that adjudicates matters related to corporate law.
 - ◆ It was constituted by the Central Government under Section 408 of the Companies Act, 2013. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **National Company Law Appellate Tribunal**
 - ◆ The NCLAT was constituted under Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013 to hear appeals against the orders of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).

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- ◆ NCLT is a quasi-judicial body that adjudicates issues relating to companies.
- ◆ It is also the appellate tribunal for orders passed by the NCLT. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

111.

Ans: D

Exp:

World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies

- The WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies is a binding multilateral agreement, aimed at promoting environmental sustainability and fair trade in global fisheries.
- It is the **first WTO agreement focused on ocean governance and protecting marine resources. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Key Features:**
 - ◆ **Subsidy Prohibitions:** Prohibits government support for illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, fishing of overfished stocks, and fishing on unregulated high seas.
 - ◆ **Transparency Mechanism:** WTO members must notify their subsidies and fishing activities for monitoring. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ **Implementation Support:** The **WTO Fish Fund** was established to aid developing countries and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) by providing technical support and funding. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ **Committee on Fisheries Subsidies:** Provides a forum for regular dialogue, compliance review, and technical assistance.

112.

Ans: C

Exp:

North East Monsoon:

- Northeast Monsoon is also called the retreating monsoon. It is shorter and less widespread but still important, especially for southern India.
- By October, the land starts to cool faster than the ocean. This creates a high-pressure area over the Indian subcontinent and a low-pressure area over the surrounding seas. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The direction of wind flow reverses and winds blow from land to sea. These are called northeasterlies. Since these winds pass over the Bay of Bengal before reaching the southeastern coast, they pick up some moisture.

- As they reach Tamil Nadu, south Andhra Pradesh and parts of Sri Lanka, they provide abundant moisture for rainfall activity.
- This rain is crucial for regions like Tamil Nadu that do not receive much during the southwest monsoon. It supports rabi crops and replenishes reservoirs in the southern peninsula. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

113.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The **SOAR (Skilling for AI Readiness)** initiative, launched by the **Ministry of Education in July 2025**, aims to prepare students for a technology-driven economy by introducing **AI as a skill subject** across schools affiliated with the **CBSE. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Under SOAR, nearly **18,000 CBSE schools** already offer AI as a skill subject from **Class VI onwards**, with **15-hour modules for Classes VI–VIII** and **150-hour elective courses for Classes IX–XII. A separate curriculum for Classes III–V is planned from the 2026–27 academic year. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The programme aims to promote early AI literacy and bridge the digital readiness gap among school students.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

114.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The **India Newborn Action Plan (INAP)** was launched by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2014** to accelerate progress toward reducing preventable newborn deaths and stillbirths. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It aims to achieve **“Single Digit NMR and Single Digit SBR” by 2030**, aligning with the **Every Newborn Action Plan (ENAP)** of the WHO. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- INAP is structured around **six pillars** — pre-conception, antenatal, intrapartum, immediate postnatal, care of small and sick newborns, and quality of care.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

115.

Ans: D

Exp:

- The **National Manuscripts Mission (NMM)** was launched in **2003** by the **Ministry of Culture** and is implemented through the **Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA). Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

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- The mission seeks to **locate, document, conserve, and make accessible India's manuscript heritage**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- The **IGNCA**, established in **1987**, functions as an **autonomous institution** for research, academic pursuit, and dissemination in the arts. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
- Hence, **option D is correct**.

116.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The **International Space Station** is a **permanently crewed, multinational space laboratory** orbiting the Earth in **Low Earth Orbit (LEO)**, conducting **scientific experiments in microgravity**.
- The **International Space Station (ISS)** is a collaborative project involving the **United States, Russia, Japan, Canada, and the European Space Agency (ESA)**.
- Hence, **option B is correct**.

117.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC)** was set up in **2001** as the **only integrated tri-service command**, combining the Army, Navy, and Air Force. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The command oversees the **eastern maritime domain** (Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea), not the **western coastline**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- Hence, **option A is correct**.

118.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The **International Dark Sky Association (IDSA)**, a U.S.-based non-profit, designates **Dark Sky Reserves** to regions that adopt policies limiting **artificial light interference**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- **Hanle, Ladakh**, a **cold desert region at 4,500 m elevation** with **minimal population and cloudless skies**, offers **ideal atmospheric conditions** for optical and infrared astronomy. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- Hence, **option C is correct**.

119.

Ans: C

Exp:

- **Article 19(1)** of the Constitution guarantees **six fundamental freedoms** only to **citizens of India**, including the **freedom**

of speech and expression, peaceful assembly, association, movement, residence, and profession. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

- **Article 19(2)** allows the **State** to impose **reasonable restrictions** on these rights in the interests of **sovereignty and integrity of India, security of the State, public order, decency, morality, contempt of court, defamation, and incitement to an offence**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- These freedoms are **available only against the State**, unlike certain other fundamental rights (e.g., Article 17 and Article 23) which are enforceable against **private individuals** as well.
- Hence, **option (c) is correct**.

120.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The **Western Ghats**, a mosaic of forests and grasslands, are older than the Himalayas and possess exceptionally high levels of **biological diversity and endemism**. Hence, **Statement 1 is correct**.
- The ecosystem faces major threats from **hydropower projects, unregulated tourism, and conversion of natural forests into plantations**. Hence, **Statement 2 is correct**.
- **Eucalyptus and acacia** are **exotic species** introduced during the colonial era and are **reducing** rather than enhancing biodiversity. Hence, **Statement 3 is not correct**.
- Hence, **option B is correct**.

121.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The **Yamuna River's major tributaries** include the **Chambal, Sindh, Betwa, and Ken Rivers** — all joining it from the right bank. Hence, **1, 2 and 4 are correct**.
- The **Son River** is a **tributary of the Ganga**, not the Yamuna. Hence, **3 is not correct**.
- These tributaries together form part of the **Yamuna–Ganga River System**, sustaining northern India's alluvial plains.
- Hence, **option (b) is correct**.

122.

Ans: C

Exp:

- India remains **Nepal's largest trading partner**, accounting for **around 65% of Nepal's international trade**, including approximately **\$8 billion in exports from India** and **just under \$1 billion in exports from Nepal to India**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

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- Indian firms contribute about **33% of the total FDI stock in Nepal**, amounting to nearly **\$670 million**, making India one of the top investors in the country. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The economic relationship is **deeply interdependent yet asymmetrical**, reflecting strong trade and investment linkages.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

123.

Ans: C

Exp:

- India currently has **extradition treaties with 48 countries** and **extradition arrangements with 12 other countries**, under which requests for fugitives' return are made for cases under investigation, trial, or conviction. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- An analysis of extradition data (2002–2025) shows that **35% of all extradited persons** were sent back for **economic offences** such as financial fraud, cheating, and forgery, with the **UAE and the U.S. accounting for nearly half of all extraditions**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- India made **133 extradition requests in the last five years**, including **39 in 2024 alone**, marking an increasing focus on securing fugitives wanted for economic and terror-related crimes.
- **Hence, option (c) is correct.**

124.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The **Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (RVP)** is the **nation's highest recognition** for contributions in science, technology, and technology-led innovation. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Puraskar is conferred in **four categories** — **Vigyan Ratna (VR)**, **Vigyan Shri (VS)**, **Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (VY-SSB)**, and **Vigyan Team (VT)** — each recognising different forms of scientific excellence. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The award aims to **promote pathbreaking research, inspire young scientists**, and strengthen India's scientific leadership.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

125.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The original structure on the site of the Louvre was a 12th-century fortress built by Philip Augustus (**King Philip II**), not Louis XIII. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- The **Louvre was opened as a public museum in 1793** under the revolutionary government as the *Musée Central des Arts*. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

126.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The **Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954** defines 'magic remedy' as – A talisman, mantra, kavacha and any other charm of any kind which is alleged to possess miraculous powers for or in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment or prevention of any disease in human beings or animals or for affecting or influencing in any way the structure or any organic function of the body of human beings or animals; **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- As per Section 1(2), the Act **extends to the whole of India** and **applies also to persons domiciled in the territories to which this Act extends who are outside those territories**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Hence, option (c) is correct.**

127.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** serves as the **WMO Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre (RSMC)** for Tropical Cyclones
- The **IMD's Regional Specialised Meteorological Centre (RSMC)** covers 13 member countries: **Bangladesh, India, Iran, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.**
- Hence, all options listed (1–5) are members.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

128.

Ans: C

Exp:

- CBAM is indeed part of the EU's "**Fit for 55 in 2030 package**", aligned with the European Climate Law's 55% emission reduction target compared to 1990 levels. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- CBAM mandates that **importers declare embedded emissions** and **surrender CBAM certificates** priced according to the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

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129.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **IMO** has indeed set a **net-zero emissions goal for global shipping by 2050** under its revised 2023 GHG strategy. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **FuelEU Maritime Regulation** is a **European Union (EU) initiative**, not an IMO measure. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

130.

Ans: C

Exp:

- **Eighth Schedule:** To promote the progressive use, enrichment and promotion of the language. **Consists of 22 languages:**
 - ◆ Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Bodo, Santhali, Maithili and Dogri.
- The **92nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003** added **four languages — Bodo, Santhali, Maithili, and Dogri-** to the Eighth Schedule.
 - ◆ **21st Amendment (1967):** Added **Sindhi**, to the list of recognized languages in the Eighth Schedule .
 - ◆ **71st Amendment (1992):** Added **Konkani, Manipuri, and Nepali**, which raised the total number of official languages to 18
- **Hence, option (c) is correct.**

131.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Service Electoral Roll** covers members of the armed forces, armed police, and certain government servants posted outside their constituency. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- NRIs registered in the **Overseas Electoral Roll** can vote **only in person** at their polling booth in India. They **cannot vote by postal ballot** under current law. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

132.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Silver iodide** is the most common ice-nucleating chemical used to trigger precipitation in supercooled clouds. **Hence, 1 is correct.**
- **Sodium chloride** is a hygroscopic substance that attracts moisture and helps droplet growth in warm clouds. **Hence, 2 is correct.**

- **Dry ice (solid CO₂)** is used to rapidly cool the air and form ice crystals, inducing rainfall. **Hence, 3 is correct.**
- Ammonium nitrate is not used in cloud seeding due to its explosive nature and environmental risks. **Hence, 4 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

133.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones** (comprising 13 countries) is responsible for **maintaining and approving the naming list** for the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- For the North Indian Ocean region, **cyclones are named sequentially from a pre-approved list of 169 names contributed by 13 member countries.**
 - ◆ The names are arranged in a grid, and the next available name is used, regardless of which country suggested it. **(and does not follow alphabetical order based on the country of origin).** **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

134.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The concept of **creative destruction**, developed by **Philippe Aghion and Peter Howitt**, describes how **innovation replaces obsolete technologies**, leading to productivity gains and economic renewal. **Hence, it represents technological progress through replacement.**
- It is based on the idea that **economic growth arises from continuous disruption**, where new products and processes displace older ones, stimulating long-term expansion. **Hence, it captures the dynamic nature of modern economies.**
- It highlights that competition and innovation are interlinked, as firms must evolve technologically to survive and grow. Hence, it emphasizes the importance of **innovation policy for sustainable development.**
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

135.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The **East Asia Summit (EAS)** was established in **2005** and is led by **ASEAN**, including eight key partners: **India, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Russia, and the U.S.** **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The EAS focuses on political, security, and economic cooperation in the Indo-Pacific and complements ASEAN's central role in regional diplomacy. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

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- Hence, option C is correct.

136.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **Crony capitalism** is an **economic system** in which business success depends on **proximity to political power** rather than market efficiency.
- It involves **arbitrary state patronage**, selective policy benefits, and manipulation of regulations for favoured firms. **Hence, it distorts market fairness.**
- A regulated, competitive market promotes efficiency, unlike crony capitalism which thrives on **personal connections and political discretion.**
- Hence, option B is correct.

137.

Ans: C

Exp:

- Sardar Patel campaigned extensively for **social reforms** such as **women's empowerment, prohibition of alcohol**, and the **abolition of untouchability and caste discrimination**, both within Gujarat and at the national level. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- He played a key role in organising the farmers during the **Kheda (1918) and Bardoli (1928) Satyagrahas**, linking peasant grievances to the wider struggle for independence. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Hence, option C is correct.

138.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Eight Core Industries** consist of **Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement, and Electricity** — which together account for **40.27% weight** in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).
- Among the given options, **Coal, Fertilizers, and Steel** are part of the Eight Core Industries. **Hence, 1,3 and 4 are correct.**
- Automobiles and Textiles belong to the manufacturing sector, not to the core infrastructure industries. **Hence, 2 and 5 are not correct.**
- Hence, option A is correct.

139.

Ans: D

Exp:

- The **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** was founded in **Bangkok, Thailand**, on **8 August 1967**, with the signing of the **ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration)**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The **five founding members** of ASEAN were **Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Timor-Leste** officially became the 11th and newest member of ASEAN in October 2025, marking the organisation's first expansion since Cambodia joined in 1999. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Hence, option D is correct.

140.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Paris Agreement** is a **legally binding treaty** adopted by **195 Parties** at **COP21** held in **Paris, France**, on **12 December 2015**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It seeks to **limit global temperature rise to well below 2°C** and **pursue efforts to restrict it to 1.5°C** above pre-industrial levels. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Agreement **entered into force on 4 November 2016**, after it was **ratified by at least 55 countries accounting for at least 55% of global greenhouse gas emissions**, a **threshold** required for its activation. It was **not 2018**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- Hence, option A is correct.

141.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **Cloud seeding** is a **weather modification technique** that improves a cloud's ability to produce **rain or snow** by introducing artificial **ice nuclei** such as **silver iodide (AgI)** or **dry ice**.
- These nuclei act as centers around which water vapor condenses and freezes, forming larger ice crystals that fall as precipitation.
- It does not remove moisture or control temperature directly but enhances rainfall potential.
- Hence, option B is correct.

142.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **PM-SHRI Scheme**, launched in **2022**, seeks to **upgrade more than 14,500 existing schools** as model schools reflecting NEP 2020's vision of quality, inclusive, and technology-driven education. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The funding pattern varies — **60:40** for general States/UTs with legislatures, **90:10** for Northeastern and Himalayan States including J&K, and **100%** Central funding only for UTs without legislatures. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Hence, option A is correct.



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