



Monthly Editorial Quiz CONSOLIDATION

August 2025



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Practice Questions

1. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 20(1) prohibits convicting a person for an act that was not an offence when committed, disallowing retrospective punishment.
2. India is a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

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

2. With reference to the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory body established under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.
2. Under this, legal services institutions have been established at all levels, ranging from Taluk Courts to the Supreme Court.
3. NALSA launched the Veer Parivar Sahayata Yojana (2025), a nationwide legal aid scheme solely dedicated to soldiers.

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

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

3. Which of the following articles of the Indian Constitution provides for the readjustment of seats in the House of the People to the states and the division of each State into territorial constituencies after every census?

- A. Article 82
- B. Article 83
- C. Article 84
- D. Article 85

4. Consider the following statements regarding the United Nations Security Council (UNSC):

1. It comprises five permanent members (P5) with veto power and ten non-permanent members elected by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

2. The UNSC remains the only UN body whose decisions member states are obligated to implement under the UN Charter.

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

5. With reference to the Election Commission of India (ECI), consider the following statements:

1. It is not concerned with the elections to panchayats and municipalities in the states.
2. Presently, ECI consists of the CEC and two Election Commissioners (ECs).
3. Members of the ECI have a fixed tenure of six years, or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

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

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

6. Consider the following statements regarding the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI):

1. SEBI is a quasi-legislative and quasi-judicial body with powers to frame regulations, conduct inquiries, and impose penalties.
2. The Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) is established to safeguard the interests of those affected by SEBI's 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

7. Consider the following statements regarding the BRICS:

1. BRIC began functioning as a formal group during the G-8 Outreach Summit.
2. India was not among the original BRICS members but joined the group subsequently.
3. Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) is among the key initiatives of BRICS.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

8. Which of the following is part of India's Foreign Exchange Reserves?

- 1. Foreign Currency Assets
- 2. Gold Reserves
- 3. Special Drawing Rights
- 4. Government Bonds

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

9. Consider the following tools of Monetary Policy:

- 1. Statutory Liquidity Ratio
- 2. Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)
- 3. Margin Requirement
- 4. Bank Rate

Which of the following are among the quantitative tools of monetary policy?

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

10. With reference to the NISAR Satellite, consider the following statements:

- 1. Developed by ISRO and NASA, it is the first satellite mission to use dual-frequency radar (L-band and S-band) from a single platform.
- 2. The NISAR mission marks the first time ISRO will use a GSLV to launch a satellite into a sun-synchronous polar orbit.
- 3. It will provide high-resolution data every month to monitor land changes across Earth.

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

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

11. With reference to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), consider the following statements:

- 1. It is one of the three Rio Conventions, along with Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).
- 2. It facilitates funding and technology transfer to developing countries through mechanisms like the Green Climate Fund.
- 3. The Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement are the major agreements under the UNFCCC.

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

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

12. Consider the following statements regarding the Sendai framework:

- 1. It is the successor instrument to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015.
- 2. UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) is tasked to support the implementation, follow-up and review of the Sendai Framework.

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

13. Consider the following statements regarding POSHAN Abhiyan:

- 1. The program aims to address only the nutritional needs of children aged 0–6 years through a targeted and convergent approach.
- 2. It aims to reduce stunting, under-nutrition, anaemia and low birth weight by 2%, 2%, 3% and 2% per annum, respectively.
- 3. It provides nutritional improvement as per the NFHS-5 (2019-21).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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14. Consider the following statements regarding the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
1. It was set up by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
 2. Since its inception, the IPCC has completed six assessment cycles and released six Assessment Reports; it is currently in its seventh assessment cycle.

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

15. Consider the following statements regarding the Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI):

1. Under the scheme, domestic and foreign companies receive financial rewards for manufacturing in India, based on a percentage of their revenue over up to ten years.
2. Targeted sectors under PLI include automobiles and auto components, telecom & networking products, white goods (ACs and LEDs), among others.

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

16. With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), consider the following statements:

1. There is no requirement to maintain any minimum balance in PMJDY accounts.
2. Under this scheme, an overdraft (OD) facility of up to ₹ 5,000 is available to eligible account holders.
3. PMJDY accounts are eligible for Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Micro Units Development & Refinance Agency Bank (MUDRA) schemes.

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

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

17. In the context of the Chola administration, the terms *Kudimai*, *Opati*, and *Iraikattina-nellu* were used to refer to which of the following?

- A. Types of temple architecture
- B. Agricultural land classification
- C. Forms of taxes or revenue payments
- D. Local administrative assemblies

18. Consider the following statements related to PM E-DRIVE Scheme:

1. It offers demand incentives on EVs capped at 15% of the ex-factory price.
2. It includes e-ambulances, e-trucks and electric buses for public transport.

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

19. Operation Cactus Lily and Operation Riddle are associated with which of the following?

- A. India's nuclear tests during Pokhran-I and Pokhran-II
- B. India's military operations during the 1965 and 1971 Indo-Pak War
- C. Humanitarian rescue missions during the Sri Lankan Civil War
- D. Counter-insurgency operations in Jammu & Kashmir

20. Consider the following countries:

1. Australia
2. Canada
3. Italy
4. Japan
5. United Arab Emirates
6. India

How many of the countries listed above are members of the Artemis Accords?

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

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21. The MQ-9B, an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) known for its long-endurance, high-altitude surveillance and precision strike capabilities, is being imported by India from which of the following countries?
- Russia
 - United States
 - Israel
 - France

22. With reference to the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, consider the following purposes:
- Processing data for research, archiving, or statistical purposes
 - Performing judicial or regulatory functions;
 - Processing required to perform judicial or regulatory functions
 - Processing in India of personal data of non-residents under a foreign contract

How many of the purposes listed above are considered exemptions under the Act?

- Only one
 - Only two
 - Only three
 - All four
23. Consider the following protected areas:
- Bhitarkanika National Park
 - Gulf of Kachchh Marine National Park
 - Rajaji National Park
- How many of the above have significant mangrove ecosystems?
- Only one
 - Only two
 - All three
 - None
24. Consider the following statements related to the National Company Law Tribunal:
- It has the power to scrutinize its own orders and regulate its own procedure.
 - It was established based on the recommendation of the PJ Nayak committee.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

25. Consider the following statements:

- India is a party to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (1989).
- India has ratified the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and enforces its provisions through domestic laws.

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

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

26. With reference to the PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), consider the following statements:

- It promotes international mobility and on-the-job training (OJT) by recognizing prior learning and equipping Indian workers with globally recognized skills.
- Under this scheme, the target beneficiaries include Individuals aged 15-30 years.
- It aligns with PM Vishwakarma, PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, National Green Hydrogen Mission.

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

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

27. Consider the following statements regarding the Intellectual Property (IP):

- It includes intangible creations of the human intellect, primarily copyrights, patents, and trademarks.
- Paris Convention (1883) and Berne Convention (1886) are both administered by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).
- Rights related to IP are outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

28. Consider the following statements:

1. Anji Khad Bridge is India's 1st cable-stayed rail bridge and one of the highest railway bridges in the country.
2. The Chenab Rail Bridge, the world's second-highest railway arch bridge, is designed to remain stable and operational even if one of its piers fails.

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. Consider the following statements:

1. SANKALP and Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) are among the projects funded by the World Bank in India.
2. International Development Association (IDA), a key institution of the WB group, provides concessional loans and grants only to developing countries.

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

30. With reference to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), consider the following statements:

1. It is the only multilateral binding treaty for Nuclear-Weapon States (NWS) on disarmament while promoting peaceful nuclear energy use.
2. It defines NWS as countries possessing nuclear weapons before 1st January, 1967
3. Under the NPT, compliance is monitored by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

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

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

31. Consider the following statements regarding Genetically Modified (GM) Crops in India:

1. GM crops are not specifically regulated under any dedicated law in India.
2. Since 2022, Bt cotton has been the only GM crop approved for commercial cultivation 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

32. Consider the following initiatives:

1. Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty
2. Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA)
3. India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)

Which of the above mentioned initiatives were launched at the 2024 G20 summit held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil?

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

33. With reference to Lithium, consider the following statements:

1. It is an alkali mineral known as white gold and is the lightest metal in the periodic table.
2. It has low density and possesses rich electrochemical properties.
3. The Lithium triangle, made up of Argentina, Chile, and Bolivia, contains roughly half the world's known lithium.

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

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

34. Consider the following statements:

1. The Sample Registration System (SRS) provides estimates of birth rate, death rate and other fertility and mortality indicators at the National and Sub-National levels.
2. The Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2023, mandates digital registration of all births and deaths in India.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

35. Consider the following statements regarding Public Sector Banks (PSBs):

1. PSBs are those banks where the government holds more than 50% ownership.
2. Even though these banks follow the nation's central bank's guidelines, they can formulate their independent financial strategy for the customers.

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. With reference to Cryptocurrency, consider the following statements:

1. Cryptocurrency transactions are recorded on a blockchain, a public digital ledger maintained and verified by a global computer network.
2. Ethereum and Litecoin are prominent examples of cryptocurrencies.
3. Israel is among the first countries to adopt Bitcoin as legal tender.

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

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

37. Consider the following statements regarding Article 370 of the Indian Constitution:

1. It was drafted by N Gopalaswami Ayyangar, a member of the Constituent Assembly and was added as a 'temporary provision' in 1949.
2. The provision was based on the terms of the Instrument of Accession, which was signed by the ruler of Jammu and Kashmir, Hari Singh.

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. Which of the following statements is **not** correct regarding the Carbon Pricing?

- A. Carbon pricing mechanisms link the external costs of emissions to their sources.
- B. Under the mechanism, polluters can either reduce their emissions, continue polluting, or invest in cleaner technologies.
- C. Carbon pricing helps in reducing carbon emissions by imposing a tax or cap-and-trade system.
- D. Current global carbon pricing mechanisms cover 50% of global CO₂ emissions across more than 80 countries.

39. Consider the following statements:

1. As of 2025, India ranks 3rd in solar, 4th in wind, and 4th in total renewable energy capacity globally.
2. India aims to achieve 500 GW of non-fossil capacity by 2030 and 1,800 GW by 2047.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

40. With reference to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016:

1. IBC was enacted on the recommendations of the T.K. Vishwanathan Committee, 2015.
2. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) comprises members from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) only.
3. Under the IBC, the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) is the adjudicating authority for corporations, and the Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT) for individuals and firms.

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

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

41. Consider the following millets:

1. Sorghum
2. Pearl Millet
3. Foxtail Millet

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How many of the above are considered major millets in India?

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

42. Consider the following statements related to Dalai Lama:

1. They are believed to be manifestations of Avalokiteshvara.
2. There have been 14 Dalai Lamas in the history of Tibetan Buddhism till now.
3. The first and second Dalai Lamas were given the title posthumously.

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

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

43. **Manhattan Project and Operation Downfall**, sometimes seen in news, are associated with:

- A. Eradication of polio through vaccine diplomacy
- B. Conservation efforts for endangered wildlife in Southeast Asia
- C. Development of nuclear weapons and a planned military invasion during World War II
- D. Global health surveillance systems for future pandemics

44. **Maitree Super Thermal Power Project, Exercise Sampriti**, and **Operation Insaniyat** are mentioned in the context of India's bilateral relations with which of the following countries?

- A. Bangladesh
- B. Sri Lanka
- C. Nepal
- D. Myanmar

45. Consider the following rivers:

1. Amu Darya
2. Salween
3. Tigris

How many of the rivers mentioned above is/are fed by the Hindu Kush Himalayas (HKH)?

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

46. Consider the following fields:

1. Renewable energy technologies
2. Electronics and semiconductors
3. Defense and missile systems
4. Medical imaging and diagnostics

In how many of the above fields do Rare Earth Elements have significant applications?

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

47. Consider the following dignitaries:

1. Prime Minister
2. Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha
3. Chief Justice of India

How many of the above are members of the committee for the appointment of the Chief Information Commissioner in India?

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

48. The acronym 'PARAKH', often seen in news in the context of school education reform, stands for:

- A. Performance Audit, Review and Accreditation of Knowledge for Holistic Learning
- B. Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development
- C. Programmed Appraisal, Ranking and Knowledge Harmonization for Educational Reforms
- D. Progressive Assessment and Restructuring of Academics for Knowledge and Harmony

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49. Consider the following statements regarding Cloudburst:
1. It is an intense rainstorm that results in more than 10 cm of rain in less than an hour over a small area.
 2. Due to their localised nature, cloudbursts are hard to predict or detect.
 3. Orographic lifting is one of the causes of cloudbursts.

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

50. Consider the following:

1. Change in Stocks
2. Net Acquisition of Valuables (such as gold and gems)
3. Purchase of government bonds and securities

Which of the above mentioned are included under the Gross Capital Formation (GCF)

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

51. With reference to the Farmers Producer Organisation (FPO), consider the following statements:

1. Its promotion is supported by the Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC).
2. It is inspired by YK Alagh's recommendation (2002) to amend the Companies Act, 1956.
3. FPOs can be registered under the Companies Act, 2013, the Societies Registration Act, 1860, or as Public Trusts under the Indian Trusts Act, 1882.

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

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

52. With reference to the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), consider the following statements:

1. It manages provident fund and pension accounts for workers in both the organised and unorganised sectors who are enrolled in government schemes.
2. It is administered by the Ministry of Labour & Employment.

3. It is one of the World's largest Social Security Organisations in terms of clientele and the volume of financial transactions undertaken.

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

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

53. Which of the following statements correctly describes the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO)?

- A. It is the global authority on securities regulation and brings together regulators from various countries to set global standards for securities markets.
- B. It is responsible for coordinating financial stability measures across major central banks and overseeing global currency markets.
- C. It creates regulations for international insurance markets and defines global standards for pension fund management.
- D. It promotes the development of global investment funds and harmonizes regulations for cross-border securities trading.

54. With reference to the repo rate, consider the following statements:

1. It helps banks meet short-term liquidity needs by borrowing funds.
2. A lower repo rate leads to cheaper bank loans, reduced interest rates for borrowers, and increased borrowing and spending.

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

55. Consider the following recommendations:

1. It proposed 4% average annual inflation in the Wholesale Price Index (WPI).
2. Recommended market-driven government borrowing and an active government securities market to reduce reliance on RBI funding.
3. Advocated monetary targeting (M3 money supply control) to manage inflation.

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Which one of the following committees made the above mentioned recommendations?

- A. Narsimham Committee
- B. Chakravarty Committee
- C. Raghuram Rajan Committee
- D. Urjit Patel Committee

56. With reference to the PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana, consider the following statements:

1. Under the scheme, a minimum of one district will be selected from each state to ensure balanced regional development.
2. Progress will be tracked through more than 100 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) using a dedicated dashboard, with monthly reviews.
3. The scheme will be governed through a three-tier implementation structure including District, State and national level committees.

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

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

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

1. It is a voters' verification process to update and correct electoral rolls before elections.
2. The Representation of the People Act, 1951 empowers the Election Commission of India (ECI) to conduct such revisions.
3. Its constitutional basis lies in Article 324, which gives the ECI power to supervise the preparation of electoral rolls and conduct of elections.

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

58. How many of the following groups of islands constitute an archipelago?

1. Philippines
2. Hawaiian Islands
3. Andaman and Nicobar Islands
4. Lakshadweep Islands

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

59. Which of the following statements is NOT correct regarding the International Court of Justice (ICJ)?

- A. Established in 1945, it is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations.
- B. It can prosecute individuals for international crimes like genocide and war crimes.
- C. It is headquartered in The Hague, Netherlands, and its official languages are English and French.
- D. Its judgments in disputes between states are final and binding, with no appeal.

60. Match the following types of tariffs with their correct descriptions:

Type of Tariff	Description
A. Specific Tariff	1. Tariff based on the quantity or weight of goods, not their value.
B. Compound Tariff	2. Tariff based on the value of goods, calculated as a percentage.
C. Ad Valorem Tariff	3. Tariff combining both quantity-based and value-based components.
D. Tariff-Rate Quota	4. Tariff combining a fixed rate for a set quantity and a higher rate for quantities above that limit.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

61. Which of the following best describes the term Solifluction?

- A. Rapid downslope movement of rock fragments due to gravity
- B. Slow, viscous flow of water-saturated soil over impermeable layers in cold climates
- C. Sudden collapse of loose sediments triggered by earthquakes
- D. Wind-driven transport of sand particles in deserts.

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62. "Tariff circumvention" can be best described as:
- Imposing temporary tariffs during trade disputes.
 - Deliberately altering the origin, classification, or routing of goods to avoid paying tariffs.
 - Relocating industries abroad to bypass high tariffs in the domestic market.
 - Increasing tariff rates to counter dumping practices.

63. Consider the following pairs regarding electronic interference techniques:

- Jamming – Flooding receivers with noise
- Spoofing – Sending false location data
- Meaconing – Rebroadcasting delayed or altered signals

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- Only one
 - Only two
 - All three
 - None
64. Semaglutide, recently seen in the news, is a:
- New-generation antiviral drug for treating Covid-19
 - A novel antibiotic for drug-resistant infections
 - Monoclonal antibody for cancer treatment
 - Active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) used in drugs for weight loss and the treatment of diabetes

65. With reference to the Election Commission of India (ECI), consider the following statements:

- Under the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners Act, 2023, the Selection Committee comprises the Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, and the Chief Justice of India.
- The ECI lacks explicit powers to deregister a political party under the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

- It recommends that the mother tongue or local language be used as the medium of instruction at least till Grade 5.
- It proposes the establishment of a National Assessment Centre called PARAKH for holistic learning evaluation.
- It emphasises on the establishment of the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI).

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

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

67. Zojila Pass connects:

- Srinagar and Leh
- Kalimpong and Lhasa
- Chamba and Spiti
- Arunachal Pradesh and Lhasa

68. Consider the following statements about the Quit India Movement (1942):

- The All India Congress Committee passed the Quit India Resolution, demanding the immediate end of British rule following the success of the Cripps Mission.
- In Satara (Maharashtra) and Tamluk (Bengal), parallel governments were established that functioned with their own departments and postal systems.
- The movement received stronger participation from Punjab, Sindh, and the North-West Frontier Province than from Bombay and Bengal.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

69. Consider the following statements:

- Crop residue burning significantly contributes to greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), including carbon dioxide and methane.
- Crop residue burning negatively impacts biodiversity by harming beneficial organisms like earthworms, bees, and birds, which support sustainable farming.

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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

70. Consider the following statements:

1. The United States is India's largest trading partner as of 2024-25.
2. The United States became India's third-largest source of foreign direct investment (FDI) as of 2023-24.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

1. It is gender-neutral and aims to protect children from sexual assault, harassment, and pornography.
2. Under the POCSO Act, anyone below the age of 18 is considered a child, meaning even a 16-year-old cannot give legal consent.
3. The act mandates that the identity of child victims must be kept confidential and media reports cannot disclose any details that could reveal the victim's identity.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

72. With reference to the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners Act, 2023, consider the following statements:

1. The Selection Committee under the act consists of the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition (LoP), and the Chief Justice of India (CJI).
2. CECs and ECs can hold office for six years or until they attain the age of 65, whichever is earlier.
3. Both CEC and EC can be removed under the same grounds as a SC judge.

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

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

73. Which committee recommended strict background checks and creation of a nodal agency to tackle criminal-politician-bureaucrat links?

- A. Dinesh Goswami Committee
- B. Vohra Committee
- C. Indrajit Gupta Committee
- D. Tankha Committee

74. Consider the following statements regarding the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM):

1. It is an independent advisory body, with its decisions being binding in certain cases.
2. The NITI Aayog acts as its nodal agency for administrative and logistical 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

75. With reference to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), consider the following statements:

1. The concept of sustainable development was first defined in the 1987 Brundtland Commission Report.
2. The Rio+20 Summit laid the foundation for the SDGs and a more comprehensive global development agenda.
3. The Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) assesses progress every 5 years.

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

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

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76. Consider the following statements:

1. The National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP) aims to eliminate TB by 2025, five years ahead of the global target of 2030.
2. Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan (PMTBMBA), the world's largest crowd-sourcing initiative, was launched under the NTEP.
3. The Ni-Kshay Portal helps health workers manage TB cases, track treatment, and report real-time data for India's TB surveillance.

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

77. With reference to Sickle Cell Disease (SCD), consider the following statements:

1. It is a hereditary blood disorder caused by a genetic mutation in the haemoglobin gene.
2. It can be treated by bone marrow or stem cell transplantation by methods like CRISPR.
3. SCD is recognized as one of the disabilities under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act, 2016.

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

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

78. With reference to the Ethanol Blending, consider the following statements:

1. National Policy on Biofuels advanced the 20% ethanol blending target from 2035 to 2025-26.
2. The National Biofuel Coordination Committee (NBCC) oversees biofuel feedstock usage, especially surplus food grains declared by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.
3. The Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana encourages the production of advanced biofuels from agricultural, forestry residues and algae.

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

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

79. The Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), sometimes seen in the news, was introduced by which organization?

- A. European Union (EU)
- B. UNEP
- C. UNFCCC
- D. International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

80. Consider the following statements regarding the Global Gender Gap report:

1. It is published annually by the World Bank.
2. Each dimension is scored on a scale from 0 to 1, where 1 represents full gender parity and 0 denotes complete inequality.
3. India ranked 131st out of 148 countries in the 2025 report.

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

81. Consider the following statements:

1. The production process of ethanol involves the fermentation of sugars by yeasts or via petrochemical processes such as ethylene hydration.
2. C Molasses, the end by-product of sugar processing, is used as a commercial feed ingredient in liquid or dried form.

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

82. Which of the following are the left bank tributaries of the Ganga River?

- A. Ramganga, Gandak, Sone
- B. Ghaghara, Burhi, Koshi
- C. Ajoy, Gomti, Karamnasa
- D. Chandan, Kiul, Mahananda

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83. With reference to Fault, consider the following statements:

1. It is a zone of fractures in the Earth's crust between two blocks of rock, allowing them to move relative to each other.
2. Faults are classified based on the angle of the fault with respect to the surface and the direction of the movement along the fault.
3. Its movement is caused by tectonic stress, which can result in an earthquake.

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

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

84. Consider the following statements regarding the International Energy Agency (IEA):

1. A candidate country to the IEA must be a member country of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).
2. India has been a member of IEA since its establishment.
3. The World Energy Outlook is one of the reports released by the IEA.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

85. Consider the following statements regarding Electric Vehicles (EVs):

1. Instead of a traditional internal combustion engine (ICE), they use one or more electric motors for propulsion.
2. The PM E-DRIVE Scheme offers demand incentives on EVs capped at 15% of the ex-factory price or a fixed per-vehicle limit, whichever is lower.

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

86. Which one of the following sets of countries is part of the G7?

- A. Germany, Australia, Italy
- B. France, Germany, Japan
- C. United Kingdom, India, United States
- D. Canada, Russia, Japan

87. Consider the following statements:

1. Organ donation and transplantation in India are regulated under the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act (THOTA), 1994.
2. India is the 3rd country in the world after the USA and China, in terms of the total number of transplants done in a year.

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

88. Consider the following statements regarding the Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme:

1. Employers will be incentivized for up to two years for creating new jobs, with additional incentives for two more years in the manufacturing sector.
2. Under the scheme, EPFO-registered firms must hire 2 additional employees and 5 additional employees with a minimum of 6 months' retention.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

89. Consider the following statements regarding the Indus Water Treaty (IWT):

1. The Treaty grants India unrestricted access to the three eastern rivers (Beas, Ravi, Sutlej) and allocates the three western rivers (Chenab, Indus, Jhelum) to Pakistan.
2. The treaty established the Permanent Indus Commission (PIC), which is mandated to convene annually.

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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90. With reference to the Minimum Support Price (MSP), consider the following statements:

1. It was established by setting up the Agricultural Prices Commission (APC) as a form of market intervention to enhance national food security.
2. The MSP is set at a level that is at least 1.5 times the all-India weighted average cost of production (CoP).
3. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by the Prime Minister, approves the final decision on the level of MSPs.

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

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

91. Consider the following statements:

1. A lower Current Account Deficit (CAD) can enhance investor sentiment, making the country's currency more appealing to investors.
2. A surplus in the current account can increase foreign exchange reserves, thereby strengthening the value of the local currency.

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

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

1. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is the main regulator of FDI in India.
2. Under FDI, non-residents can invest in Indian companies' shares only through the government approval route.
3. FDI in India is strictly prohibited in sectors like chit funds, real estate, and the tobacco industry.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

93. Which of the following countries is a member of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)?

- A. Iran, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela
- B. Russia, Canada, Mexico
- C. Brazil, Argentina, Japan
- D. South Africa, Malaysia, Indonesia

94. Consider the following statements regarding the Index of Industrial Production (IIP):

1. It measures the changes in the volume of production of industrial products during a given period.
2. It is compiled and published monthly by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
3. It covers broad sectors like Mining, Manufacturing, and Electricity, with the base year 2011-2012.

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

95. The region of Nagorno-Karabakh, recently in news due to ethnic conflicts and territorial claims, is geographically situated in:

- A. The Central Asian steppes between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan
- B. The South Caucasus region between Armenia and Azerbaijan
- C. The Balkan Peninsula bordering Serbia and Kosovo
- D. The Levant region adjacent to Syria and Lebanon

96. Consider the following statements regarding the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC):

1. It is the largest country in Sub-Saharan Africa.
2. Its capital, Kinshasa, is situated on the Congo River, which crosses the equator thrice.
3. DRC is the world's largest producer of cobalt used in lithium-ion batteries.

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

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

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97. Recently in news, Article 79 of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions deals with:
- Protection of cultural property during armed conflicts
 - Special status of medical personnel in war zones
 - Measures for protection of journalists in armed conflicts
 - Prohibition of chemical weapons in warfare
98. Consider the following statements about the history of the National Flag of India:
- In 1916, Pingali Venkayya published a booklet titled A National Flag for India.
 - Mahatma Gandhi approved Venkayya's design for the National Flag in a Congress meeting held in Vijayawada in 1921.
 - After Independence, the charkha was replaced with the Ashok Chakra by a national flag committee headed by J.L. Nehru.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- 1 and 2 only
 - 2 and 3 only
 - 1 and 3 only
 - 1, 2 and 3
99. Which of the following statements regarding Mount Meru is NOT correct?
- Mount Meru is Tanzania's highest peak, surpassing Mount Kilimanjaro.
 - The formation of Mount Meru happened after the formation of the Great Rift Valley.
 - Mount Meru is a dormant stratovolcano located in Arusha National Park.
 - In Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain cosmology, Mount Meru is regarded as the mythical sacred mountain at the center of the universe.
100. Recently in news, the 'Sudarshan Chakra' initiative refers to:
- India's first indigenous satellite-based navigation program.
 - A new missile defence initiative integrating surveillance, cyber protection, and physical defence.
 - A space-based solar power project for energy security
 - An underwater naval shield system against submarine threats.
101. Recently seen in the news, the Dandakaranya region spans across which of the following Indian states?
- Chhattisgarh
 - Maharashtra
 - Odisha
 - Andhra Pradesh
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- 1 and 2 only
 - 1, 2, and 3 only
 - 1, 3, and 4 only
 - 1, 2, 3, and 4
102. Consider the following statements regarding Rare Earth Elements (REEs):
- They are a set of seventeen metallic elements with unique magnetic, phosphorescent, and catalytic properties.
 - They are often termed the "seeds of technology" for their vital role in high-tech applications like renewable energy.
 - The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is the world's largest producer, accounting for about 70% of global annual REEs production.
- How many of the statements given above is/are correct?
- Only one
 - Only two
 - All three
 - None
103. With reference to the Election Commission of India, consider the following statements:
- The CEC cannot be removed from office except in the same manner and on the same grounds as a judge of the Supreme Court.
 - Other Election Commissioners or Regional Commissioners can be removed only on the recommendation of the CEC.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2

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104. With reference to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), consider the following statements:

1. The IBBI is a statutory body established under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.
2. It functions under the Ministry of Finance and regulates both the insolvency profession and related processes.

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. Which of the following statements about fiber optic cables is **not** correct?

- A. They transmit data using total internal reflection of light pulses in glass fibers.
- B. They offer higher bandwidth but greater latency compared to satellite communication.
- C. The core glass fibers are protected by layers of plastic or steel reinforcement.
- D. Lasers at one end transmit light signals that are received by photodetectors at the other end.

106. With reference to the Constituent Assembly of India, consider the following statements:

1. The idea of a Constituent Assembly for India was first proposed by M.N. Roy in 1934.
2. The demand for a Constituent Assembly was accepted in principle by the British Government via the August Offer of 1940.
3. The Constituent Assembly was constituted in November 1946 under the Indian Independence Act, 1947.

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

107. With reference to the Most-Favored-Nation (MFN) principle under WTO agreements, which of the following statements is **not** correct?

- A. MFN treatment requires equal trade concessions to be extended to all WTO members without discrimination.
- B. The principle applies uniformly across goods, services, and intellectual property under WTO agreements.

C. Free trade agreements between specific countries are considered a violation of the MFN principle.

D. Developing countries can be granted special market access without extending the same to all members.

108. Donetsk and Luhansk, recently seen in the news, are:

- A. Russian-annexed regions in Eastern Ukraine central to the Ukraine war.
- B. The capitals of Belarus and Moldova.
- C. Major ports involved in global trade agreements.
- D. Sites of recent climate change conferences in Europe.

109. Consider the following pairs of traditional water management systems and their locations in India:

1. Jackwells – Great Nicobar Islands
2. Zabo – Kerala
3. Kuhls – Himachal Pradesh
4. Ahar Pynes – Gujarat

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

110. Which country is home to the Succulent Karoo and Nama Karoo deserts, and where the Okavango and Kunene rivers flow through?

- A. Namibia
- B. Sudan
- C. South Africa
- D. Egypt

111. Consider the following statements regarding the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023:

1. It replaces the Election Commission (Conditions of Service of Election Commissioners and Transaction of Business) Act, 1991.
2. The Selection Committee consists of the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, and chief justice of India (CJI).
3. The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioner (ECs) can be re-appointed after their term ends.

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

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

112. Consider the following statements about Alaska:

1. Aleuts, Inupiat, and Yuit are among the indigenous communities of Alaska.
2. Denali, the highest peak in North America, is located in Alaska.
3. Alaska shares a land border with Canada but is geographically separated from the contiguous United States.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 3 only
- D. All of the above

113. Recently, the term “buoyant economy” has been frequently seen in the news. It can best be described as an economy experiencing:

- A. Broad-based improvements in economic security, rising real incomes, and expanding employment opportunities, coupled with stable or improving debt-to-GDP ratios.
- B. High GDP growth driven solely by speculative investments, while employment and real wages stagnate.
- C. Rapid export growth financed by increasing foreign debt, despite domestic consumption remaining weak.
- D. Short-term consumption spikes due to government stimulus, without corresponding improvements in productivity or employment.

114. Consider the following statements about the Nobel Peace Prize:

1. It was instituted according to the will of Alfred Nobel to honor work promoting fraternity between nations, reducing armies, and promoting peace congresses.
2. Since World War II, it has primarily recognized efforts in arms control, peace negotiation, democracy and human rights, and creating a more peaceful world.
3. The Nobel Peace Prize can be awarded to individuals only, and is selected by the Norwegian Nobel Committee.

4. Unlike other Nobel Prizes, the Peace Prize ceremony is held in Oslo, Norway.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

115. Regarding biofortification, consider the following statements:

1. Biofortified crops demonstrate enhanced bioavailability of micronutrients when consumed compared to conventional varieties.
2. Bt-Cotton represents an example of biofortification in fiber crops.
3. The orange-fleshed sweet potato variety is biofortified with Vitamin A through increased beta-carotene content.

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

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

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

1. GST functions as a destination-based tax levied on consumption.
2. Petroleum products and alcohol for human consumption remain outside GST.
3. Under GST, exports and supplies to Special Economic Zones (SEZs) or their developers are treated as zero-rated.

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

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

117. Which of the following reports are published by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)?

1. Emission Gap Report
2. Adaptation Gap Report
3. Global Environment Outlook
4. World Energy Outlook

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Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

118. With reference to the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, consider the following statements:

1. The Act seeks to provide food and nutritional security by ensuring access to adequate quantities of quality food at affordable prices.
2. It covers 75% of the urban population and 50% of the rural population under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).
3. In case of non-supply of entitled foodgrains or meals, beneficiaries shall receive a food security allowance from the State Government, as prescribed by the Central Government.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

119. With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and aims at the de-dieselisation of the farm sector along with enhancing farmers' income.
2. The scheme provides a central government subsidy for standalone solar pumps and solarization of existing grid-connected agricultural pumps.
3. Farmers can install grid-connected solar power plants up to 2 MW on barren/fallow land and sell electricity to local DISCOMs.

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

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

120. The New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG), recently seen in the news, is associated with which of the following international organizations?

- A. World Bank's Climate Investment Funds
- B. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- C. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- D. International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

121. Consider the following statements regarding the Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) Scheme:

1. The scheme is implemented under the Ministry of Law & Justice and is funded through the Nirbhaya Fund to facilitate the speedy trial of rape and child sexual abuse cases.
2. As per the POCSO Act, 2012, Special Courts are mandated to complete trials within six months from the date of taking cognizance of the offence.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

122. With reference to Jellyfish, consider the following statements:

1. Jellyfish belong to the phylum Cnidaria, which also includes corals and sea anemones.
2. They possess a backbone and a brain, which help in their movement and coordination.
3. They use specialized stinging cells called cnidocytes to capture prey and defend against predators.
4. Jellyfish are found only in warm tropical oceans.

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

- A. One only
- B. Two only
- C. Three only
- D. All four

123. Consider the following statements regarding Majorana 1:

1. Microsoft's Majorana 1 quantum chip is designed to transform the field of quantum computing.
2. It could help in breaking down microplastics and creating self-healing materials.

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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

124. Consider the following statement regarding the Paris Agreement:

1. It is a legally binding agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), adopted at COP 21.
2. It replaced the Kyoto Protocol, which was an earlier agreement to deal with climate change.
3. Under the Agreement, each country is required to submit and update its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs) every 5 years.

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

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

1. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) is among the managing bodies of CCTS.
2. It issues Carbon Credit Certificates (CCC), each representing a one-tonne CO₂ equivalent (tCO₂e) reduction.
3. CCTS includes energy-intensive industries such as petroleum refineries and the power sector.

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

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

126. Consider the following statements

1. Lipulekh Pass was the first Indian border post opened for trade with China.
2. Nathu La Pass, one of the world's highest motorable roads, connects Sikkim with the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) of China.

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 is a member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)?

- A. Saudi Arabia, China, Indonesia
- B. Iran, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan
- C. Afghanistan, Russia, Thailand
- D. Kyrgyzstan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh

128. Consider the following statements regarding Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO):

1. It is a transient eastward-moving system of winds, clouds, and pressure disturbances that travels around the equator.
2. It can trigger cyclones and lead to short, intense rainfall spells, even during dry periods.

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

129. Consider the following pairs regarding the types of landslides:

Type	Description
1. Slides	Movement along a rupture surface, including rotational and translational slides
2. Flows	Forward rotation and free-fall from a vertical or near-vertical slope
3. Spreads	Lateral extension and cracking of the mass, often due to liquefaction
4. Topples	Detachment from a steep slope or cliff, descending by free-fall or rolling

Which of the pairs given above are correct?

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

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130. With reference to the BharatNet Project, consider the following statements:

1. The project is implemented by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
2. It aims to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country.
3. The project is executed by the Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), incorporated under the Indian Companies Act 1956.

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

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

131. With reference to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), consider the following statements:

1. It is the only tripartite United Nations (UN) agency.
2. It was established by the Treaty of Versailles as an affiliated agency of the League of Nations.
3. The World Social Protection Report is among the reports published by the ILO.

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

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

132. Consider the following pairs:

Case	Description
1. First Judges Case (1981)	CJI's recommendations on judicial appointments and transfers can be rejected for cogent reasons only.
2. Second Judges Case (1993)	Made the SC collegium's recommendations binding on the central government.
3. Third Judges Case (1998)	Expanded the Collegium to a 5-member body, comprising the CJI and 4 of his senior-most colleagues.

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

133. With reference to the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010, consider the following statements:

1. It aligns with the Convention on Supplementary Compensation, adopted to set global minimum compensation standards.
2. The Act establishes a Nuclear Damage Claims Commission to ensure fair compensation and resolve conflicts.
3. It places the responsibility solely on the operator, unlike global frameworks, which allow operators to seek recourse against suppliers.

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

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

134. Consider the following countries:

1. Argentina
2. Mongolia
3. Ghana
4. Bangladesh

Which of the above countries has India signed its nuclear agreement with?

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

135. Which of the following constitutional amendments mandated the appointment of a minister in charge of tribal welfare in the states of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand?

- A. 94th Amendment Act, 2006
- B. 95th Amendment Act, 2009
- C. 96th Amendment Act, 2011
- D. 97th Amendment Act, 2011

136. With reference to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, consider the following statements:

1. It targets laundering linked to crimes like drug trafficking, smuggling, and terror financing.
2. The Act empowers authorities to attach, seize, and confiscate property derived from crime.
3. Proceedings can be initiated based on an ECIR (Enforcement Case Information Report) filed by the ED, without the necessity of any prior FIR.

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

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

137. Consider the following statements regarding the NABARD's Climate Strategy 2030:

1. The strategy focuses on accelerating green lending and mobilizing resources for green initiatives.
2. The strategy includes internal green transformation, implementing sustainable practices within NABARD's operations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

138. Consider the following statements regarding the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY):

1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme designed to offer financial protection to farmers against crop losses caused by natural disasters, pests, or diseases.
2. Farmers pay affordable premiums with 2% for Kharif crops, 1.5% for Rabi crops, and 5% for annual commercial or horticultural crops.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

139. Consider the following GI-tagged products:

Product	State
1. Warangal Chapata Chilli	Tamil Nadu
2. Kasti Coriander	Assam
3. Koraput Kalajeera Rice	Odisha

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

140. Which one of the following articles of the Indian Constitution empowers the President, in consultation with the Governor of the concerned state, to specify the STs for each state or UT?

- A. Article 341
- B. Article 342
- C. Article 365
- D. Article 366

141. Consider the following statements regarding the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967:

1. The 2019 amendment to the Act empowers the government to designate individuals as terrorists.
2. Both Indian and foreign nationals can be charged, and the law will apply equally to offenders, even if the crime is committed outside 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

142. With reference to the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), consider the following statements:

1. India was the first country to make CSR spending mandatory under the Companies Act, 2013.
2. CSR rules apply to companies that have a net worth exceeding Rs 500 crore, a turnover exceeding Rs 1,000 crore, or a net profit of Rs 5 crore or more.
3. CSR spending does not include contributions to government relief funds such as the PM CARES Fund and PM Relief Fund.

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

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

143. Consider the following provisions:

1. It regulates the conduct of elections.
2. It specifies the qualifications and disqualifications for membership of the houses.
3. It provides provisions to curb corrupt practices and other offences.

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Which of the provisions given above are part of the Representation of the People Act, 1951?

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

144. Consider the following statements regarding the Agni 5 missile:

1. It is an advanced nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile (SSBM).
2. It is one of the missiles developed under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP), alongside Prithvi, Trishul, Nag, and Akash.

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

145. Consider the following statements regarding Copper:

1. It is integral to clean energy technologies such as solar panels and EVs.
2. It can only be found in sulphide deposits and as pure native copper.
3. It is mainly found in Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

146. Consider the following statements regarding the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC):

1. It was established based on the recommendations of the Committee on Prevention of Corruption, chaired by Shri K. Santhanam.
2. It is an independent body which is only responsible to Parliament.

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

147. Consider the following statements regarding Multimodal Large Language Models (LLMs):

1. They are trained on diverse data types like text, images, audio, and video, enabling them to understand human language and multimedia.
2. BharatGen is India's first indigenously developed, government-funded Multimodal LLM in 22 Indian languages.

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

148. Consider the following statements regarding the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB):

1. It works independently, with administrative support from the Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. NSAB never has a fixed number of members, allowing flexibility in its composition based on evolving national security needs.

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

149. Consider the following initiatives:

1. AI-ENGAGE
2. Open Radio Access Networks (Open RAN)
3. BioExplore Initiative
4. Counter Terrorism Working Group (CTWG)

Which of the following initiatives were launched under the Quad (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue)?

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

150. Consider the following statements:

1. Headline Inflation is a measure of the total economic inflation that includes food and energy prices.
2. Core inflation is the rate at which prices are rising in the economy, excluding sharply fluctuating items like food and energy.

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

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

151. The Veerappa Moily Committee (2005) is related to which of the following?

- A. Revamping India's public administrative system
- B. Suggestions for improving environmental and forest conservation policies
- C. Proposal for reforms in higher education
- D. Recommendations on the restructuring of the Planning Commission

152. Consider the following statements regarding the Variable Rate Reverse Repo (VRRR):

1. A VRRR is a type of repo transaction where the interest rate is determined through an auction process rather than being fixed in advance.
2. It allows central banks to absorb liquidity from the banking system while letting market forces determine the cost of funds.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

153. With reference to stablecoins, which of the statements given below is **not** correct?

- A. Stablecoins are a type of cryptocurrency whose value is pegged to traditional assets like the US dollar or gold.
- B. They are used as a medium of exchange to reduce the volatility usually associated with cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin.
- C. The value of a stablecoin is guaranteed to remain fixed at all times, preventing any possibility of a de-pegging event.
- D. Algorithmic stablecoins use software algorithms to automatically adjust supply to maintain their price without being backed by real-world assets.

154. Consider the following statements regarding the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC):

1. It is an ad-hoc Committee, established by the Parliament to conduct a thorough examination of a specific subject or Bill.
2. It is chaired by a member of the Lok Sabha and has no fixed limit on the number of members.

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

155. Consider the following targets:

1. Achieve a 40% reduction in the number of children under-5 who are stunted.
2. Achieve a 50% reduction in anaemia in women of reproductive age.
3. Achieve a 30% reduction in low birth weight.
4. Ensure that there is no increase in childhood overweight.

Which of the targets listed above are included in the World Health Assembly for the year 2025?

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

156. Consider the following statements regarding BRICS:

1. Iran, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Ethiopia, and Indonesia are among the recent countries that have joined BRICS.
2. Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) and STI Framework Programme are among the key initiatives of BRICS.

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

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157. With reference to the GST council, consider the following statements:

1. Article 279-A of the Constitution empowers the President to constitute a GST Council.
2. The members of the Council include the Union Finance Minister (Chairperson), the Union Minister of State (Finance) from the Centre.
3. The recommendations of the council are binding in nature on both the Centre and the States.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

158. Which of the following articles of the Indian Constitution defines the grounds for disqualification from membership of Parliament?

- A. Article 100
- B. Article 101
- C. Article 102
- D. Article 103

159. Consider the following statements regarding the Market Stabilisation Scheme (MSS):

1. MSS bonds are issued by the RBI on behalf of the government to absorb excess liquidity.
2. These bonds generally have a short tenure of less than six months.

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

160. With reference to the windfall tax, consider the following statements:

1. It is a type of tax on companies or individuals that experience unexpectedly high profits due to external factors.
2. It is commonly levied on industries such as oil, gas, and mining.
3. The tax rates are reassessed every month, taking into account international crude prices.

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

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

161. Consider the following statements regarding rice cultivation in India:

1. India is the second-largest producer and the largest exporter of rice globally.
2. It is a kharif crop needing high temperature, high humidity, and 75–125 cm of rainfall.
3. West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab are among the leading producers of rice in India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

162. Consider the following:

1. Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC)
2. Mediterranean Dialogue
3. Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI)

Which of the following alliances are part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)?

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

163. With reference to the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), consider the following statements:

1. India was among the founding members of SAARC.
2. India launched the South Asian Satellite (SAS) in 2017, providing satellite-based services to SAARC countries.
3. India hosts the Interim Unit of the SAARC Disaster Management Center in Gujarat.

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

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

164. Which of the following articles of the Indian Constitution deals with the right of the Attorney-General for India (AG) to participate in the proceedings of the Houses of Parliament?

- A. Article 77
- B. Article 78
- C. Article 88
- D. Article 89

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

1. It operates as a destination-based consumption tax, replacing the older origin-based taxation model.
2. It is imposed at five different rates with product classification guided by the GST Council.
3. It has a dual framework, with both the Centre (CGST) and the States (SGST) imposing tax on the value of different transactions.

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

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

166. Consider the following statements regarding Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (CAFE) norms:

1. The CAFE standards were notified under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.
2. The norms are applicable for petrol, diesel, LPG and CNG passenger vehicles.

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

167. Consider the following statements regarding Shrimp farming in India:

1. India is a leading producer and exporter of shrimp globally.
2. Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Gujarat are among the leading states in shrimp farming.
3. All shrimp units are registered with MPEDA (Marine Products Export Development Authority) and FSSAI.

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

168. Consider the following statements:

1. Zero Hour starts immediately after Question Hour and allows MPs to raise issues without any prior notice.
2. Rules and regulations regarding the zero hour are mentioned in the rules of procedure.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only

C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor

169. Consider the following:

1. Committee on Public Undertakings
2. Central Vigilance Commission
3. Central Information Commission
4. Public Accounts Committee

Which of the above-mentioned bodies is the Leader of Opposition (LoP) legally entitled to be a member of?

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

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

1. NEP was based on the recommendations of the Dr. K Kasturirangan committee.
2. It replaced the 10+2 system with a 5+3+3+4 structure, aligning education with the developmental needs of children aged 3 to 18 years.
3. PARAKH and NISHTHA are among the initiatives under NEP.

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

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

171. Consider the following statement regarding the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO):

1. India and Russia were among the founding members of the organisation.
2. Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) in Tashkent is a permanent body of the SCO.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

1. BRI aims to connect Asia with Africa and Europe via land and maritime networks.
2. The New Eurasian Land Bridge Economic Corridor and China-Myanmar Economic Corridor are among the key corridors under the BRI.

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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

173. With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), consider the following statements:

1. There is no requirement to maintain any minimum balance in PMJDY accounts.
2. Under the scheme, a basic savings bank deposit account can be opened in any bank branch or Business Correspondent (Bank Mitra) outlet.
3. PMJDY accounts are not eligible for Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY).

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

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

174. With reference to the Genetically Modified (GM) Crops, consider the following statements:

1. GM crops are plants whose DNA is altered to enhance traits such as pest resistance, drought tolerance, or nutritional enhancement.
2. GM crops in India are regulated under the Environment Protection Act, 1986
3. Bt cotton is the only genetically modified crop approved for commercial cultivation in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

175. Consider the following statements regarding the Unified Payments Interface (UPI):

1. It is developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
2. It is built on IMPS (Immediate Payment Service) and integrates the Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS).

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

176. Consider the following statements regarding the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013:

1. The Act legally entitled upto 80% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population to receive subsidized food grains.
2. It encompasses two categories of ration card holders namely Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Priority Households (PHH).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

1. It was established under the Marrakesh Agreement (1994).
2. Membership of WTO is based on negotiations, ensuring a balance of rights and obligations for all members.
3. TRIMS (Trade-Related Investment Measures) and AoA (Agreement on Agriculture) are among the key agreements of the WTO.

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

178. Which of the following countries are members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)?

- A. Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Myanmar
- B. India, Japan, Singapore, Vietnam
- C. Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, China
- D. Brunei, Philippines, Malaysia, Bangladesh

179. Consider the following statements:

1. Under the State List of the Constitution, State legislatures have exclusive power to make laws on gaming, betting, and gambling.
2. Under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA), remittances for lottery winnings, income from racing, riding, or hobbies are prohibited.

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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

180. Consider the following countries:

- 1. Russia
- 2. Australia
- 3. Japan
- 4. France

With how many of the above-mentioned countries does India hold 2+2 Ministerial dialogues?

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

181. Consider the following statement regarding the Integrated Air Defence Weapon System (IADWS):

- 1. It includes QRSAM (Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missiles), VSHORADS (Very Short Range Air Defence System), and DEW (Directed Energy Weapon).
- 2. It ensures real-time detection and neutralization of targets like Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), and missiles.

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

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

- 1. It is an economic agreement formed between ASEAN and their Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partners.
- 2. RCEP is the world's largest trading bloc.
- 3. In 2019, India joined RCEP as a full-time member.

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

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

183. Consider the following statements regarding the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY):

- 1. Focus on international mobility and on-the-job training (OJT), equipping Indian workers with globally recognized skills.

2. Target beneficiaries under this scheme include individuals aged 15-40 years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

184. With reference to the World Economic Forum (WEF), consider the following statements:

- 1. It is primarily funded by global corporations with annual turnovers above USD 5 billion.
- 2. The Global Competitiveness Report and the Global Gender Gap Report are among the major reports published by WEF.

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

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

185. Consider the following statements regarding Western Disturbances:

- 1. Western Disturbance collects moisture from the Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea, and Caspian Sea.
- 2. They are the primary source of snowfall that replenishes the Himalayan glaciers during winter.

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

186. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: Bioplastics are derived from renewable organic sources like sugarcane and corn, and are made by converting sugar into polylactic acids (PLAs).

Statement II: Bioplastics are completely biodegradable and compostable, making them a perfect alternative to traditional plastics.

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

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

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187. Consider the following statements regarding the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP):

1. The program is guided by the National Strategic Plan (2017-2025) under the strategic pillars: Detect – Treat – Prevent – Build (DTPB).
2. Under NTEP, India introduced improved drug-resistant TB treatments, including a safer, shorter all-oral Bedaquiline regimen.

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

188. Consider the following statements regarding the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD):

1. It mostly includes high-income nations with a high Human Development Index (HDI) as member states.
2. While India is not a member, it is a key economic partner of the OECD.
3. OECD and the FAO together released the Agricultural Outlook 2025-2034 report.

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

189. With reference to the Pay Commission (PC), consider the following statements:

1. It assesses the pay scales, allowances, and benefits for central government employees.
2. A new PC is established every 10 years under the Department of Expenditure of the Ministry of Finance.
3. Usually, a retired RBI governor heads the PC.

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

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

190. Consider the following sectors:

1. Atomic energy generation
2. Chit Funds
3. Single Brand Retail Trading
4. Tobacco industry

Which of the sectors mentioned above are prohibited for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India?

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

Answers

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

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Practice Explanation

1.

Ans: C

Exp:

Custodial Torture:

➤ Related Constitutional Provisions

- ◆ **Article 14:** Ensures equality before the law, affirming that no one, including law enforcement agencies or officials, is above the law.
- ◆ **Article 21:** Guarantees the right to life and personal liberty, which includes the freedom from torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment.
- ◆ **Article 20(1):** States that no person can be convicted for an act that was not an offence under the law at the time it was committed, thereby prohibiting excessive or retrospective punishment. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ◆ **Article 20(3):** Protects an individual from being compelled to self-incriminate, safeguarding the accused from coerced or forced confessions through torture or pressure.

➤ International Provisions

- ◆ **United Nation Charter, 1945:** It mandates that prisoners be treated with dignity, affirming that their fundamental rights and freedoms remain protected under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR-India is a signatory). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ◆ **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948):** It protects individuals from torture, cruel treatment, and enforced disappearances, ensuring the right to dignity and security.

2.

Ans: B

Exp:

- NALSA is a **statutory body** established in 1995 under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ◆ It monitors and evaluates legal aid programs, **ensuring legal services for eligible groups like Women, Children, SC, ST, EWS, Industrial Workers, Persons with Disabilities, and Transgender Individuals**, as per Section 12 of the Act.

- It has a **tiered structure**, with Legal Services Institutions established at every level—from Taluk Courts up to the Supreme Court. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- NALSA launched the Veer Parivar Sahayata Yojana 2025, a nationwide legal aid scheme dedicated to soldiers, veterans, and their dependents. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

3.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Article 82:** It provides for the readjustment of seats in the House of the people to the states and the division of each State into territorial constituencies after every census.
- **Article 83:** Deals with the duration of Houses of Parliament.
- **Article 84:** It deals with the qualification for membership of Parliament.
- **Article 85:** It deals with the sessions of Parliament, prorogation and dissolution.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

4.

Ans: D

Exp:

United Nations Security Council (UNSC):

- UNSC, established in 1945 under the UN Charter, **constitutes one of the UN's six principal organs**, entrusted with the primary responsibility of maintaining international peace and security.
- The Council comprises 15 members, including **5 permanent members (P5)**—China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States—who possess veto power, and 10 non-permanent members elected for 2-year terms by the UN General Assembly (UNGA). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ These non-permanent seats are allocated on a regional basis: 5 for African and Asian States, 1 for Eastern European States, 2 for Latin American and Caribbean States, and 2 for Western European and Other States.
- Elections are held annually through a secret ballot, requiring a two-thirds majority vote, even when candidates are unopposed.
- The UNSC **remains the only UN body whose decisions member states are obligated to implement** under the UN Charter. It comprises five permanent members (P5) with veto power and ten non-permanent members elected by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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5.

Ans: C

Exp:

Election Commission of India (ECI):➤ **About:**

- ◆ ECI is an autonomous constitutional authority responsible for administering Union and State election processes in India.
- ◆ The body administers elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, and State Legislative Assemblies in India, and the offices of the President and Vice President in the country.
 - It is **not concerned with the elections to panchayats and municipalities** in the states. For this, the Constitution of India provides for a separate State Election Commission. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

➤ **Structure of ECI:**

- ◆ The Election Commission **shall consist of** the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and such number of other election commissioners, if any, as the President may from time-to-time fix.
- ◆ Presently, it consists of the CEC and two Election Commissioners (ECs). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

➤ **Appointment & Tenure of Commissioners:**

- ◆ The President appoints CEC and Election Commissioners as per the **CEC and Other ECs (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023**.
- ◆ They have a fixed tenure of six years, or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- ◆ The salary and conditions of service of the CEC and ECs will be equivalent to that of the Supreme Court Judge.

6.

Ans: C

Exp:

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI):

- SEBI is a Statutory Body established in 1992 in accordance with the provisions of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992, to protect investors' interests and regulate the securities market.
 - ◆ Its **headquarters are in Mumbai**, with regional offices in Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Chennai, and Delhi.
- SEBI is a **quasi-legislative and quasi-judicial body** with powers to frame regulations, conduct inquiries, and impose penalties. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- SEBI Board includes a Chairman and other full-time and part-time members. SEBI forms committees as needed to address current issues.

- ◆ The **Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT)** is established to safeguard the interests of those affected by SEBI's decisions, with a Presiding Officer and two Members. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

7.

Ans: A

Exp:

BRICS

- **About:** The acronym 'BRIC' was coined by British economist Jim O'Neill in 2001 to represent the emerging economies of Brazil, Russia, India, and China.

- ◆ BRIC began functioning as a formal group during the **G-8 Outreach Summit** in 2006, held its first summit in Russia in 2009, and became BRICS with the inclusion of South Africa in 2010. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- **Members:** The initial five BRICS members were Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. In 2024, Iran, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Egypt, and Ethiopia joined the group while Indonesia joined in 2025. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- ◆ Saudi Arabia has not yet formalised its BRICS membership, while Argentina, initially expected to join in 2024, later opted out.

- **Significance:** BRICS accounts for 45% of the world's population and 37.3% of global GDP, surpassing the EU's 14.5% and the G7's 29.3%.

- **Key Initiatives of BRICS:** New Development Bank (2014), Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA), BRICS Grain Exchange, BRICS Rapid Information Security Channel, STI Framework Programme (2015) etc. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

8.

Ans: B

Exp:

Foreign Exchange Reserves:

- Foreign exchange reserves are **assets held on reserve by a central bank in foreign currencies**, which can include bonds, treasury bills and other government securities.
- It needs to be noted that most foreign exchange reserves are held in US dollars.

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➤ **India's Forex Reserve include:**

- ◆ Foreign Currency Assets
- ◆ Gold reserves
- ◆ Special Drawing Rights
- ◆ Reserve Tranche Position with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

➤ **Hence, option B is correct.**

9.

Ans: A

Exp:

➤ **Monetary Policy:** Monetary policy is the process through which the RBI regulates the money supply in the economy by using various monetary instruments under its control to achieve the objectives **outlined in the RBI Act, 1934.**

- ◆ The primary objective is price stability, with inflation targeting as the primary focus. The **target is CPI (Combined) inflation within the 2-6% range**, set by the Government in consultation with the RBI.

➤ **Tools of Monetary Policy:**

- ◆ Quantitative Tools
 - Reserve Ratios:
 - Cash Reserve Ratio
 - Statutory Liquidity Ratio
 - Open Market Operations (OMO)
 - Repo & Reverse Repo Rate
 - Bank Rate
 - Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)
 - Market Stabilisation Scheme (MSS)
- ◆ Margin Requirement is among the **qualitative tools of monetary policy.**

➤ **Hence, option A is correct.**

10.

Ans: B

Exp:

NISAR Satellite:

➤ **About:** NISAR, jointly developed by ISRO and NASA, is the first satellite mission to use **dual-frequency radar (L-band and S-band)** from a single platform, with advanced microwave imaging capabilities including polarimetric and interferometric data. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

➤ **Mission Life:** 5 Years

➤ **Launch Vehicle:** Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark II (GSLV Mk II) (specifically the GSLV-F16 variant), India's largest rocket, is an expendable three-stage launch vehicle.

- ◆ The NISAR mission **marks the first time ISRO is using a GSLV** to place a satellite in sun-synchronous polar orbit. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

➤ **Mission Objectives and Coverage:** The NISAR mission will provide high-resolution data **every 12 days** to monitor land changes across Earth. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

- ◆ It will track ground deformation caused by earthquakes, landslides, and volcanic activity.

11.

Ans: C

Exp:

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

➤ The UNFCCC was adopted at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit and entered into force on 21st March 1994.

- ◆ **UNFCCC is one of the three Rio Conventions**, along with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

➤ **Key Functions:**

- ◆ **Negotiation Platform:** Hosts annual Conferences of the Parties (COPs), where countries negotiate climate agreements and review progress.
- ◆ **Monitoring and Reporting:** Requires countries to submit regular reports on their emissions and climate actions.
- ◆ **Financial and Technical Support:** Facilitates funding and technology transfer to developing countries through mechanisms like the Green Climate Fund. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

➤ **Major Agreements Under the UNFCCC:**

- ◆ The **Kyoto Protocol**, adopted in 1997, is the only global treaty with legally binding targets for developed countries to cut greenhouse gas emissions.
- ◆ **Paris Agreement (2015)** countries agreed to submit voluntary climate action plans (NDCs) to limit global warming to well below 2°C, ideally 1.5°C.
- ◆ **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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12.

Ans: C

Exp:

Sendai Framework (2015-2030)

- **About:** A UN-backed framework that focuses on reducing disaster risks through measures such as better preparedness, disaster risk financing, and sustainable development.
 - ◆ It was **adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction**, held in 2015 in Sendai, Miyagi, Japan.
 - It is the **successor instrument to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015**: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The framework recognizes that the State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk but that responsibility should be shared with other stakeholders including local government, the private sector and other stakeholders.
- **Implementing Organisation: United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)** is tasked to support the implementation, follow-up and review of the Sendai Framework. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

13.

Ans: B

Exp:

Poshan Abhiyan:

- **About:** It is a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, launched on **8th March 2018**. The program aims to address the nutrition needs of adolescent girls, pregnant women, lactating mothers, and children (0-6 years) through a targeted and convergent approach. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Objectives:** It aims to reduce stunting, under-nutrition, anaemia (among young children, women and adolescent girls) and reduce low birth weight by 2%, 2%, 3% and 2% per annum respectively. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Nutritional Improvement:** As per the NFHS-5 (2019-21) for children under 5 years. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0:** It is also known as Mission Poshan 2.0, that fosters health, wellness, and immunity and infrastructure upgrades for Anganwadi Centre (AWCs) e.g., dedicated buildings, functional toilets, with drinking water access.

14.

Ans: D

Exp:

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

- **About:**
 - ◆ IPCC is the international body for assessing the science related to climate change.
 - ◆ It **was set up in 1988 by the** World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to provide policymakers with regular assessments of the scientific basis of climate change, its impacts and future risks, and options for adaptation and mitigation. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ IPCC assessments **provide a scientific basis for governments** at all levels to develop climate-related policies, and they underlie negotiations at the UN Climate Conference – the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**.
- **IPCC Assessment Report:**
 - ◆ Since 1988, the IPCC has had **six assessment cycles** and delivered six Assessment Reports, the most comprehensive scientific reports about climate change produced worldwide. It is **currently in its seventh assessment cycle**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

15.

Ans: B

Exp:

Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI)

- **About:**
 - ◆ The PLI scheme was conceived to scale up domestic manufacturing capability, accompanied by higher import substitution and employment generation.
 - ◆ Launched in **March 2020**, the scheme initially targeted three industries:
 - Mobile and allied Component Manufacturing
 - Electrical Component Manufacturing and
 - Medical Devices.
 - ◆ Later, it was extended to 14 sectors.
 - ◆ In the PLI scheme, **Domestic and Foreign companies** receive financial rewards for manufacturing in India, based on a percentage of their revenue over up to five years. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

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➤ **Targeted Sectors:**

- ◆ The **14 sectors** are mobile manufacturing, manufacturing of medical devices, automobiles and auto components, pharmaceuticals, drugs, specialty steel, telecom & networking products, electronic products, white goods (ACs and LEDs), food products, textile products, solar PV modules, advanced chemistry cell (ACC) battery, and drones and drone components. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

16.

Ans: A

Exp:

PMJDY

- PMJDY is a **financial inclusion program** that aims to ensure access to financial services, namely, basic savings & deposit accounts, remittance, credit, insurance, pension in an affordable manner.
- **Features:**
 - ◆ **No Minimum Balance:** There is no requirement to maintain any minimum balance in PMJDY accounts. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ **Free Debit Card:** Free Rupay Debit card is provided to PMJDY account holders.
 - ◆ **Accident Insurance:** Accident Insurance Cover of Rs.1 lakh (enhanced to Rs. 2 lakh to new PMJDY accounts opened since 2018 is available with RuPay card issued to the PMJDY account holders.
 - ◆ **OD Facility:** An overdraft (OD) facility up to **Rs. 10,000** to eligible account holders is available. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ **DBT Benefits:** PMJDY accounts are eligible for DBT, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Atal Pension Yojana (APY), Micro Units Development & Refinance Agency Bank (MUDRA) scheme. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

17.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The terms **Kudimai, Opati, and Iraikattina-nellu** were all related to the revenue system of the Chola Empire and **referred to different forms of taxes or levies.**

- **Kudimai** was a tax paid by cultivating tenants to both the government and local landlords, who often held honorific titles such as udaiyan, araiyan, and kilavar.
- **Opati** was another form of levy, collected by both the king and local chiefs, reflecting a shared administrative responsibility in revenue collection.
- **Iraikattina-nellu** refers specifically to tax paid in kind, particularly in the form of paddy.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

18.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The **PM E-DRIVE Scheme** offers demand incentives to promote the adoption of electric vehicles in India. These incentives are capped at **15% of the ex-factory price or a fixed per-vehicle amount**, whichever is lower, and are applicable only to vehicles priced within a specified threshold. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The scheme also includes support for multiple categories of EVs, including **e-ambulances, e-trucks** with valid scrapping certificates, and **electric buses** meant for public transportation, in addition to commercial and private electric two-wheelers and three-wheelers. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

19.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **Operation Riddle was India's military response during the 1965 Indo-Pak War**, launched in reaction to Pakistan's Operation Gibraltar and Grand Slam, which aimed to infiltrate Jammu & Kashmir and incite insurgency.
 - ◆ Operation Riddle involved major Indian counteroffensives along the western front, especially in Punjab and Rajasthan.
- On the other hand, **Operation Cactus Lily was conducted during the 1971 Indo-Pak War**, specifically as part of the Bangladesh Liberation War.
 - ◆ It was a coordinated air assault operation involving the Indian Army and Air Force in December 1971, aimed at crossing the Meghna River and bypassing strong Pakistani defensive positions at Ashuganj and Bhairab Bazar, eventually facilitating India's rapid advance toward Dhaka.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

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20.

Ans: D

Exp:

- The **Artemis Accords** were launched in 2020 by the U.S. State Department and NASA, along with seven founding member countries—**Australia, Canada, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, the United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom.**
 - ◆ The Accords aim to establish a set of common principles to guide the civil exploration and peaceful use of outer space, including the Moon, Mars, comets, and asteroids.
 - ◆ **India signed the Artemis Accords in June 2023.**
- They are built upon the framework of the Outer Space Treaty of 1967, a multilateral agreement under the United Nations that forms the basis of international space law. This treaty emphasizes that outer space is a global commons, prohibits national appropriation, and promotes its peaceful and cooperative use for the benefit of all humanity.
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

21.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The **MQ-9B is a highly advanced, unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV)**, also known as a remotely piloted aircraft (RPA), developed by General Atomics. It's a variant of the MQ-9 Reaper, designed for long-endurance, high-altitude surveillance and strike missions. The MQ-9B comes in two main variants: SkyGuardian and SeaGuardian, offering both land and maritime surveillance capabilities.
- India imports these **MQ-9B drones from the United States.** Specifically, India signed a deal with General Atomics, a US-based company, for the procurement of 31 MQ-9B drones
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

22.

Ans: D

Exp:

- **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023** applies to digital personal data processed within India, whether collected digitally or digitized later, and to data processing outside India if done for offering goods or services in India.
- **Exemptions:** Rights of the data principal and obligations of data fiduciaries (except data security) will not apply in specified cases, including:
 - ◆ For notified agencies, in the interest of security, sovereignty, public order, etc.

- ◆ For research, archiving or statistical purposes.
- ◆ For start-ups or other notified categories of Data Fiduciaries.
- ◆ To enforce legal rights and claims; or Prevention and investigation of offences
- ◆ To perform judicial or regulatory functions;
- ◆ To process in India personal data of non-residents under foreign contract.

➤ **Hence, option D is correct.**

23.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **Bhitarkanika National Park in Odisha** has India's second-largest mangrove ecosystem after the Sundarbans. It is known for its rich biodiversity, including salt-tolerant mangrove species, estuarine crocodiles, and numerous migratory birds.
- **Gulf of Kachchh Marine National Park in Gujarat** also has significant mangrove cover, especially around its coastal and island regions. It supports coral reefs, mangroves, and rich marine life.
- **However, Rajaji National Park**, located in the Shivalik range of Uttarakhand, is an inland terrestrial forest ecosystem and **does not contain mangrove vegetation.** It primarily comprises sal forests, riverine vegetation, and grasslands.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

24.

Ans: A

Exp:

- As a quasi-judicial authority, the **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) is empowered to scrutinize its own orders and regulate its own procedures.** It is not bound by the Code of Civil Procedure and functions based on the principles of natural justice.
 - ◆ These powers make the tribunal flexible and efficient in resolving corporate disputes. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The NCLT was established under the Companies Act, 2013, and became operational on 1 June 2016.
 - ◆ It was constituted based on the **recommendations of the Balakrishna Eradi Committee**, which was tasked with examining laws relating to the insolvency and winding up of companies. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The **PJ Nayak Committee** was formed by the Reserve Bank of India to give recommendations on improving the governance mechanism of the bank boards in India.

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25.

Ans: D

Exp:

International Conventions Related to E-waste Management:

- **Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (1989).**
 - ◆ India is a party to the Basel Convention. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- **Bamako Convention (1991)** prohibits the import of hazardous waste (including e-waste) into Africa and controls the transboundary movement of such waste within the continent.
- **Minamata Convention on Mercury (2013)**
 - ◆ India ratified the Minamata Convention in 2018.
- **Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) (2001)**
 - ◆ India ratified the Stockholm Convention and implements its provisions through domestic laws. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

26.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0 (PMKVY 4.0):**
 - ◆ It provides short-term training, reskilling, and upskilling.
 - ◆ 400+ new courses introduced in emerging technologies like AI, 5G, cybersecurity, green hydrogen, and drone technology.
 - ◆ Focus on international mobility and **on-the-job training (OJT)** by recognition of prior learning and equipping Indian workers with globally recognized skills. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
 - ◆ **Target Beneficiaries:** Individuals aged 15-59 years. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
 - ◆ It aligns with PM Vishwakarma, PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, National Green Hydrogen Mission, and NAL JAL Mitra, ensuring cross-sector impact. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

27.

Ans: D

Exp:

- **Intellectual Property:** It includes intangible creations of the human intellect, primarily copyrights, patents, and trademarks. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- ◆ The importance of intellectual property was first recognized in the **Paris Convention** for the Protection of Industrial Property (1883) and the **Berne Convention** for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works (1886). Both treaties are administered by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Hence, statement 2 is correct.

- ◆ Rights related to IP are **outlined in Article 27** of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

28.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Anji Khad Bridge:** It is India's 1st cable-stayed rail bridge and the 2nd-highest railway bridge in the country, after the Chenab rail bridge. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- **Chenab Rail Bridge:** Located in Reasi district, it is the world's highest railway arch bridge, standing 359 metres tall—35 metres higher than the Eiffel Tower. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- ◆ **Uniqueness:** A key feature is its ability to remain stable and operational even if one of its eight piers fails, allowing trains to continue at a reduced speed.

29.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The World Bank has funded over 15,000 projects in areas such as education, health, infrastructure, and environmental sustainability.
- ◆ Some of the Projects funded by the World Bank in India are the India Energy Efficiency Scale-up Program, **SANKALP**, Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (**RAMP**), Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor, and Mumbai Urban Transport Projects etc. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- **Key Institutions within the World Bank Group:**
 - ◆ **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD):** IBRD offers loans, guarantees, and policy advice to middle-income and creditworthy low-income countries with a focus on poverty reduction, sustainable growth, and infrastructure development.
 - ◆ **International Development Association (IDA):** IDA provides concessional loans and grants to the world's poorest countries, with terms that carry little or no interest. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

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Classroom
CoursesIAS Current
Affairs Module
CourseDrishti
Learning
App

- ◆ **International Finance Corporation (IFC):** IFC promotes private sector investment in developing countries by providing financing, advisory services, and risk mitigation.
- ◆ **Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA):** MIGA provides political risk insurance and guarantees to encourage foreign investment in developing economies, reducing the risk of loss from political instability.
- ◆ **International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID):** ICSID helps resolve investment disputes between investors and states, providing a legal framework for the peaceful settlement of conflicts.

30.

Ans: C

Exp:

Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT): It was approved by the UN General Assembly on 12th June, 1968 and came into force on 5th March, 1970.

- It is the **only multilateral binding treaty for Nuclear-Weapon States (NWS)** on disarmament while promoting peaceful nuclear energy use. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Key Provisions:** It defines NWS as countries possessing nuclear weapons before 1st January, 1967 (USA, UK, France, China, and USSR/Russia). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Membership:** 191 members with 5 NWS (US, Russia, UK, France & China).
 - ◆ **India is not a member.**
- **Monitoring:** International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) monitors compliance. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **India and NPT:** India opposes the NPT, calling it discriminatory, as it legitimizes nuclear weapons for five countries while denying the same right to others.
 - ◆ India follows a **"No First Use" (NFU) policy** and is committed to global nuclear disarmament.

31.

Ans: B

Exp:

Genetically Modified (GM) Crops:

- **About:** Genetically Modified (GM) crops are plants whose DNA is altered using modern genetic engineering technology **to introduce or enhance desirable traits** such as pest resistance, drought tolerance, or nutritional enhancement.
- **Regulatory Framework in India:** GM crops in India are regulated under the "Rules for the Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Microorganisms, Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells" (Rules, 1989) **under the Environment Protection Act, 1986. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- ◆ It provides a comprehensive regulatory framework for all activities involving GMOs, covering research and large-scale use, including manufacture, import, storage, sale, and export.

- **Approved GM Crop:** Bt cotton is the only genetically modified crop approved for commercial cultivation in India (since 2002). It now covers over 90% of India's cotton area, around 12 million hectares. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

32.

Ans: A

Exp:

G20:

- **Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty:** Launched at the **2024 G20 Summit** in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the initiative aims to reach 500 million people through cash transfer programs and to provide 150 million school meals to children by 2030.
- **India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC):** The IMEC, launched during the G20 Summit in New Delhi in 2023, seeks to strengthen trade, economic relations, and regional integration between India, the Middle East, and Europe.
- **Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA):** It was launched at the G20 Summit in New Delhi in 2023, with the goal of promoting the adoption of sustainable biofuels.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

33.

Ans: C

Exp:

Lithium

- **About:** Lithium is an alkali mineral, also called 'white gold'. It is soft, silvery-white metal, the lightest metal of the periodic table. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Major Properties:**
 - ◆ It is highly reactive, has low density, and has excellent electrochemical properties. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Occurrence:** Lithium is found naturally in various minerals, including spodumene, petalite, and lepidolite.
 - ◆ It is extracted from these minerals and refined into lithium metal or its compounds.
- **Lithium Triangle:** It is made up of Argentina, Chile, and Bolivia, contains roughly half the world's known lithium. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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2025UPSC
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CoursesIAS Current
Affairs Module
CourseDrishti
Learning
App

34.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The Sample Registration System (SRS) is a large-scale demographic survey for providing reliable **estimates of birth rate, death rate and other fertility and mortality indicators** at the National and Sub-National levels. SRS is one of the largest demographic surveys in the world. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2023**, mandates digital registration of all births and deaths in India from 1st October 2023, through the Centre's portal. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

35.

Ans: A

Exp:

Public Sector and Private Sector Banks:

- **Public Sector:**
 - ◆ Public Sector Banks (PSBs) are those banks where the government holds more than **50% ownership**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ Further, the government regulates the financial guidelines, because of government ownership, most depositors believe that their money is more secure in public sector banks.
 - As a result, most public sector banks have a large customer base.
- **Private Sector Banks:**
 - ◆ Private sector banks are those banks where private individuals or private companies own a major part of the bank's equity.
 - Even though **these banks follow the nation's central bank's guidelines**, they can formulate their independent financial strategy for the customers. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

36.

Ans: B

Exp:

Cryptocurrency:

- A cryptocurrency is a digital or virtual currency that uses cryptography to secure transactions. It is a decentralized currency (**not controlled by any government or institution**).
- Transactions with cryptocurrency are recorded on a public digital ledger called blockchain.
 - ◆ This ledger is **maintained by a network of computers** around the world, and each new transaction is verified and added to the blockchain by these computers. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The decentralization and use of cryptography make it difficult for anyone to manipulate the currency or the transactions recorded on the blockchain.
- Some examples of cryptocurrencies include **Bitcoin, Ethereum, and Litecoin**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Most cryptocurrencies operate outside national government regulations, serving as alternative currencies beyond state monetary policies.
 - ◆ In September 2021, **El Salvador became the first country to adopt Bitcoin as legal tender**. Israel has not adopted Bitcoin as legal tender. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- Cryptocurrency in India is **unregulated** but not specifically banned.

37.

Ans: C

Exp:

- **Article 370** Article 370 of the Indian constitution granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir.
 - ◆ It was drafted by **N Gopalaswami Ayyangar**, a member of the Constituent Assembly of India and was added as a 'temporary provision' in 1949. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ This article **allowed Jammu and Kashmir to have its constitution, flag, and autonomy** over most matters except defence, foreign affairs, and communications.
 - ◆ The provision was based on the terms of the **Instrument of Accession**, which was signed by the ruler of Jammu and Kashmir, Hari Singh, in 1947 following an invasion by Pakistan. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Supreme Court Judgment on Article 370:** The Supreme Court in December 2023, unanimously ruled to uphold the Centre's abrogation of Article 370, validating the two Presidential Orders which extended the applicability of the Indian Constitution to Jammu and Kashmir and rendered Article 370 inoperative.

38.

Ans: D

Exp:

Carbon Pricing:

- **About:** Carbon pricing is an economic strategy that captures the external costs of carbon emissions (such as damage to crops, rising healthcare costs, and property losses due to extreme weather) and links them to their sources.
 - ◆ This mechanism shifts the financial burden back to polluters, **giving them the choice to either** reduce their emissions, continue polluting and pay for it, or invest in cleaner technologies.

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CourseDrishti
Learning
App

- ◆ Current global carbon pricing mechanisms cover 12.8 gigatonnes of CO₂ (25% of global emissions) across 89 countries.
- **Mechanisms:** Governments use 3 main approaches to price carbon, ensuring emissions reductions at the lowest possible societal cost.
- ◆ **Emissions Trading System (ETS):** Allows industries to trade emission units. It operates through two mechanisms; Cap-and-Trade and Baseline-and-Credit.
- ◆ **Carbon Tax:** Unlike ETS, Carbon Tax directly sets a price on carbon emissions by charging a fixed tax per ton of CO₂.
 - However, it does not guarantee a specific reduction in emissions, as industries decide whether to cut emissions or pay the tax.
- ◆ **Crediting Mechanism:** Allows GHG reductions from projects to generate carbon credits, which can be sold domestically or internationally for compliance or voluntary mitigation purposes.
- Hence, option D is correct.

39.

Ans: C

Exp:

Current State of Renewable Energy Development in India:

- India ranks 3rd in solar, 4th in wind, and 4th in total renewable energy capacity globally. Solar capacity surged from 2.63 GW in 2014 to 108 GW in 2025 (a 41-fold increase), while wind capacity has crossed 51 GW. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- India aims to achieve 500 GW of non-fossil capacity by 2030 and 1,800 GW by 2047. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

40.

Ans: B

Exp:

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016:

- **About:** The IBC, 2016 is India's comprehensive bankruptcy law that consolidates and streamlines existing insolvency frameworks for companies, partnership firms, and individuals.
- ◆ The T.K. Vishwanathan Committee (Bankruptcy Law Reforms Committee) 2015 recommended a unified framework for resolving corporate and personal insolvencies, which led to the enactment of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- **Regulating Authority:** The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), a statutory body established under the IBC, 2016, is responsible for formulating rules and regulations for insolvency resolution in India.
 - ◆ It comprises members from the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, and the Reserve Bank of India. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- **Adjudicating Authority:** In the IBC, the Adjudicating Authority for corporate persons is the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), while for individuals and firms, it's the Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT). Hence, statement 3 is correct.

41.

Ans: B

Exp:

- In India, millets are broadly classified into major millets and minor millets based on their production volume and consumption.
 - ◆ Sorghum (Jowar), Finger millet and Pearl Millet (Bajra) are classified as major millets due to their widespread cultivation and consumption across various Indian states.
 - ◆ Foxtail Millet, although nutritious and gaining popularity, is categorized under minor millets, along with others like Little Millet, Kodo Millet, Barnyard Millet, and Proso Millet.
- Hence, option B is correct.

42.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The Dalai Lama is the spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhism, belonging to the Gelugpa tradition, the most prominent school in Tibet.
- The Dalai Lamas are regarded as manifestations of Avalokiteshvara (also known as Chenrezig), the Bodhisattva of Compassion, who vowed to be reborn to help all sentient beings. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- There have been 14 Dalai Lamas in the history of Tibetan Buddhism. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The first and second Dalai Lamas were awarded the title posthumously, after the third Dalai Lama was recognized and the title was retroactively applied to his predecessors. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

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43.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The **Manhattan Project**, launched by the United States in December 1941, was a secret **scientific effort to develop the first atomic bomb under the leadership of J. Robert Oppenheimer**. It culminated in the use of atomic weapons on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945.
- Simultaneously, the **U.S. had devised Operation Downfall**, a planned invasion of Japan which was never executed due to the use of nuclear weapons. Both are historically significant components of the **Second World War's conclusion and the dawn of the nuclear age**.
- Hence, option C is correct.

44.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Maitree Super Thermal Power Project** is a **1320 MW** coal-fired plant located in Rampal, Bangladesh, developed as a joint venture between India's NTPC and Bangladesh's Power Development Board, under the Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company Ltd (BIFPCL).
- **India and Bangladesh** also conduct **Exercise Sampriti**, a regular bilateral Army exercise, and **Exercise Bongosagar**, a Navy exercise, to strengthen defence cooperation.
- In September 2017, **India launched Operation Insaniyat** to provide humanitarian assistance to Bangladesh during the influx of Rohingya refugees.
- These initiatives reflect the growing strategic, developmental, and humanitarian partnership between India and Bangladesh.
- Hence, option A is correct.

45.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The **Hindu Kush Himalayas (HKH)** are known as the Water Tower of Asia, feeding several major rivers across the continent.
- **Amu Darya(1) is fed by glaciers and snowmelt from the Pamir Mountains**, which are considered part of the larger HKH system.
- **Salween River(2) originates in the Tibetan Plateau**, a region within the broader HKH zone, and is sustained by snowmelt.
- **Tigris River(3) originates in the Taurus Mountains in Turkey**, which are not part of the HKH, and is mainly fed by rainfall.
- Hence, option B is correct.

46.

Ans: D

Exp:

- **Rare Earth Elements (REEs)** are essential for the functioning of a wide array of high-tech and strategic sectors:
 - ◆ **Renewable energy technologies: Neodymium and dysprosium** are used in permanent magnets for wind turbines and electric vehicles.
 - ◆ **Electronics and semiconductors:** Elements like **lanthanum, cerium, and europium** are used in LEDs, smartphones, and flat-screen displays.
 - ◆ **Defense and missile systems:** REEs are critical in **laser range finders, stealth technology, precision-guided missiles, and jet engines**.
 - ◆ **Medical imaging and diagnostics:** **Gadolinium** is used in **MRI contrast agents**, while other REEs are used in X-ray and nuclear medicine technologies.
- Hence, option D is correct.

47.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The **Central Information Commission was established by the Central Government in 2005**, under the provisions of the Right to Information Act (2005). It is **not a constitutional body**.
- The Commission consists of a **Chief Information Commissioner** and not more than ten Information Commissioners.
 - ◆ They are appointed by the **President** on the recommendation of a committee consisting of the **Prime Minister(1)** as Chairperson, **the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha(2)** and a **Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister**.
 - ◆ The Chief Justice of India(3) is not a member of the committee for the appointment of the Chief Information Commissioner.
- **Section 12(6) of the RTI Act 2005** provides that Chief Information Commissioner or an Information Commissioner shall not be a Member of Parliament or Member of the Legislature of any State or Union Territory as the case may be, or hold any other office of profit or connected with any political party or carrying on any business or pursuing any profession.
- Hence, option B is correct.

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48.

Ans: B

Exp:

➤ **PARAKH** is the **National Assessment Centre** established under the **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)** as proposed in the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.

◆ It stands for **Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development**.

➤ It acts as a standard-setting body for student assessment and evaluation across boards in India to bring about uniformity and comparability.

➤ Hence, option B is correct.

49.

Ans: D

Exp:

Cloudburst

➤ **Definition:** A cloudburst is a sudden, intense rainstorm that results in more than **10 cm of rain** in less than an

hour over a small area (approximately 10 km²). Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

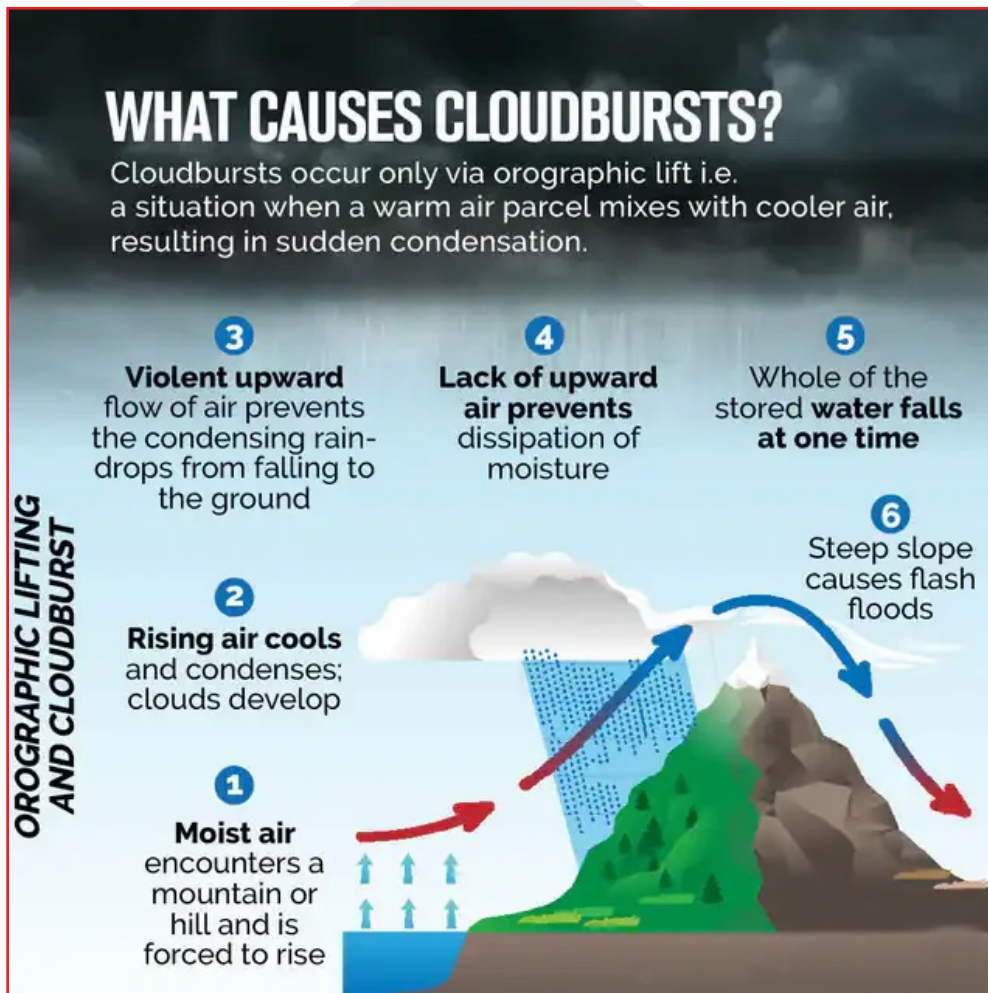
◆ Due to their localised nature, **cloudbursts are hard to predict or detect** but can unleash sudden, devastating rainfall, leading to flash floods and landslides. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

➤ Causes:

◆ **Orographic Lifting:** It occurs when moist air is forced to rise over a mountain range. As the air ascends, it cools and condenses, resulting in heavy rainfall. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

■ Strong upward air currents can cause raindrops to grow larger before they fall. When these currents weaken, the accumulated raindrops fall suddenly, leading to intense rainfall.

◆ **Monsoon Dynamics:** In the Indian subcontinent, a cloudburst typically occurs when a monsoon cloud moves northwards from the **Bay of Bengal or Arabian Sea**, crosses the plains, and reaches the Himalayas, releasing rainfall of up to 75 millimeters per hour.



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50.

Ans: A

Exp:

➤ **Gross Capital Formation (GCF) includes:**

- ◆ Change in Stocks (Inventories)
- ◆ Net Acquisition of Valuables (items like gold, gems, and precious stones etc,)
- ◆ GFCF (investments in infrastructure, machinery and other durable assets that contribute to long-term economic growth).

➤ Purchases of financial assets like bonds and securities are **not included in GCF** as they do not create new physical capital or contribute directly to production in the economy.

- ◆ They **represent ownership of existing claims**, not formation of capital.

➤ **Hence, option A is correct.**

51.

Ans: C

Exp:

Farmers Producer Organisation:

➤ An FPO is a type of producer organisation (PO) with farmers as its members, and its promotion is supported by the **Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC)**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- ◆ The FPOs came into existence in 2008, inspired by economist **YK Alagh's recommendation (2002)** to amend the Companies Act, 1956. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- ◆ FPOs **can be registered under** the Companies Act, 2013, the Societies Registration Act, 1860, or as Public Trusts under the Indian Trusts Act, 1882. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

52.

Ans: B

Exp:

Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO):

➤ It is a government organization that manages provident fund and pension accounts for the workforce engaged in the **organised sector** in India. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

➤ It implements the **Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.**

- ◆ The Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, provides for the institution of provident funds for employees in factories and other establishments.

➤ It is administered by the **Ministry of Labour & Employment**, Government of India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

➤ It is one of the **World's largest Social Security Organisations** in terms of clientele and the volume of financial transactions undertaken. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

53.

Ans: A

Exp:

International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO):

➤ It is the international organization that brings together the world's securities regulators, covering more than **95% of the world's securities markets**, and is the global standard setter for the securities sector.

➤ It works closely with the **G20 and the Financial Stability Board (FSB)** in setting up the standards for strengthening the securities markets.

- ◆ The FSB is an international body that monitors and makes recommendations about the global financial system.

➤ The **IOSCO Objectives and Principles of Securities Regulation have been endorsed by FSB** as one of the key standards for sound financial systems.

➤ IOSCO's enforcement role extends to matters of interpretation of **International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)**, where IOSCO maintains a (confidential) database of enforcement actions taken by member agencies.

➤ **Hence, option A is correct.**

54.

Ans: D

Exp:

Repo Rate:

➤ **About:** Repo rate (Repurchase Agreement Rate) is the interest rate at which commercial banks borrow money from the central bank.

➤ **Purpose & Functioning:** It helps banks meet short-term liquidity needs by borrowing funds. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- ◆ Banks **provide securities as collateral and agree to repurchase them later** at a higher price (including interest).

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➤ **Impact on Borrowing Costs:**

- ◆ **Higher repo rate** → Costlier loans for banks → Higher interest rates for consumers & businesses → Slower borrowing & spending.
- ◆ **Lower repo rate** → Cheaper loans for banks → Lower interest rates for borrowers → Increased borrowing & spending. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

➤ **Role in Monetary Policy:** It is used by the central bank to control money supply, inflation, and economic growth.

55.

Ans: B

Exp:

➤ **Chakravarty Committee (1982-85):** It was set up by the then RBI Governor Manmohan Singh under **Sukhamoy Chakravarty** to review monetary policy. Its recommendations included:

- ◆ Emphasized price stability as a core objective of monetary policy.
- ◆ **Proposed 4% average annual inflation** in the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) to balance economic priorities.
- ◆ Recommended **market-driven government borrowing** and an active government securities market to reduce reliance on RBI funding.
- ◆ Advocated monetary targeting (**M3 money supply control**) to manage inflation.
 - **M3 = M1** (Currency held by the public + Demand Deposits held by commercial banks) + Net time deposits of commercial banks.

➤ **Hence, option B is correct.**

56.

Ans: D

Exp:

PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana:

- **About:** PMDDKY is a comprehensive farm programme designed to enhance productivity, promote sustainable practices, and improve livelihoods.
- **District Selection Criteria:**
- ◆ **Low Productivity:** Districts with low agricultural output per hectare.
 - ◆ **Low Cropping Intensity:** Regions with limited crop variety or insufficient crop cycles per year.
 - ◆ **Low Credit Disbursement:** Areas with limited access to financial resources for farmers.
 - ◆ **Representation Across States:** The selection will consider the share of Net Cropped Area and operational holdings in each state/union territory.

- A minimum of one district will be selected from each state to ensure balanced regional development.

Hence, statement 1 is correct.

➤ **Implementation and Monitoring:**

- ◆ **District Agriculture and Allied Activities Plans:** Each district will prepare a plan through the District Dhan Dhaanya Samiti, involving progressive farmers, aligned with national goals like crop diversification, water conservation, and agricultural self-sufficiency.
 - ◆ **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Progress will be tracked through 117 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) using a dedicated dashboard, with monthly reviews. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - Central Nodal Officers will be appointed for each district to ensure smooth implementation. NITI Aayog will guide and review district plans regularly.
 - ◆ **Multi-Tier Governance:** The scheme will be governed through a three-tier implementation structure:
 - District-level committees
 - State-level steering groups
 - National-level oversight bodies
- Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

57.

Ans: C

Exp:

Special Intensive Revision:

- **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** is a **time-bound voter verification drive** where **Booth Level Officers (BLOs)** update electoral rolls ensuring an **accurate, inclusive, and error-free** voter list via **registrations, deletions, and modifications**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Representation of the People Act, 1950** empowers the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** to **prepare and revise electoral rolls**, including **special revisions**, and mandates that rolls be prepared by the **qualifying date** and take effect **after final publication** as per the rules. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Article 324** grants the **ECI** the authority to **supervise and control** the preparation of **electoral rolls** and the **conduct of elections**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

58.

Ans: D

Exp:

Archipelago:

- An **archipelago** is a group or chain of **closely scattered islands** clustered together in a sea or ocean.

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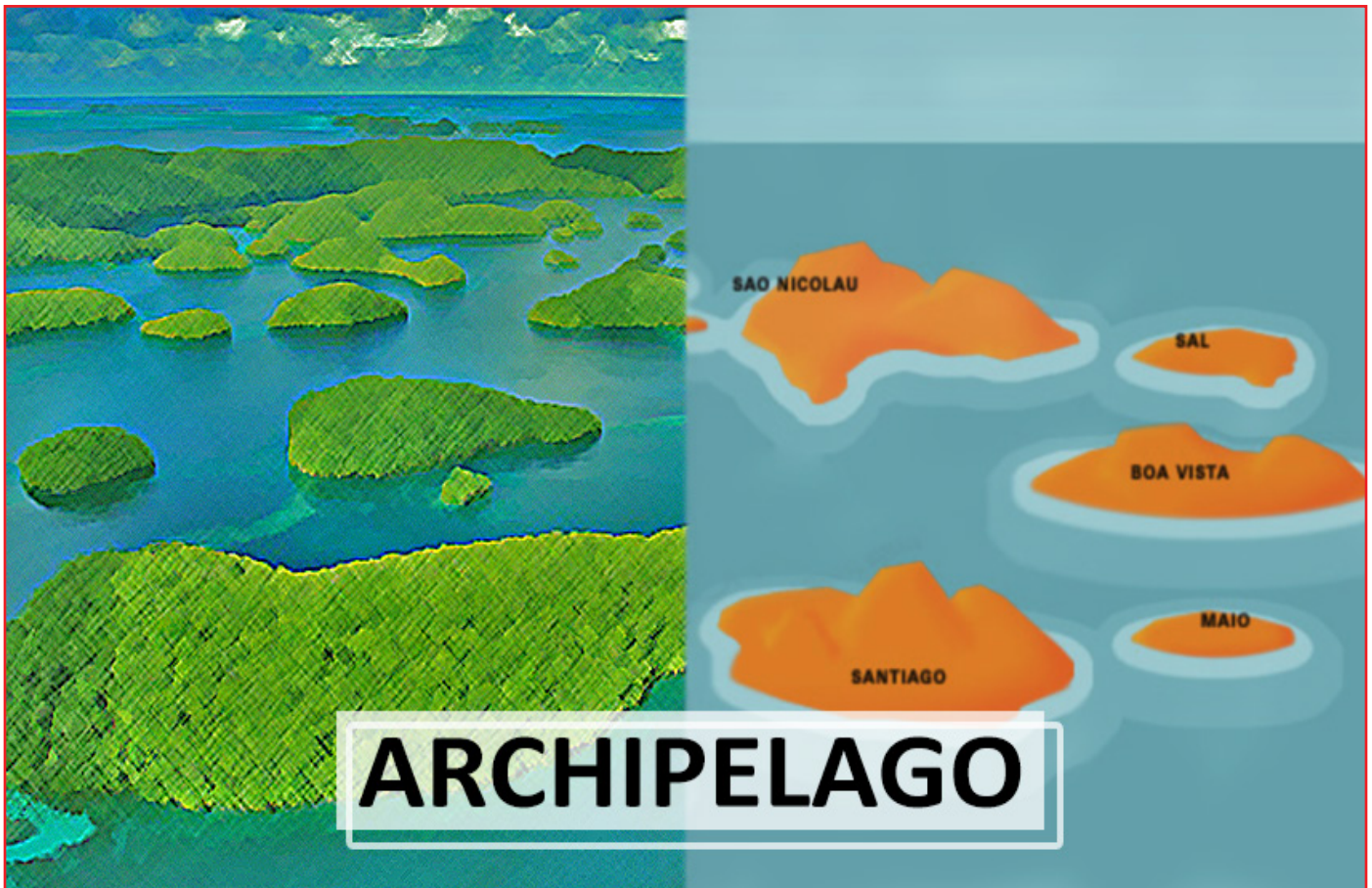


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- The Philippines, located between the **South China Sea** and the **Pacific Ocean**, is an **archipelago** where the two largest islands, **Luzon** and **Mindanao**, account for **two-thirds of its total land area**.
- The **Hawaiian Islands** are an **archipelago** spread across a vast area of the **North Pacific Ocean**, comprising **132 islands, atolls, reefs, shallow banks, shoals, and seamounts**.
- The **Andaman and Nicobar Islands** form the **largest archipelago system** in the **Bay of Bengal**, arranged in a crescent-shaped chain stretching from **Cape Negrais** in **Myanmar** to the **Banda Arc** of **Sumatra (Indonesia)**.
- Lakshadweep, **India's smallest Union Territory**, is an **archipelago of 36 islands** comprising **12 atolls, 3 reefs, 5 submerged banks, and 10 inhabited islands**.
- Hence, option D is correct.
- It settles **legal disputes** between **states** and **provides advisory opinions** on **international law** issues, and does **not prosecute individuals** for **international crimes** such as **genocide** or **war crimes**.
- It is **headquartered in The Hague, Netherlands**, making it the **only UN organ located outside New York**, and has **English and French** as its **official languages**.
- Its **judgments are final and binding with no provision for appeal**. Under **Article 94 of the UN Charter**, **UN member states** are obligated to comply, while **advisory opinions** remain **non-binding**.
- Hence, option B is correct.

60.

Ans: A

Exp:

Tariffs

- Tariffs are **taxes or duties** imposed by a government on **imported (and sometimes exported) goods** to **protect domestic industries** from foreign competition by making imports more expensive.

59.

Ans: B

Exp:

International Court of Justice (ICJ)

- The **International Court of Justice (ICJ)**, established in **1945** and **operational** since **1946**, serves as the **principal judicial organ** of the **United Nations (UN)**.

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- **Specific Tariffs:** It is levied per unit or weight of goods, regardless of value (e.g., ₹15 on shoes, ₹100 on a jacket). They focus on quantity, not price.
- **Compound Tariffs:** It combines a fixed per-unit charge with a value-based percentage (e.g., ₹5 per apple + % of value). They account for both quantity and price.
- **Ad Valorem Tariffs:** It is charged as a percentage of the product's value (e.g., India's **70-100% custom duty** on imported vehicles).
- **Tariff-Rate Quotas:** It means **imports** within a **set limit** are charged a **lower tariff**, while **quantities exceeding** that limit face a **higher tariff**. (e.g., 10% on 5000 bags, then 20%). They mix tariff and quota controls.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

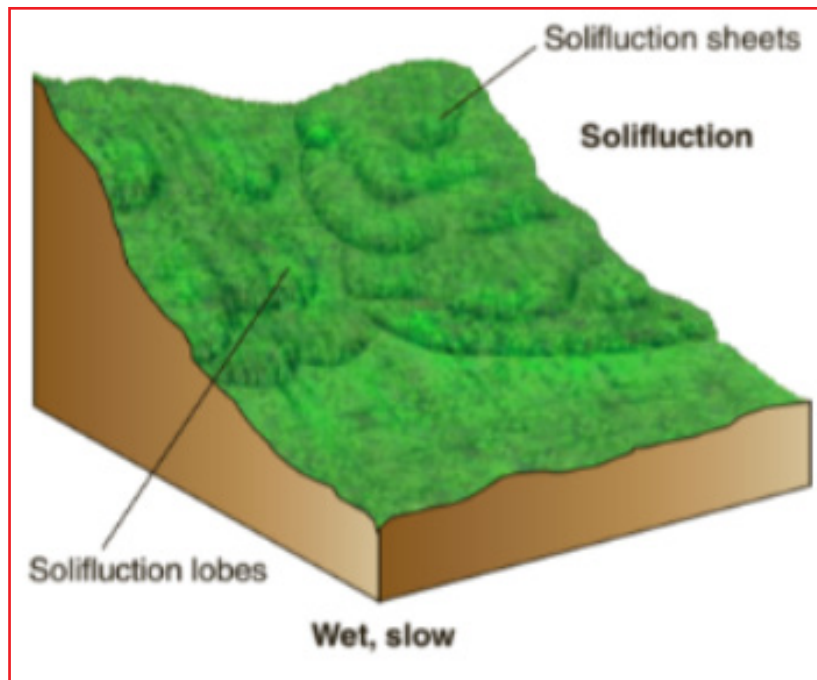
61.

Ans: B

Exp:

Solifluction

- **Solifluction** is the **slow downhill movement** of **water-saturated soil** or **regolith** over an **impermeable layer**, usually occurring in **cold climates** with **seasonal freeze-thaw cycles**.
- It is **found** in **cold regions** such as **Alaska, Siberia, and the Himalayas**. It **requires saturated ground** from **melting snow or ice** above an **impermeable frozen layer**.
- It is **distinct** from **landslides**, which are **faster**, and **soil creep**, which is **drier and slower**.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**



62.

Ans: B

Exp:

Tariff Circumvention

- **Tariff circumvention** involves tactics such as **transshipment**, where goods are routed through a third country to exploit lower tariffs (for example, Chinese goods sent via ASEAN nations).
- It can also include **misclassification**, which means declaring high-tariff items under low-tariff HS codes, and **minor processing**, where negligible value is added in a low-tariff country to claim a change in origin.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

63.

Ans: C

Exp:

Electronic Interference Techniques

- **Jamming** involves **overwhelming receivers** with **noise signals** to disrupt communication or detection. Example: **Radar jamming** in **military operations** to block enemy surveillance.
- **Spoofing** sends **false GPS or data signals** to deceive navigation or tracking systems. Example: **Fooling drone navigation systems** by feeding them fake coordinates.
- **Meaconing** captures **legitimate navigation signals** and **retransmits them with delays** to mislead. Example: **Misleading aircraft navigation** by altering the timing of GPS signals.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

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64.

Ans: D

Exp:

Semaglutide

- **Semaglutide** is an **active pharmaceutical ingredient (API)** used in drugs for **weight loss** and the **treatment of diabetes**.
- Marketed by **Novo Nordisk** under the brand names **Ozempic** and **Wegovy**, it generated **\$25 billion in revenues in 2024**.
- Its **patent is set to lapse in 2026** in about **100 countries** (including India, Canada, and Brazil), opening the way for **cheaper generic versions** from Indian pharmaceutical companies.
- Hence, option D is correct.

65.

Ans: B

Exp:

- ECI is a **permanent Constitutional Body** established on 25th January 1950.
- The **Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023** regulates their appointment, service conditions, tenure, etc.
 - ◆ Under this Act, the Chief Justice of India is **not** part of the committee, and it **consists of**:
 - Prime Minister (Chairperson)
 - Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha (Member)
 - Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister (Member). Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

- The ECI **lacks explicit powers** to deregister a political party under the Representation of the People Act, 1951 **except** in cases of **fraudulent registration, loss of allegiance to the Constitution**, or if **declared unlawful by the government**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

66.

Ans: C

Exp:

- **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**, emphasizes ensuring **universal access to school education at all levels**, from preschool to secondary.
- NEP 2020 recommends **mother tongue or local language** as medium of instruction till at least Grade 5, preferably till Grade 8 and beyond. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- NEP 2020 calls for the setting up of **PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development)** as the national assessment body. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Institutional reforms under NEP include the creation of the **Higher Education Commission of India (HECI)**, along with MERUs and the National Research Foundation. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

67.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Zoji La is a high mountain pass located in the **Kargil district of Ladakh**.
- The pass links **Leh and Srinagar** and provides an important link between Union Territories of Ladakh and Kashmir.
- Zoji la is known as the **"Mountain Pass of Blizzards"**.



- Hence, option A is correct

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68.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The Quit India Movement has rightly been described as the **most massive antiimperialist struggle** on the eve of Partition and Independence.
- In response to the **failure of the Cripps Mission**, the All India Congress Committee passed the **Quit India Resolution in Bombay on 8th August 1942**, calling for an immediate end to British rule. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The **next five years witnessed unparalleled and tumultuous events** in the political history of India.
- Satara and Tamluk indeed had functioning parallel governments with departments like law, health, and even postal services. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The movement **had weak responses in Punjab, Sindh, and NWFP** compared to places like Bombay, UP, Bihar, Bengal, and Maharashtra. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ Leaders like Lohia, JP Narayan, and Usha Mehta were prominent in underground resistance and radio broadcasts.

69.

Ans: C

Exp:

- **Crop residue burning** is a major source of GHG emissions, particularly carbon dioxide and methane. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Burning residues destroys important biodiversity, such as **soil organisms and pollinators**, which are crucial for farming ecosystems. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Key technologies like **Happy Seeder** are being promoted as alternatives to crop residue burning, but adoption rates vary.

70.

Ans: C

Exp:

- In **2024-25**, the US remained **India's largest trading partner for the fourth consecutive year**, with bilateral trade reaching USD 131.84 billion. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- FDI inflows from the US to India totaled USD 4.99 billion in FY 2023-24, marking the US as **India's third-largest source of foreign direct investment**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- In 2024, both countries signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote cooperation on **Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)**, highlighting mutual interest in boosting sectors that support innovation and growth.

71.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The POCSO Act, 2012, is **gender-neutral**, meaning it applies to both boys and girls. It aims to protect children from various forms of sexual offences, including sexual assault, harassment, and pornography. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It was enacted in consequence to India's ratification of the **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1992.**
- Under the current POCSO Act, anyone below 18 is considered a child, and a 16-year-old cannot legally give consent. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Section 23 of the act** mandates that the identity of child victims must be kept confidential. Media reports cannot disclose any details that could reveal the victim's identity, including their name, address, and family information. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

72.

Ans: A

Exp:

Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023:

➤ **Key Provisions:**

- ◆ **Selection Committee:** The CEC and ECs will be appointed by the President based on the recommendation of a Selection Committee
 - **The selection committee consists of:** Prime Minister (Chairperson), Leader of the Opposition (LoP) (or leader of the largest opposition party) in the Lok Sabha and a **Union Cabinet Minister– nominated by the PM**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- ◆ **Salary and Term:** CEC and ECs shall hold office for a term of **six years from the date on which he assumes his office** or till he attains the age of sixty-five years, whichever is earlier. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - CECs and ECs shall be paid a **salary which is equal to the salary of a Judge of the Supreme Court**.

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- ◆ **Removal and Resignation:** The act retains the manner of removal of CEC and ECs as specified in the Constitution.
- The CEC may be removed in the same manner and on the same grounds as a Supreme Court Judge. ECs may be removed only upon the recommendation of the CEC. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

73.

Ans: B

Exp:

Committee/Commission Recommendations on Electoral Reforms

- **Vohra Committee (1993):** It recommended strict background checks and creation of a nodal agency to collect, analyze, and act on intelligence about criminal-politician-bureaucrat links.
- **Law Commission:** Law Commission's 244th Report (2014) recommended:
 - ◆ Disqualify politicians once charges are framed.
 - ◆ Increase the penalty under the **RP Act, 1951**, to a minimum 2-year sentence for false affidavits, with disqualification for convictions.
- **2nd Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC):** The 2nd ARC's Ethics in Governance report backed partial state funding to curb illegitimate money in elections as earlier recommended by the Indrajit Gupta Committee on State Funding of Elections (1998).
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

74.

Ans: B

Exp:

Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM):

- The EAC-PM is an independent advisory body with **non-binding recommendations**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ It provides economic and related advice to the Government of India, specifically the Prime Minister.
- The **EAC-PM's role is advisory** with additional efforts to foster economic understanding among the public through reports, presentations, and stakeholder interactions.
- The **NITI Aayog** acts as its nodal agency for administrative and logistical support. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

75.

Ans: B

Exp:

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

- **About:** SDGs comprise 17 interconnected goals (169 targets) aimed at tackling major global challenges such as poverty, inequality, climate change, and environmental degradation.
 - ◆ They were adopted in 2015 by 193 UN Member States as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- **Historical Background:** The concept of sustainable development was first defined in the **1987 Brundtland Commission Report** as development that meets present needs without compromising future generations. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ In 2002, the **Johannesburg Declaration** at Rio+10 reviewed the outcomes of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit.
 - ◆ In 2012, the **Rio+20 Summit laid the foundation for SDGs** and a more comprehensive global development agenda. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Monitoring:** The Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) assesses progress every 4 years. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

76.

Ans: D

Exp:

- **National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP):** In 2020, the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Program (RNTCP) was renamed the NTEP with the goal to eliminate TB in India by 2025, five years ahead of the global target of 2030. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The program is guided by the **National Strategic Plan (2017-2025)** under the strategic pillars: Detect – Treat – Prevent – Build (DTPB).
- **Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan (PMTBMBA):** Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan (PMTBMBA), the world's largest crowd-sourcing initiative, was launched under the NTEP. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ The **Ni-Kshay Mitra initiative**, part of the PMTBMBA, encourages individuals, NGOs, and corporations to support TB patients with nutritional, social, or economic aid for six months. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ The **Ni-Kshay Portal** helps health workers manage TB cases, track treatment, and report real-time data for India's TB surveillance.

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77.

Ans: D

Exp:

Sickle Cell Disease➤ **About:**

- ◆ SCD is a hereditary blood disorder caused by a genetic mutation in the haemoglobin gene, leading to abnormal, **crescent- or sickle-shaped red blood cells (RBC)** instead of the usual round shape. **Hence, statement 1 is correct..**
 - This impairs blood circulation and leads to anaemia, organ damage, severe pain, and reduced lifespan.

➤ **Treatment:**

- ◆ **Gene Therapy:** SCD can be treated by bone marrow or stem cell transplantation, by methods like CRISPR. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ◆ **Blood Transfusions:** These can help relieve anemia and reduce the risk of pain crises.

➤ **Government Initiatives:**

- ◆ **National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission:** Under this, CSIR is developing gene-editing therapies for SCD.
- ◆ **Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwDs) Act, 2016:** SCD is included in the 21 disabilities that provide for benefits of reservation. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

78.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **National Policy on Biofuels** (2018, amended in 2022) advanced the 20% ethanol blending target from 2030 to 2025-26. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **The policy promotes the use of diverse feedstocks:** sugarcane, molasses, corn, damaged food grains, agricultural residues, and even waste biomass.
 - ◆ Flexibility in feedstock choice ensures a stable supply and minimizes competition with food security.
- The National Biofuel Coordination Committee (NBCC) oversees biofuel feedstock usage, especially surplus food grains declared by the **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana** encourages the production of advanced biofuels from agricultural and forestry residues, industrial waste, and algae, expanding the biofuel ecosystem. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

79.

Ans: A

Exp:

Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM):

- **About:** It is the **EU's tool to put a fair price** on the carbon emitted during the production of carbon-intensive goods that are entering the EU, and to encourage cleaner industrial production in non-EU countries.
 - ◆ It ensures that the **carbon price for imports matches the carbon price** applied to EU-produced goods, maintaining fair competition.
- **Goods Covered by CBAM:** CBAM applies to high-risk carbon leakage goods such as cement, iron and steel, aluminum, fertilisers, electricity and hydrogen.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

80.

Ans: B

Exp:

Global Gender Gap Report:

- **About:** Published **annually by the World Economic Forum**, it is the longest-standing global index for assessing gender equality. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Dimensions:** It measures countries' progress in closing gender gaps across 4 key dimensions:
 - ◆ Economic Participation and Opportunity
 - ◆ Educational Attainment
 - ◆ Health & Survival
 - ◆ Political Empowerment
- **Rating Mechanism:** Each dimension is **scored on a scale from 0 to 1**, where 1 represents full gender parity and 0 denotes complete inequality. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **India's Position:** India ranked **131st out of 148 countries** in the Global Gender Gap Report 2025, down from 129th in 2024, with a gender parity score of 64.1%. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

81.

Ans: C

Exp:

Ethanol

- Ethanol, also known as **ethyl alcohol**, is a biofuel produced from various sources such as sugarcane, corn, rice, wheat, and biomass.
 - ◆ The **production process involves the fermentation** of sugars by yeasts or via petrochemical processes such as ethylene hydration. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

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- **Molasses, a byproduct of sugar manufacture**, is generally the main source of production of ethanol (anhydrous alcohol) and rectified spirit. Molasses can be categorised into the following:

- ◆ **A Molasses**, an intermediate by-product from initial sugar crystal extraction, containing 80-85% dry matter (DM), **B Molasses** Similar DM content as A molasses.
- ◆ **C Molasses (Blackstrap/Treacle)**, the **final by-product containing significant sucrose**, which doesn't crystallize and is used as a **commercial feed ingredient in liquid or dried form**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

82.

Ans: B

Exp:

Ganga River System:

- **Bhagirathi is the source stream of the Ganga**, originating from the Gangotri Glacier in Uttarakhand, at an elevation of 3,892 m.
- Many small streams comprise the headwaters of the Ganga. The important among these are **Alaknanda, Dhauliganga, Pindar, Mandakini and Bhilangana**.
- **Major Tributaries of the Ganga River:**
- ◆ **Left Bank Tributaries:** Ramganga, Gomti, Ghaghara, Gandak, Burhi Gandak, Koshi, Mahananda.
 - ◆ **Right Bank Tributaries:** Yamuna, Tons, Karamnasa, Sone, Punpun, Falgu, Kiul, Chandan, Ajoy, Damodar, Rupnarayan.
- The Ganga flows out of the hills and into the plains at a point where it meets the Yamuna in Allahabad.
- Hence, **option B is correct**.

83.

Ans: C

Exp:

Fault:

- A fault is a **fracture or zone of fractures in the Earth's crust** between two blocks of rock, allowing them to move relative to each other. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- ◆ Faults are classified based on their dip (the angle of the fault with respect to the surface) and the direction of the movement (slip) along the fault. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
 - ◆ This movement is caused by tectonic stress, which can be sudden, **resulting in an earthquake**, or slow, occurring as creep. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
 - ◆ Tectonic stress builds up along fault lines and, when released, causes the blocks to shift, leading to seismic activity.

84.

Ans: A

Exp:

International Energy Agency (IEA):

- The IEA is an autonomous intergovernmental organization within the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** framework.
- ◆ A candidate country to the IEA must be a member country of the OECD. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The IEA, founded in 1974 in Paris in response to the 1973-1974 oil crisis, addresses oil supply disruptions.
- ◆ It focuses on energy security, economic development, environmental awareness, and global engagement.
- The IEA has 32 member countries and 13 association countries. **India joined as an Associate member in 2017**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- ◆ The IEA has invited India to become a full-time member, recognizing its growing influence in global energy trends.
- The IEA conducts energy policy analyses and publishes reports like the **World Energy Outlook** and **World Energy Investment Report**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

85.

Ans: D

Exp:

Electric Vehicles (EVs):

- **About:** Electric vehicles are a type of vehicle that use one or more electric motors for propulsion, **instead of a traditional internal combustion engine (ICE)** that burns gasoline or diesel. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- **Benefits of EVs:**
- ◆ **Reduced Emissions:** Produce **zero tailpipe emissions**, contributing to cleaner air and improved public health.
 - ◆ **Lower Operating Costs:** Electricity can be cheaper than gasoline, leading to lower fuel costs per kilometer.
 - ◆ **Quieter Operation:** Electric motors generate significantly less noise compared to gasoline engines.
 - ◆ **Improved Efficiency:** Electric motors convert a higher percentage of energy into usable power compared to gasoline engines.

PM E-DRIVE Scheme:

- A flagship scheme approved by Cabinet with Rs. 10,900 crore outlay; effective from **October 2024, to March 2026**.
- ◆ The PM E-DRIVE Scheme **offers demand incentives on EVs capped at 15% of the ex-factory price** or a fixed per-vehicle limit, whichever is lower. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

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86.

Ans: B

Exp:

G7

- **About:** The G7 is an informal forum of the world's most advanced economies — **France, Germany, Italy, the UK, Japan, the US, and Canada.**
 - ◆ The **European Union (EU)** participates as a **non-enumerated member.**
- **Origin & Evolution:** The G7 was formed in 1975 as the G6 (US, UK, France, West Germany, Japan, Italy) in response to the 1973 oil crisis and financial turmoil, with Canada joining in 1976 to make it G7. **The year 2025 marked the 50th anniversary of the G7.**
 - ◆ It became the G8 in 1997 with the inclusion of Russia, but reverted to G7 in 2014 after Russia's expulsion over the annexation of Crimea.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

87.

Ans: C

Exp:

- **Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994 (THOTA):**
 - ◆ Organ donation and transplantation in India are regulated under the THOTA (amended in 2011). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ India is the 3rd country in the world after the USA and China, in terms of the total number of transplants done in a year. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO):** The NOTTO, under the Ministry of Health, was set up as per the Transplantation of Human Organs (Amendment) Act, 2011.

88.

Ans: C

Exp:

Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme:

- **Key Components:**
 - ◆ **Part A: Incentives for First-Time Employees**
 - It targets 1.92 crore **first-time Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO)-registered employees.**
 - Employers will be incentivized for up to two years for creating new jobs, with additional incentives for two more years in the manufacturing sector. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

◆ **Part B: Support to Employers**

- **EPFO-registered firms must hire 2 additional employees** (for firms with <50 employees) and **5 additional employees** (for firms with ≥50 employees), with a minimum of 6 months' retention. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

89.

Ans: C

Exp:

Indus Waters Treaty:

- **About:** It is a **water-sharing agreement between India and Pakistan** signed in 1960 under the aegis of the World Bank to divide the waters of the Indus River and its 5 tributaries between the countries.
- **Key Provisions:**
 - ◆ **Water Sharing Arrangement:**
 - The Treaty grants India unrestricted use of the 3 eastern rivers (**Beas, Ravi, Sutlej**) and allocates the 3 western rivers (**Chenab, Indus, Jhelum**) to Pakistan. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - As per this arrangement, Pakistan is allocated roughly 80% of the water from the Indus River system, while India receives approximately 20% of the water share.
 - ◆ **Permanent Indus Commission (PIC):** The treaty mandated the establishment of a PIC with representatives from both countries, which is required to meet annually to ensure the implementation of the treaty. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Amid the Pahalgam terror attack, **India has suspended the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT).**

90.

Ans: C

Exp:

Minimum Support Price (MSP):

- **About:** The MSP regime was **established in 1965** by setting up the **Agricultural Prices Commission (APC)** (later renamed as CACP) as a form of market intervention to enhance national food security and protect farmers from significant decline in market prices. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ◆ The Swaminathan Commission recommended that MSP should be at least 50% higher than the weighted average CoP (C2 cost). However, the **government sets the MSP at 1.5 times** the all-India weighted average CoP, calculated as 1.5 times A2+FL. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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- **Approval:** The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** chaired by the Prime Minister of India takes the final decision (approve) on the level of MSPs. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

91.

Ans: D

Exp:

Current Account Deficit (CAD)

- **About:**
- ◆ CAD is when the value of a country's imports of goods and services is **greater than its exports**.
 - ◆ **CAD and fiscal deficit together make up twin deficits** that can impact the stock market and investors.
 - ◆ A lower **CAD can boost investor sentiment** and make the country's currency more attractive to investors. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ A surplus in the current account indicates that money is flowing into the country, which **can boost foreign exchange reserves** and the value of the local currency. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

92.

Ans: C

Exp:

- **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI):**
- ◆ **About:** FDI refers to investment made by a person residing outside India through capital instruments in **either an unlisted Indian company or in at least 10% of the post-issue paid-up equity capital** (on a fully diluted basis) of a listed Indian company.
 - It is typically a **long-term investment** and mainly represents a non-debt capital flow.
 - ◆ **FDI Regulation:** Currently, FDI in India is regulated by the **FDI Policy 2020 and the FEMA (Non-debt Instrument) Rules, 2019** under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999.
 - The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, is the main regulator of FDI in India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ **FDI Routes:** Under the FDI Scheme, **non-residents can invest in shares**, fully convertible debentures, and preference shares of Indian companies through

Automatic and Government Approval Route. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

- ◆ **FDI Prohibition in India:** FDI is strictly prohibited in sectors like atomic energy generation, gambling and betting, lotteries, chit funds, real estate, and the tobacco industry. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

93.

Ans: A

Exp:

Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries:

- OPEC is a permanent intergovernmental organization founded at the Baghdad Conference in 1960 by **Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela**, headquartered in Vienna, Austria.
- ◆ **OPEC currently has 12 members**, including Libya (1962), the United Arab Emirates (1967), Algeria (1969), Nigeria (1971), Gabon (1975), Equatorial Guinea (2017) and Congo (2018).
 - ◆ **OPEC nations produce about 30% of the world's crude oil, hold 80% of proven reserves**, and account for nearly half of global exports, with Saudi Arabia as the largest producer among the OPEC.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

94.

Ans: C

Exp:

Index of Industrial Production (IIP):

- The **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** measures changes in the **volume of industrial output** over a specific period and is used by agencies such as the **Ministry of Finance** and the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** for policy formulation. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is **compiled and published monthly** by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)** under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- It is a **composite indicator** that tracks the **growth rate of industry groups** across **Broad sectors (Mining, Manufacturing, Electricity)** and **Use-based sectors (Basic Goods, Capital Goods, Intermediate Goods)**.
- ◆ The **base year for IIP is 2011-2012**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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95.

Ans: B

Exp:

Nagorno-Karabakh:

- A **US-brokered peace agreement** has been signed between **Armenia** and **Azerbaijan**, bringing an end to nearly **40 years of conflict** over **Nagorno-Karabakh**.

- Both nations have agreed to **respect territorial integrity**, **renounce territorial claims**, and **uphold international law**.
- **Nagorno-Karabakh** is a **mountainous, landlocked region** in the **South Caucasus**, a mountain area situated between the **Black Sea** and the **Caspian Sea**, spanning **Russia**, **Georgia**, **Azerbaijan**, and **Armenia**.



- Hence, option B is correct.

96.

Ans: B

Exp:

Democratic Republic of Congo:

- The **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**, roughly the size of **Western Europe**, is the **largest country in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- **Kinshasa**, the capital of the **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**, is situated on the **Congo River**, the only river in **Africa** that crosses the **equator twice**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- The **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)** is the **world's largest producer of cobalt**, holding **over 50%** of global reserves, used in **lithium-ion batteries** for **electric vehicles, mobile phones, and laptops**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

97.

Ans: C

Exp:

Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions:

- **Article 79** of the **Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions** provides measures of protection for **journalists**.
- It states that **journalists undertaking dangerous professional missions** in areas of armed conflict are to be regarded as **civilians**.
- They are entitled to protection under the **Geneva Conventions** and this **Protocol**, as long as they refrain from actions that could compromise their civilian status.
- Hence, **option C is correct**.

98.

Ans: A

Exp:

National Flag of India:

- In **1916**, **Pingali Venkayya** published a booklet titled **A National Flag for India**, featuring nearly **30 designs** for a

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potential **Indian flag**, inspired by flags of other nations. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

- **Venkayya's design** for the **National Flag** was finally **approved by Mahatma Gandhi** in a **Congress meeting** in **Vijayawada** in **1921**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- Post-Independence, a **national flag committee** under **President Rajendra Prasad** replaced the **charkha** with the **Ashok Chakra**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct.**

99.

Ans: A

Exp:

Mount Meru:

- **Mount Meru**, standing at **4,566 meters**, is the **second-highest peak in Tanzania** after **Kilimanjaro** and the **fifth-highest in Africa**.
- The formation of **Mount Meru** happened after the formation of the **Great Rift Valley** when, a **million years ago**, the **volcano standing in this area** lost its top in a **massive explosion**, giving it a distinctive **horseshoe shape**.
- **Mount Meru**, located in **Arusha National Park** west of **Mount Kilimanjaro**, is a **dormant stratovolcano**—a cone-shaped volcano composed of **layers of lava, ash, and rock** that is currently **inactive** but retains the **potential to erupt** in the future.
- In **Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain** traditions, **Mount Meru** is revered as a **sacred mountain** and regarded as the **center of the physical, metaphysical, and spiritual universe**.
- Hence, **option A is correct.**

100.

Ans: B

Exp:

Sudarshan Chakra:

- India is set to develop a new **missile defence initiative**, dubbed the '**Sudarshan Chakra**', aimed at integrating **advanced surveillance, cyber protection, and physical defence mechanisms** to safeguard its **citizens and critical infrastructure**.
- The **Sudarshan Chakra** is expected to function similarly to **Israel's Iron Dome** and the proposed **US Golden Dome**, acting as a **protective shield** against **missile threats**.
- The project's name draws from **Hindu mythology**, referencing the **Sudarshan Chakra** used by **Lord Krishna** to aid **Arjuna** in battle.
- Hence, **option B is correct.**

101.

Ans: D

Exp:

Dandakaranya Region:

- **Dandakaranya** is a **physiographic region in east-central India**, encompassing the **Abujmar Hills** in the west and bordering the **Eastern Ghats** in the east.
- It is a dense forest area spanning **Bastar (Chhattisgarh), Gadchiroli (Maharashtra), and parts of Odisha, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh**.
- It is significant for its **tribal population, Naxal-affected zones, and rich biodiversity**.



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

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102.

Ans: B

Exp:

Rare Earth Elements:

- The **rare earth elements (REE)** are a set of **seventeen metallic elements**. These include the **fifteen lanthanides** on the **periodic table** plus **scandium** and **yttrium**. REEs have unique **magnetic, phosphorescent, and catalytic properties**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- They are known as the **“seeds of technology”**, as rare earth elements (REEs) enable today’s emerging technologies—ranging from **renewable energy, miniaturized electronics and medical innovations** to vital **defense, telecommunication, and transportation systems**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- **China** is the world’s largest producer of REE, contributing over **two-thirds of global mine production**. The **United States** ranked a distant second, with about **11.6% of global output**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

103.

Ans: C

Exp:

Chief Election Commissioner:

- **Article 324 of the Constitution** has made the following **provisions** to safeguard and ensure the **independent and impartial functioning** of the **Election Commission**:
 - ◆ The **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)** is provided with the **security of tenure**.
 - He cannot be **removed** from office except in the same manner and on the same grounds as a **Judge of the Supreme Court**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - In other words, he can be removed by the **President** on the basis of a **resolution** passed by both the **Houses of Parliament** with **special majority**, either on the ground of **proved misbehaviour or incapacity**.
 - Thus, he does not hold office till the **pleasure of the President**, though he is **appointed** by him.
 - ◆ The **service conditions** of the **Chief Election Commissioner** cannot be **varied to his disadvantage** after his **appointment**.
 - ◆ Any other **Election Commissioner or Regional Commissioner** cannot be **removed from office** except on the **recommendation** of the **Chief Election Commissioner**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

104.

Ans: A

Exp:

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India:

- The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)** is a **statutory body** established under the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - ◆ It aims to enhance the **efficiency** of the **insolvency resolution process** through a pool of **qualified professionals**.
- The IBBI functions under the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs** and **regulates both the insolvency profession and related processes**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

105.

Ans: B

Exp:

Fiber Optic Cables:

- **Fiber optic cables** use **fast-traveling pulses of light** to transfer **digital information** and rely on **total internal reflection** for their operation.
- **Lasers** at one end fire at extremely rapid rates down **thin glass fibers** to **receptors** at the other end.
- These **glass fibers** are wrapped in layers of **plastic** (and sometimes **steel wire**) for **protection**.
- They provide **higher bandwidth** and **very low latency** compared to **satellite communication**, which faces risks from **space weather, radiation, and debris**.
- Hence, **option B is correct**.

106.

Ans: A

Exp:

Constituent Assembly:

- In **1934**, the idea of a **Constituent Assembly for India** was proposed for the first time by **M.N. Roy**, a pioneer of the **communist movement** in India. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- In **1935**, the **Indian National Congress (INC)** officially demanded a **Constituent Assembly** to frame the **Constitution of India**.
- The demand for a Constituent Assembly was finally accepted in principle by the **British Government** in the **‘August Offer’ of 1940**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- The **Constituent Assembly** was constituted in **November 1946** under the scheme formulated by the **Cabinet Mission Plan**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

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107.

Ans: C

Exp:

Most-Favored-Nation (MFN) Principle:

- **MFN**, the **cornerstone of WTO rules**, requires that any **trade concessions** (e.g., lower tariffs) granted to one member be **equally extended to all members** without discrimination.
- The principle applies **uniformly to goods, services, and intellectual property** under WTO agreements. MFN is incorporated in all three WTO pillars i.e., GATT (Goods), GATS (Services) and TRIPS (Intellectual Property).
- Some **exceptions to MFN** are allowed. For example, countries can set up a **free trade agreement (FTA)** that applies only to **goods traded within the group**, thereby **discriminating against goods from outside**.

- Countries can provide **developing nations** with **special market access**, or impose **trade barriers** on products deemed to be **unfairly traded** from certain countries.
- Hence, option C is correct.

108.

Ans: A

Exp:

Donetsk and Luhansk:

- **Donetsk** and **Luhansk** are two regions (oblasts) in **Eastern Ukraine**, part of the historical and industrial area called the **Donbas**.
- They are central to the ongoing **Russia-Ukraine war**, with heavy fighting and strategic importance, especially for control of the Donbas region.
- Russia has **annexed these territories**, a move not widely recognized internationally.
- Hence, option A is correct.



109.

Ans: B

Exp:

Traditional Water Management Systems:

Structure	Description	Region	Key Features
Jackwells	Pits surrounded by bunds made of hardwood logs, practiced by the Shompen tribe.	Great Nicobar Islands. Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.	Pits, hardwood bunds.
Zabo	System in Nagaland combining water conservation with forestry, agri-culture, and ani-mal care .	Nagaland. Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.	Rainwater collection, pond-like structures, terraced hillsides.
Kuhls	Surface water channels in Hima-chal Pradesh carr-ying glacial waters to fields.	Himachal Pradesh. Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.	Surface channels, glacial water.
Ahar Pynes	Reservoirs with embankments, built at the end of diversion channels for harvesting floodwater .	South Bihar. Hence, pair 4 is not correctly matched.	Embankments, floodwater harvesting.

- Hence, option B is correct.

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110.

Ans: A

Exp:

Namibia:

- **Namibia** is a **Southern African nation** that shares its **northern borders** with **Angola** and **Zambia**, while **Botswana** lies to its **east** and **South Africa** borders both its **eastern** and **southern regions**.
- **Namibia**, acknowledged as the **driest nation** in **sub-Saharan Africa**, is home to several **major deserts**, including the **Namib**, the **Kalahari**, the **Succulent Karoo**, and the **Nama Karoo**.
- **Zambezi**, **Okavango**, and **Kunene** are important **rivers** in **Namibia**.
- Hence, **option A** is correct.

111.

Ans: A

Exp:

Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023:

- The Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023 replaces the **Election Commission (Conditions of Service of Election Commissioners and Transaction of Business) Act, 1991** to regulate the **appointment, tenure, service conditions** of CEC/ECs, and **Election Commission** procedures. Hence, **statement 1** is correct.

- The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioner (ECs) will be appointed by the **President** based on the recommendation of a **Selection Committee** consisting of:

- ◆ **Prime Minister (Chairperson).**
- ◆ **Leader of the Opposition (LoP)** (or leader of the largest opposition party) in the **Lok Sabha**.
- ◆ **Union Cabinet Minister** nominated by the Prime Minister. Hence, **statement 2** is not correct.

- CEC and ECs **cannot be re-appointed**. If an EC becomes CEC, their total tenure **cannot exceed six years**. Hence, **statement 3** is not correct.

112.

Ans: D

Exp:

Alaska:

- Alaska's indigenous people, collectively known as **Alaska Natives**, are traditionally classified into five major groups: **Aleuts**, **Northern Eskimos (Inupiat)**, **Southern Eskimos (Yuit)**, **Interior Indians (Athabascans)**, and **Southeast Coastal Indians (Tlingit and Haida)**. Hence, **statement 1** is correct.
- **Denali**, the **highest peak** in **North America**, is located in **Alaska**. **Denali** is the **3rd-highest** of the **Seven Summits** (tallest peaks on all seven continents). Hence, **statement 2** is correct.
- **Alaska** borders **Canada (Yukon & British Columbia)** and is separated from the **contiguous US** by **Canada's landmass**. Hence, **statement 3** is correct.



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113.

Ans: A

Exp:

Buoyant Economy:

- S&P Global Ratings upgraded India's long-term sovereign credit rating from BBB- to BBB. A BBB rating, at the lower end of the investment-grade scale, indicates an **adequate capacity to meet financial obligations**.
- S&P cited the upgrade based on **pillars** such as **buoyant economic growth**, the **commitment to fiscal consolidation**, **improved quality of government spending**, and **anchored inflation expectations**.
- A **buoyant economy** generally refers to an economy showing **broad-based strength and resilience**, not just headline GDP growth.
- **The measurable indicators of a buoyant economy include:**
 - ◆ **Rising real per capita incomes;**
 - ◆ **Increasing employment** and falling unemployment, or the presence of full employment;
 - ◆ **A more equitable or stable distribution of income;** and
 - ◆ **Declining or stable levels of domestic and foreign debt** relative to GDP.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

114.

Ans: C

Exp:

Nobel Peace Prize:

- **Alfred Nobel's will** stated that the **Peace Prize** should be awarded to the person who "shall have done the most or the best work for **fraternity between nations**, for the **abolition or reduction of standing armies**, and for the **holding and promotion of peace congresses**." **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Since **World War II**, the **Peace Prize** has principally been awarded to honour efforts in four main areas: **arms control and disarmament**, **peace negotiation**, **democracy and human rights**, and work aimed at **creating a better organized and more peaceful world**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ In the **21st century**, the **Nobel Committee** has embraced efforts to **limit the harm** done by **man-made climate change** and **threats to the environment** as relevant to the Peace Prize.

- The Peace Prize is **unique among Nobel Prizes** because it can be awarded to **institutions** as well as individuals. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ It is selected by the **Norwegian Nobel Committee**, consisting of **five members appointed by the Norwegian Parliament**.
- Unlike other Nobel Prizes, which are awarded in **Sweden**, the **Peace Prize ceremony takes place in Oslo, Norway**. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**

115.

Ans: B

Exp:

Biofortification:

- **Biofortification** is the enhancement of micronutrient content in food crops through breeding, agronomy, or biotechnology, producing crops with **higher bioavailable micronutrients** than conventional varieties. E.g., Iron-rich crops include **rice, beans, sweet potato, cassava, and legumes**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Bt-Cotton** is a **genetically modified (GM) crop** created for **pest resistance** and does **not qualify as a biofortified crop**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Biofortified sweet potatoes** contain high **beta-carotene**, making them rich in **Vitamin A**. Their **bright orange flesh** indicates significant nutritional value, essential for **vision, immunity, and child growth**, helping to **prevent night blindness** and **strengthen children's immune systems**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

116.

Ans: C

Exp:

Goods and Services Tax:

- **GST** is a **destination-based consumption tax**, which means it is imposed at the **place of consumption** rather than the **place of origin**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Petroleum products** and **alcohol for human consumption** are kept **outside the ambit of GST**.
 - ◆ These items continue to attract **VAT imposed by states** under **Entry 54 of the State List**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Exports** and **supplies to Special Economic Zones (SEZs)** or **SEZ developers** are treated as **zero-rated under GST**, meaning no GST is levied on them, with the objective of **promoting exports** and **fostering SEZ development**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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117.

Ans: A

Exp:

United Nations Environment Programme:

- The **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**, established on **5th June 1972**, is the leading global environmental authority. It is responsible for **setting the global environmental agenda, promoting sustainable development** within the UN system, and acting as an **authoritative advocate for environmental protection**.
- Its **major reports** include the *Emission Gap Report*, *Adaptation Gap Report*, *Global Environment Outlook*, *Frontiers*, and *Invest into Healthy Planet*.
- Hence, option A is correct.

118.

Ans: B

Exp:

National Food Security Act, 2013:

- The **National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013** seeks to provide **food and nutritional security** through a **life cycle approach**, by providing people access to adequate quantities of quality food at **affordable prices**, thereby enabling them to live with dignity. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The Act covers **75% of the rural population** and up to **50% of the urban population** under the **Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)**, benefiting about **67% of India's total population**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- In case the entitled foodgrains or meals are not supplied under the NFSA, beneficiaries are entitled to receive a **food security allowance** from the **concerned State Government**, to be paid to each person in the **time and manner prescribed by the Central Government**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

119.

Ans: B

Exp:

PM-KUSUM Scheme:

- It is implemented by the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** and aims at the **de-dieselisation of the farm sector** along with **enhancing farmers' income**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- Under the Scheme, central government subsidy upto **30% or 50%** of the total cost is given for the installation of **standalone solar pumps** and also for the solarization of existing **grid-connected agricultural pumps**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

- Further, **farmers** can also install **grid-connected solar power plants up to 2MW** under the Scheme on their **barren/fallow land** and sell electricity to local DISCOM at a **tariff determined by the state regulator**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

120.

Ans: C

Exp:

New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance:

- A key outcome of **COP29**, held in **Baku, Azerbaijan**, under the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**, was the adoption of the **New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG)**.
- It seeks to:
 - ◆ Increase climate finance to **USD 300 billion annually by 2035** (up from the earlier target of USD 100 billion per year).
 - ◆ Mobilize **USD 1.3 trillion per year by 2035** through combined contributions from **public and private sources**.
- Hence, option C is correct.

121.

Ans: A

Exp:

Fast Track Special Courts Scheme:

- The **Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) Scheme**, launched in **2019**, is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** under the **Ministry of Law & Justice**.
 - ◆ It is financed through the **Nirbhaya Fund** to establish FTSCs for the **speedy disposal of rape and child sexual abuse cases**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012** mandates **Special Courts** to conclude trials within **one year** from the date of taking **cognizance of the offence**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

122.

Ans: B

Exp:

Jellyfish:

- **Jellyfish** are members of the **phylum Cnidaria**, a group of animals that includes **corals, sea anemones, hydroids, and siphonophores**. They are considered to be one of the **earliest branches of the animal tree of life**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

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- Although called **jellyfish**, they are **invertebrates without backbones** and rank among the **simplest animals**, having no **brain, heart, or skeleton**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- Jellyfish feed on **fish, shrimp, crabs, and microscopic plants**, using specialized **stinging cells (cnidocytes)** in their tentacles to **stun or paralyze prey** before consuming it. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
- Jellyfish generally **drift with ocean currents** and can be found in **all types of ocean waters worldwide**. Hence, **statement 4 is not correct**.

123.

Ans: C

Exp:

Machine Learning:

- Microsoft has unveiled **Majorana 1**, the world's first quantum chip built on a **Topological Core architecture**, with the goal of **revolutionizing quantum computing**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- It can help in **breaking down microplastics** into harmless byproducts or **inventing self-healing materials** for construction, manufacturing or healthcare. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

124.

Ans: C

Exp:

Paris Agreement:

- It is a **legally binding global agreement** under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that was adopted in 2015 (**COP 21**). Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- It aims to combat climate change and **limit global warming to well below 2°C** above pre-industrial levels, with an ambition to limit warming to 1.5°C.
- Although the 1997 **Kyoto Protocol is still technically in force**, it has been effectively **superseded by the Paris Agreement**, which now serves as the primary global framework for regulating the response to climate change. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- Under the Paris Agreement, each country is required to submit and **update its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs) every 5 years**, outlining its plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

125.

Ans: B

Exp:

➤ Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS):

- ◆ **About:** The CCTS is a **market-based mechanism** in the Indian Carbon Market (ICM) that prices greenhouse gas emissions and facilitates carbon trading to decarbonize the economy.
- ◆ **Regulatory Oversight:** Managed by multiple government bodies, including the **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)** and the **National Steering Committee for Indian Carbon Market (NSCICM)**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- ◆ **Transition from PAT to CCTS:** CCTS replaces the Perform, Achieve, and Trade (PAT) scheme, shifting the focus from energy intensity to reducing GHG emission intensity, monitoring emissions per tonne of GHG equivalent.
 - It issues **Carbon Credit Certificates (CCC)**, each representing a one-tonne CO₂ equivalent (tCO₂e) reduction. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- ◆ **Sectors Identified:** CCTS initially covers **energy-intensive industries** like iron & steel, aluminium, cement, fertilizers, petroleum refineries, pulp & paper, and textiles, **currently excluding the power sector**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

126.

Ans: C

Exp:

- **Lipulekh Pass (Uttarakhand):** It was the **first Indian border post opened for trade with China** in 1992, followed by Shipki La (1994) and Nathu La (2006). Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- **Nathu La Pass (Sikkim):** This 1,500 km fully motorable route (**it is one of the world's highest motorable roads**) opened in 2015; easier for pilgrims, no trekking needed.
 - ◆ Nathu La **connects Sikkim with China's Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR)** and is part of the ancient Silk Road. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

127.

Ans: B

Exp:

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO):

- **Origins:** The grouping came into existence in Shanghai in **2001**. Its name derives from the "**Shanghai Five**," formed in 1996, which included China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. Uzbekistan was added as a sixth member in 2001.

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- ◆ It was created to **address concerns about extremist religious groups** and ethnic tensions following the dissolution of the USSR in 1991.

➤ **Members:** India, Iran, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

➤ **Hence, option B is correct.**

128.

Ans: D

Exp:

➤ **Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO):** The MJO is a transient eastward-moving system of winds, clouds, and pressure disturbances that travels around the equator. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- ◆ It **influences weather in tropical regions**, especially between 30°N and 30°S, which includes India.

- ◆ **MJO has two distinct phases:** an active phase, which brings enhanced convection and increased rainfall, and a suppressed phase, which leads to reduced convection and drier conditions.

- ◆ It can **trigger cyclones and cause brief but intense rainfall spells**, even during dry periods. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

129.

Ans: A

Exp:

Landslides:

➤ **About:** A landslide is the **downward movement of rock, soil, and debris on a slope**, triggered by factors such as heavy rainfall, earthquakes, volcanic activity, human activities, and groundwater changes.

➤ **Types:**

- ◆ **Slides:** Movement along a rupture surface, including rotational and translational slides. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**

- ◆ **Flows:** Soil or rock mixed with water moving like a fluid, such as earth flows, debris flows, mudflows, and creep. **Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**

- ◆ **Spreads:** Lateral extension and cracking of the mass, often due to liquefaction. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**

- ◆ **Topples:** Forward rotation and free-fall from a vertical or near-vertical slope.

- ◆ **Falls:** Detachment from a steep slope or cliff, descending by free-fall, bouncing, or rolling. **Hence, pair 4 is correctly matched.**

➤ **Hence, option A is correct.**

130.

Ans: B

Exp:

BharatNet Project:

➤ The National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) was launched in 2011 and later renamed the **BharatNet Project in 2015 under the Ministry of Communications**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

➤ It is aimed at providing broadband connectivity to **all Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country**. It is one of the biggest rural telecom projects in the world. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

➤ BharatNet is primarily **funded through the Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN)**, a fund that replaced the Universal Service Obligation Fund.

- ◆ The project is executed by the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), **Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL)**, incorporated under the Indian Companies Act 1956. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

131.

Ans: C

Exp:

International Labor Organization (ILO):

➤ It is the only tripartite **United Nations (UN) agency** with 187 Member States (India is a member), to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- ◆ It received the **Nobel Peace Prize in 1969**.

➤ It was **established in 1919 by the Treaty of Versailles** as an affiliated agency of the League of Nations and became the first affiliated specialised agency of the UN in 1946. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

➤ **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland

➤ **Major Reports:** World Employment and Social Outlook (WESO), Global Wage Report, **World Social Protection Report**, World of Work Report and World Employment and Social Outlook Report. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

132.

Ans: D

Exp:

➤ **First Judges Case (1981):** Also known as S.P. Gupta v. Union of India (1981).

- ◆ It stated that the CJI's recommendations on judicial appointments and transfers can be rejected for **"cogent (strong and convincing) reasons."** **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**

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- **Second Judges Case (1993):** SC in Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association vs Union of India (1993) introduced the Collegium system, holding that “consultation” really meant “concurrence”.
 - ◆ The ruling made the **SC collegium’s recommendations binding on the central government** and granted the judiciary the authority to appoint and transfer higher judiciary judges. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- **Third Judges Case (1998):** SC on the **President’s reference (Article 143)** expanded the Collegium to a 5-member body, comprising the CJI and 4 of his senior-most colleagues. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

133.

Ans: B

Exp:

Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010:

- **About:** The Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act (CLNDA), 2010, is India’s nuclear liability law ensuring compensation for victims and defining responsibility for nuclear accidents.
 - ◆ It aligns with the **Convention on Supplementary Compensation (CSC, 1997)**, adopted post-Chernobyl to set global minimum compensation standards; India ratified CSC in 2016. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The Act imposes strict, no-fault liability on operators, caps operator liability at Rs 1,500 crore.
 - ◆ The Act also establishes a **Nuclear Damage Claims Commission** to ensure fair compensation and resolve conflicts. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Supplier Liability:** India’s CLNDA is unique as it **introduces supplier liability** under, enabling operators to seek recourse against suppliers—unlike global frameworks like the CSC, which place liability solely on the operator. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

134.

Ans: D

Exp:

- **India has signed nuclear agreements with the following countries:**
 - ◆ Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Czech Republic, European Union, France, Japan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Namibia, Republic of Korea, Russia, Sri Lanka, United Kingdom, United States of America, Vietnam and Ghana.
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

135.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **94th Amendment Act, 2006:** It mandated the appointment of a minister in charge of tribal welfare in the states of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.
- **95th Amendment Act, 2009:** Extended the reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies from sixty years to seventy years until 2020.
- **96th Amendment Act, 2011:** Substituted the word “Odia” for “Oriya” in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.
- **97th Amendment Act, 2011:** Aimed to promote cooperative societies by adding the words “Or Co-operative Societies” after “Or Unions” in Article 19(i)(c) and inserting Article 43B and Part IXB in the Constitution.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

136.

Ans: C

Exp:

- **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002:**
 - ◆ **About:** PMLA, 2002 (enforced in 2005) was enacted to prevent money laundering and provide for the confiscation of property derived from such activities.
 - It targets laundering linked to crimes like drug trafficking, smuggling, and terror financing. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - Enacted under **Article 253** of the Constitution to fulfill international commitments.
 - ◆ **Attachment, Seizure & Confiscation:** The Act empowers authorities to attach, seize, and confiscate property derived from crime. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - These actions are **overseen by an Adjudicating Authority** and require the existence of a scheduled offence (offence against the state).
 - ◆ **Initiation of Proceedings & ECIR:** Proceedings can be initiated based on an **ECIR (Enforcement Case Information Report)** filed by the ED & **no FIR** is required. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

137.

Ans: C

Exp:

NABARD’s Climate Strategy 2030:

- **The strategy is structured around four key pillars:**
 - ◆ **Accelerating Green Lending:** Focusing on increasing green financing across various sectors. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

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- ◆ **Market-Making Role:** Playing a broader role in creating a conducive market environment for green finance.
- ◆ **Internal Green Transformation:** Implementing sustainable practices within NABARD's operations. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- ◆ **Strategic Resource Mobilisation:** Mobilising resources effectively to support green initiatives.

➤ This strategy is designed to tackle the financial gap between the required investment for sustainable initiatives and the current inflow of green finance.

138.

Ans: B

Exp:

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY):

- **About:** Launched in 2016, PMFBY is a **Central Sector Scheme** designed to offer financial protection to farmers against crop losses caused by natural disasters, pests, or diseases. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- ◆ As of 2023–24, PMFBY became the world's largest crop insurance scheme in terms of the number of farmers enrolled and land area covered.
- **Eligibility:** All farmers including sharecroppers and tenant farmers growing the notified crops in the notified areas are eligible for coverage.
- ◆ **Participation in PMFBY is voluntary**, with non-loanee farmers comprising 55% of total beneficiaries.
- **Premium Rates:** Farmers pay affordable premiums—2% for Kharif crops, 1.5% for Rabi crops, and 5% for annual commercial or horticultural crops. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

139.

Ans: C

Exp:

GI Tagged Products:

Product & Year	State	Fact
Warangal Chapata Chilli (2025)	Telangana	Less spicy but lends a bright red colour with extensive flavour due to its capsicum oleoresin properties. Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.
Banaras Thandai (2024)	Uttar Pradesh	Traditional spiced beverage associated with Varanasi.

Assam Bihu Dhol (2024)	Assam	Traditional drum integral to Bihu celebrations.
Kasti Coriander (2023)	Maharashtra	Known for its distinctive fragrance and taste. Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.
Koraput Kalajeera Rice (2023)	Odisha	Aromatic black paddy rice, often referred to as the 'Prince of Rice'. 2023. Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.

➤ Hence, option C is correct.

140.

Ans: B

Exp:

- According to **Article 341**, the President, after consulting the Governor of the respective State, may notify the SCs for that state or UT.
- Under **Article 342**, the President of India, in consultation with the Governor of the concerned state, is empowered to specify the STs for each state or union territory.
- **Article 365** empowers the President to declare governance failure if a State disregards Union directives, potentially leading to the invocation of Article 356.
- **Article 366** defines STs as tribes, tribal communities, or parts/groups within them that are designated as such under Article 342 of the Constitution.
- Hence, option B is correct.

141.

Ans: C

Exp:

Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967:

- **About:** The act was enacted to provide for more effective prevention of certain unlawful activities of individuals and associations, for dealing with terrorist activities, and for matters connected therewith.
- **Major Provisions:**
 - ◆ Till the year 2004, "unlawful" activities referred to actions related to secession and cession of territory. Following the 2004 amendment, "terrorist act" was added to the list of offences.
 - The 2019 amendment empowers the government to designate individuals as terrorists. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

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- ◆ **Both Indian and foreign nationals can be charged.** It will be applicable to the offenders in the same manner, even if the crime is committed on a foreign land, outside India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ◆ It has the death penalty and life imprisonment as the highest punishments.

142.

Ans: B

Exp:

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR):

- **About:** CSR refers to a company's responsibility towards society and the environment.
- **Legal Framework:** India is the **first country to make CSR spending mandatory** under Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013, providing a structured framework for eligible activities. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Applicability:** CSR rules apply to companies that, in the preceding financial year, have a net worth exceeding Rs 500 crore, or a turnover over Rs 1,000 crore, or a net profit of Rs 5 crore or more. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ Such companies must spend at least 2% of their average net profit of the last 3 financial years on CSR activities.
- **Eligible Sectors:** CSR spending covers areas like eradicating poverty, promoting education and gender equality, fighting diseases like HIV/AIDS, ensuring environmental sustainability, and **contributing to government relief funds (Like PM CARES and PM Relief Fund)** for socio-economic development and the welfare of disadvantaged groups. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

143.

Ans: D

Exp:

Representation of the People Act, 1951:

- **Provisions:**
 - ◆ It regulates the **conduct of elections.**
 - ◆ It specifies the **qualifications and disqualifications** for membership of the houses.
 - ◆ It provides provisions to **curb corrupt practices** and other offences.
 - ◆ It lays down the procedure for **settling doubts and disputes arising out of elections.**
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

144.

Ans: C

Exp:

Agni-5 Missile:

- **About:** Agni-5 is an advanced **nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile (SSBM)** developed under India's Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It is one of the five missiles developed under **IGMDP**, alongside **Prithvi, Trishul, Nag, and Akash.** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Range:** Around 5,000 km.
- **Significance:** With its **Multiple Independently Targetable Reentry Vehicle (MIRV) capable intermediate-range ballistic missile (IRBM)** technology, Agni-5 places India among a select group of nations including the USA, Russia, China, and France.

145.

Ans: B

Exp:

Copper

- **About:** Copper is a malleable, ductile metal known for its excellent heat and electrical conductivity. It possesses corrosion resistance and antimicrobial properties.
- **Applications:** It is widely utilised in construction, consumer durables, transportation, and industrial manufacturing.
 - ◆ It is also integral to clean energy technologies such as **solar panels, electric vehicles (EVs),** and energy-efficient motors. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It is a **100% recyclable metal** (allows for a circular economy).
- **Occurrence and Composition:** It is naturally found in various forms in the Earth's crust.
 - ◆ It can be found in **sulphide deposits** (as chalcopyrite, bornite, chalcocite, covellite), in **carbonate deposits** (as azurite and malachite), in **silicate deposits** (as chrysocolla and diopside) and as **pure native copper.** **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Copper Deposits in India:** Mainly located in Singhbhum (Jharkhand), Balaghat (Madhya Pradesh), and Jhunjhunu and Alwar (Rajasthan) districts. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ Minor deposits are found in Agnigundala (Andhra Pradesh), Chitradurg and Hasan (Karnataka), and South Arcot (Tamil Nadu) districts.

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146.

Ans: D

Exp:

Central Vigilance Commission (CVC):

- The Central Vigilance Commission was **set up by the Government in 1964** on the recommendations of the Committee on Prevention of Corruption, **headed by Shri K. Santhanam**, to advise and guide Central Government agencies in the field of vigilance. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ CVC is **conceived to be the apex vigilance institution, free of control from any executive authority**, monitoring all vigilance activity under the Central Government and advising various authorities in Central Government organizations in planning, executing, reviewing and reforming their vigilant work.
 - ◆ The Parliament enacted the **Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003 (CVC Act)**, conferring statutory status on the CVC.
 - ◆ It is an independent body that is **only responsible to Parliament. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - It submits its report to the President of India.

147.

Ans: C

Exp:

- **Multimodal Large Language Models (LLMs):** They are large language models trained on diverse data types (text, images, audio, and video), enabling them to understand and interpret complex human language and multimedia. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ They **overcome limitations of unimodal models** (such as earlier versions of ChatGPT) by providing cohesive responses across multiple data forms.
- **BharatGen:** It is **India's first indigenously developed**, government-funded Multimodal LLM in 22 Indian languages. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ It is developed under the **National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS)**, implemented by the TIH Foundation for IoT and IoE at IIT Bombay.

148.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **National Security Advisory Board:** Established in 1998, it operates under the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) and works alongside two other key bodies; the

Strategic Policy Group (SPG) and the Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC). **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- **Functions:** NSAB **advises the National Security Council (NSC)** on external threats, internal stability, and emerging challenges. It provides independent, long-term analysis, recommends policy options.
- **Composition:** The NSAB is headed by a Chairperson, usually a former senior official, and comprises members from diverse fields such as diplomacy, military, academia, economics, and science & technology.
 - ◆ NSAB **never has a fixed number of members**, allowing flexibility in its composition based on evolving national security needs. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Tenure:** The board's members are appointed for a term of two years.

149.

Ans: D

Exp:

- **Quad:** Quad, or Quadrilateral Security Dialogue is a strategic forum of the **US, Japan, India, and Australia** aimed at regional security and economic cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.
- **Initiatives of the Quad:**
 - ◆ **Maritime Initiative for Training in the Indo-Pacific (MAITRI):** Supports capacity-building for maritime security and law enforcement training.
 - ◆ **Open Radio Access Networks (Open RAN):** Quad with Open RAN facilitates secure and resilient 5G ecosystems.
 - ◆ **Advancing Innovations for Empowering NextGen Agriculture (AI-ENGAGE):** Uses Artificial Intelligence (AI), robotics, and sensing to improve agricultural practices and empower farmers in the Indo-Pacific.
 - ◆ **BioExplore Initiative:** A USD 2 million project to leverage AI for biological research, with applications in healthcare, clean energy, and sustainable agriculture.
 - ◆ **Counter Terrorism Working Group (CTWG):** Focuses on countering the misuse of unmanned aerial systems, chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats (CBRN), and the internet for terrorist purposes.
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

150.

Ans: D

Exp:

- **Headline Inflation:** It is a measure of the total economic inflation that includes food and energy prices. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

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- **Core Inflation:** It is the rate at which prices are rising in the economy, excluding sharply fluctuating items like food and energy. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ This measure of inflation excludes these items because their prices are much more volatile.
 - ◆ Core inflation = Headline inflation – (Food and Fuel) inflation.

151.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The Second Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) was constituted on 31st August, 2005, as a Commission of Inquiry, under the **Chairmanship of Shri Veerappa Moily** for preparing a detailed blueprint for **revamping the public administrative system**.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

152.

Ans: C

Exp:

- **Variable Rate Reverse Repo (VRRR):** A VRRR is a type of repo (repurchase agreement) transaction where the interest rate is **determined through an auction process** rather than being fixed in advance (Repo Rate is a fixed rate set by the MPC). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It allows central banks (e.g., RBI) **to absorb liquidity** from the banking system while letting market forces determine the cost of funds. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

153.

Ans: C

Exp:

- **Stablecoins are pegged to traditional assets:** This is the core principle of many stablecoins (like Tether or USD Coin), which are backed by fiat currencies, commodities, or other assets to maintain a stable value.
- **They reduce volatility:** By maintaining a stable value, they serve as a reliable medium of exchange within the highly volatile cryptocurrency market, allowing users to move in and out of riskier assets like Bitcoin without having to convert to a fiat currency via a traditional bank.
- **Algorithmic stablecoins use code, not collateral:** This describes a different class of stablecoins that rely on programmed algorithms to manage the token supply to maintain their peg, rather than holding physical reserves.
- **The value of a stablecoin is not guaranteed to remain fixed.** While they are designed to be stable, they are subject to risks such as inadequate reserves, loss of trust, or flaws in their design (**especially for algorithmic stablecoins**).

- ◆ The term for a stablecoin losing its peg to the underlying asset is **“de-pegging,”** which can lead to significant financial losses. A prominent historical example is the collapse of **TerraUSD (UST)**, an algorithmic stablecoin that lost its peg and failed.

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

154.

Ans: C

Exp:

Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC):

- The JPC is an ad-hoc Committee, **established by the Parliament** to conduct a thorough examination of a specific subject or Bill. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It **consists of members from both Houses** as well as from the ruling and opposition parties.
 - ◆ It is **chaired by a member of the Lok Sabha** (appointed by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha) and has **no fixed limit on the number of members**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - The committee is dissolved after completing its term or task.
 - ◆ The committee's **recommendations are advisory and not mandatory** for the government to follow.
 - However, suggestions by the Select Committees and JPCs, which have a majority of MPs and heads from the ruling party, are accepted more frequently.

155.

Ans: D

Exp:

Global Nutrition Targets (GNTs):

- **World Health Assembly Resolution, 2012:** Endorsed a Comprehensive Implementation Plan on maternal, infant, and young child nutrition, setting six global nutrition targets for 2025.
- **Global Nutrition Targets:**
 - ◆ Achieve a **40%** reduction in the number of children under-5 who are stunted.
 - ◆ Achieve a **50%** reduction in anaemia in women of reproductive age.
 - ◆ Achieve a **30%** reduction in low birth weight.
 - ◆ Ensure that there is **no increase in childhood overweight**.
 - ◆ Increase the rate of exclusive breastfeeding in the first 6 months to **at least 50%**.
 - ◆ Reduce and maintain childhood wasting to **less than 5%**.
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

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156.

Ans: A

Exp:

BRICS

- **About:** The acronym 'BRIC' was coined by British economist **Jim O'Neill** in 2001 to represent the emerging economies of **Brazil, Russia, India, and China**.
 - ◆ BRIC began functioning as a formal group during the G-8 Outreach Summit in 2006, held its first summit in Russia in 2009, and became BRICS with the inclusion of South Africa in 2010.
- **Members:** The initial five BRICS members were Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. In 2024, **Iran, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Egypt, and Ethiopia joined the group**, while Indonesia joined in 2025.
 - ◆ **Saudi Arabia has not yet formalised its BRICS membership**, while Argentina, initially expected to join in 2024, later opted out. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Key Initiatives of BRICS:** New Development Bank (2014), Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA), BRICS Grain Exchange, BRICS Rapid Information Security Channel, STI Framework Programme (2015) etc. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

157.

Ans: B

Exp:

GST Council:

- **About:** The GST Council is a **constitutional body** responsible for making recommendations on issues related to the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India.
- **Constitutional Provisions:** The **101st Amendment Act, of 2016** paved the way for the introduction of GST.
 - ◆ The **Amendment Act inserted a new Article 279-A** in the Constitution, which empowers the President to constitute a GST Council or by an order. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - Accordingly, the President issued the order in 2016 and constituted the Goods and Services Tax Council.
- **Members:** The members of the Council include the Union Finance Minister (Chairperson), the Union Minister of State (Finance) from the Centre. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ **Each state can nominate a minister in-charge of finance or taxation or any other minister as a member.**
- The **recommendations of the GST Council were earlier considered binding**, but in 2022, the Supreme Court in Union of India v. Mohit Minerals Pvt. Ltd Case ruled

that they are not binding, as both Parliament and State legislatures have "simultaneous" power to legislate on GST. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

158.

Ans: C

Exp:

- **Article 100** of the Indian Constitution deals with voting in the Houses, the power of Houses to act notwithstanding vacancies and quorum
- **Article 101** of the Constitution of India deals with the vacation of seats, disqualifications, and dual membership in Parliament.
- **Article 102** of the Indian Constitution defines grounds for MP disqualification, including office of profit, insolvency, unsound mind, and anti-defection provisions.
- **Article 103** deals with the decision on questions as to the disqualifications of members.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

159.

Ans: D

Exp:

- **Market Stabilisation Scheme (MSS):** MSS bonds are special bonds **issued by the RBI** on behalf of the government to absorb excess liquidity when regular government bonds are insufficient. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ These bonds **generally have a short tenure of less than six months**, though the maturity period may vary as per requirements. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

160.

Ans: B

Exp:

- A Windfall Tax is a type of tax that is **levied on companies or individuals who have unexpectedly and/or dramatically gained large profits**, often due to external factors beyond their control. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It is commonly levied on industries such as **oil, gas, and mining**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ The purpose is to capture a portion of the extraordinary profits that companies make and redistribute them for the public good.
 - ◆ It is a strategic measure to **promote transparency and fairness** and responsible economic practices in the energy industry.
- The **tax rates are reassessed every 2 weeks**, taking into account international crude prices from the preceding fortnight. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

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161.

Ans: D

Exp:

Rice:

- Rice is the staple food for most Indians, cultivated on about **25% of the total cropped area**, and **India** ranks as the **second-largest producer** globally after China & is also the **largest exporter of rice globally**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- It is a **kharif crop** needing **high temperature (>25°C)**, **high humidity**, **75–125 cm rainfall**, and **adequate sunlight**; optimal 30°C day / 20°C night, tolerating up to 40°C briefly. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
 - ◆ Grows best in soils pH 5.5–6.5 with **good water-holding capacity and drainage**.
- **Leading producers**: West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

162.

Ans: D

Exp:

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO):

- NATO, a **vital transatlantic military and political alliance**, ensures collective security for its member countries.
- It was **established in 1949 by 12 founding nations**, with a majority from Europe and North America; it **remains a cornerstone of international stability**.
- NATO is **headquartered at Boulevard Leopold III in Brussels, Belgium**.
- **Alliances of NATO:**
 - ◆ Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC)
 - ◆ Mediterranean Dialogue
 - ◆ Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI)
- Hence, **option D is correct**.

163.

Ans: C

Exp:

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC):

- SAARC was officially established on 8th December 1985, in Dhaka, Bangladesh, with **7 founding members**: Bangladesh, Bhutan, **India**, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - ◆ Afghanistan joined as the 8th member in 2007.

- India has extended its **National Knowledge Network (NKN)** to countries such as Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Bhutan, fostering educational and technological exchange.
 - ◆ India launched the **South Asian Satellite (SAS)** in 2017, providing satellite-based services to SAARC countries. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- India hosts the Interim Unit of the **SAARC Disaster Management Center** in Gujarat. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

164.

Ans: C

Exp:

- **Article 77 (Conduct of Business of the Government of India):** The President shall make rules for the more convenient transaction of the business of the Government of India, and for the allocation among Ministers of the said business.
- **Article 78 (Duties of Prime Minister):** To communicate to the President all decisions of the COM relating to the administration of the affairs of the Union and proposals for legislation.
- **Article 88:** Deals with the right of the Attorney-General for India (AG) to participate in the proceedings of the Houses of Parliament
- **Article 89:** Provides for the election of the Chairman (Vice-President of India) and the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
- Hence, **option C is correct**

165.

Ans: B

Exp:

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

- **About:** The 101st Amendment Act, 2016 introduced a unified indirect tax system across India by subsuming multiple central and state taxes under GST.
- **Main Features:**
 - ◆ **Supply-Based Taxation:** GST is levied on the supply of goods and services, unlike earlier taxes, which were imposed on manufacture, sale, or service provision.
 - ◆ **Destination-Based System:** GST operates as a destination-based consumption tax, replacing the older origin-based taxation model. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - ◆ **Multiple Tax Slabs:** GST is imposed at five different rates-0%, 5%, 12%, 18%, and 28%, with product classification guided by the GST Council. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

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- ◆ **Dual Structure:** GST has a dual framework, where both the Centre (CGST) and the States (SGST) levy tax on the same transaction value. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- ◆ **Governance:** GST Council is a key decision making body. Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) provides an IT system for the GST portal.
 - The Centre and States decide CGST, SGST, and IGST rates based on the recommendations of the GST Council.

166.

Ans: C

Exp:

Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (CAFE) Norms:

- The CAFE standards were **first notified in 2017** by the Union Ministry of Power (MoP) under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The regulation is in accordance with the fuel consumption standards of 2015 that aim to increase the fuel efficiency of vehicles by 35% by 2030.
- **The regulation was introduced in two target phases:** Carbon dioxide emission target of 130 grams/kilometre by 2022-23 and 113 g/km 2022-23 onwards.
- **Applicability:** The norms are applicable for petrol, diesel, Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) passenger vehicles. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

167.

Ans: D

Exp:

- **Status of Shrimp Farming in India:** India is a leading producer and exporter of shrimp globally. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Shrimp Producing States:** Andhra Pradesh is the largest shrimp producer state in India which accounts for 70% of India's shrimp output.
 - ◆ **West Bengal and Gujarat** are other major players in shrimp farming, with Sundarbans in West Bengal and Kutch in Gujarat being a key producer. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Regulation:** All shrimp units are registered with **MPEDA** (Marine Products Export Development Authority) and **FSSAI** (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

168.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Zero hour commences directly after the question hour** and extends until the commencement of the day's agenda, signifying the interval between the two.
 - ◆ Under this, Members of Parliament (MPs) can raise matters without any prior notice. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Zero Hour is an Indian parliamentary innovation. The phrase is **not mentioned in the rules of procedure**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

169.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **The leader of the largest opposition party having not less than one-tenth seats** of the total strength of the Lok Sabha is recognised as the leader of the Opposition.
 - ◆ The Leader of Opposition in both Houses were accorded statutory recognition under the **Salaries and Allowances of Leader of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977** and are entitled to the salary, allowances and other facilities equivalent to that of a cabinet minister.
- He will be a member of crucial committees such as **Public Accounts (Chairman), Public Undertakings, Estimates** and also a member of several **Joint Parliamentary Committees**.
 - ◆ He is entitled to be a member of various selection committees responsible for appointing heads of statutory bodies like the **Central Vigilance Commission, the Central Information Commission, the CBI, the NHRC, and the Lokpal.**

170.

Ans: C

Exp:

National Education Policy (NEP) 2020:

- **About:** NEP 2020 replaced the 34-year-old NEP of 1986 and aimed to bridge gaps in quality, equity, and access to education at all levels.
 - ◆ Based on the recommendations of **Dr K Kasturirangan committee**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Structural Reforms:** NEP 2020 replaced the **10+2 system with a 5+3+3+4 structure**, aligning education with the developmental needs of children aged 3 to 18 years. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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➤ **Key Initiatives:**

- ◆ **PM SHRI scheme:** It aims to develop 14,500 ideal schools to serve as role models.
- ◆ **NIPUN Bharat Mission:** It was launched to ensure foundational literacy and numeracy by Grade 2.
- ◆ **PARAKH:** PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development) have been introduced to monitor learning outcomes.
- ◆ **NISHTHA:** NISHTHA (National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement) teacher training program launched to equip educators with skills aligned with NEP's transformative goals. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

171.

Ans: B

Exp:

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO):

- **Origin:** The SCO originated from the "Shanghai Five," formed in 1996, consisting of China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. India was **not among the founding members** of the SCO. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ It was created to address concerns about extremist religious groups and ethnic tensions following the dissolution of the USSR in 1991.
- **Establishment:** SCO was established on 15th June 2001, in Shanghai, adding Uzbekistan as a sixth member.
- **Current Member States:** India, Iran, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
- **Permanent Bodies:** The Secretariat in Beijing (China) and the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) in Tashkent. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

172.

Ans: C

Exp:

Belt and Road Initiative (BRI):

- **About BRI:** BRI is China's strategic initiative that aims to connect **Asia with Africa and Europe via land and maritime networks** with the aim of improving regional integration, increasing trade and stimulating economic growth. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Key Corridors for Development:**
 - ◆ China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)
 - ◆ New Eurasian Land Bridge Economic Corridor
 - ◆ China-Indochina Peninsula Economic Corridor

- ◆ China-Mongolia-Russia Economic Corridor
- ◆ China-Central Asia-West Asia Economic Corridor
- ◆ China-Myanmar Economic Corridor
 - Hence, statement 2 is correct.

173.

Ans: A

Exp:

Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY):

- PMJDY is a financial inclusion program that aims to ensure access to financial services, namely, basic savings & deposit accounts, remittance, credit, insurance, pension in an affordable manner.
- Under the scheme, a **basic savings bank deposit (BSBD) account** can be opened in any bank branch or Business Correspondent (Bank Mitra) outlet, by persons not having any other account. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Features:**
 - ◆ **No Minimum Balance:** There is no requirement to maintain any minimum balance in PMJDY accounts. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ **Free Debit Card:** Free Rupay Debit card is provided to PMJDY account holders.
 - ◆ **OD Facility:** An overdraft (OD) facility up to Rs. 10,000 to eligible account holders is available.
 - ◆ **DBT Benefits:** PMJDY accounts are eligible for DBT, **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Atal Pension Yojana (APY), Micro Units Development & Refinance Agency Bank (MUDRA) scheme. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

174.

Ans: C

Exp:

Genetically Modified (GM) Crops

- **About:** GM crops are plants whose **DNA is altered using modern genetic engineering technology** to introduce or enhance desirable traits such as pest resistance, drought tolerance, or nutritional enhancement. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Regulatory Framework in India:** GM crops in India are regulated under the "Rules for the Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Microorganisms, Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells" (Rules, 1989) under the **Environment Protection Act, 1986. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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Status of GM Crop Adoption in India:

- **Approved GM Crop:** Bt cotton is the only genetically modified crop approved for commercial cultivation in India (since 2002). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

175.

Ans: C

Exp:

Unified Payments Interface (UPI):

- UPI is a real-time mobile payment system developed by **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It allows users to link multiple bank accounts into one app for seamless peer-to-peer and merchant transactions.
- UPI is built on **IMPS (Immediate Payment Service)** and integrates **Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS)**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- India's UPI is now the world's top real-time payment system, processing over 640 million daily transactions.

176.

Ans: B

Exp:

National Food Security Act, 2013:

- **About:** NFSA marks a paradigm shift in the approach to food security from welfare to rights based approach.
- **Beneficiaries:**
 - ◆ The Act legally entitled upto **75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population** to receive subsidized food grains under Targeted Public Distribution System. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ It encompasses two categories of ration card holders: Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Priority Households (PHH). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY):** It was first introduced in 2020 during the Covid-19 pandemic, and was designed to provide 5kg free foodgrains to eligible ration card holders under the NFSA.

177.

Ans: D

Exp:

World Trade Organisation (WTO):

- The WTO, established in 1995 under the **Marrakesh Agreement (1994)**, following the Uruguay Round of negotiations (1986-94), is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- ◆ WTO is an international organization for liberalizing trade and serves as a forum for governments to negotiate trade agreements. It **succeeded the GATT**, which had regulated global trade since 1948.

- **Members:** The WTO has 166 members, representing 98% of world trade. India has been a member since 1995 and was part of GATT since 1948.

- ◆ Membership is **based on negotiations**, ensuring a balance of rights and obligations for all members. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- **Key WTO Agreements:** TRIMS (Trade-Related Investment Measures), TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights), and AoA (Agreement on Agriculture). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

178.

Ans: A

Exp:

ASEAN

- **About:** ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) is a regional intergovernmental organization founded in 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand.

- ◆ It consists of **10 member countries:** Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, and Cambodia.

- **Objective:** Promoting economic growth, regional stability, and cooperation among member states.

- **India's Engagement with ASEAN:** India formal engagement with ASEAN started in 1992 as a Sectoral Dialogue Partner and became a Dialogue Partner in 1995.

- ◆ It was elevated to Strategic Partnership in 2012 and upgraded to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2022.

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

179.

Ans: C

Exp:

Online Gaming Regulated in India:

- **Legal Provisions:**

- ◆ State legislatures have exclusive power to make laws on gaming, betting, and gambling under **Entry 34 of the State List** in India's Constitution. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- ◆ **Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2023:** It has defined online game, online gaming intermediary, self-regulatory body, online RMG and permissible games.

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- ◆ **Prize Competitions Act, 1955** regulates prize-based competitions.
- ◆ **Public Gambling Act, 1867 (PGA)** exempts skill-based games from penalties.
- **FDI Restrictions:** India's FDI policy prohibits foreign investment and technology collaboration in lotteries, gambling, and betting, including licensing and brand agreements.
- ◆ Under the **Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA)**, remittances for lottery winnings, income from racing, riding, or hobbies are prohibited. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

180.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **2+2 Ministerial Meetings:** 2+2 meetings are high-level diplomatic dialogues involving the foreign and defence ministers of two countries.
 - ◆ This format facilitates in-depth discussions on strategic, security, and defence issues, aiming to enhance bilateral relations and address mutual concerns, which can help in resolving conflicts and building stronger partnerships.
- India has formal 2+2 Ministerial dialogues with **Russia (since 2021), Australia, and Japan.**
 - ◆ **France does not have a 2+2 ministerial format with India;** the two operate a Strategic Dialogue mechanism instead.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

181.

Ans: D

Exp:

- **Integrated Air Defence Weapon System (IADWS):** It is an advanced, indigenous multi-layered air defence system with **QRSAM** (Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missiles), **VSHORADS** (Very Short Range Air Defence System), and **DEW** (Directed Energy Weapon) (a laser-based high-energy system). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ Controlled by a Centralised Command and Control Centre, IADWS ensures **real-time detection and neutralization of targets** like Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), and missiles. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ IADWS builds on India's use of S-400, Barak-8, and Akash systems during Operation Sindoor to intercept Pakistani drones and missiles.

182.

Ans: B

Exp:

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP):

- RCEP is a major **economic agreement formed between** the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and their Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partners. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- RCEP is the world's largest trading bloc. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It is designed to promote economic integration, trade liberalization, and cooperation among member nations.
- Its negotiations began in 2012 and it was **officially signed in November 2020**, marking a major milestone in regional trade. It was entered into force on 1st January 2022.
- **India** was initially a part of the RCEP negotiations but **decided to withdraw in 2019.** **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

183.

Ans: C

Exp:

- **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0 (PMKVY 4.0):**
 - ◆ It provides **short-term training**, reskilling, and upskilling.
 - ◆ Focus on international mobility and on-the-job training (OJT) by recognition of prior learning and equipping Indian workers with globally recognized skills. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It aligns with **PM Vishwakarma, PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, National Green Hydrogen Mission**, and **NAL JAL Mitra**, ensuring cross-sector impact.
 - ◆ Target beneficiaries include individuals aged 15-59 years. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

184.

Ans: C

Exp:

World Economic Forum (WEF):

- **Founded:** German engineer and economist **Klaus Schwab** in 1971 founded the European Management Forum, it became the WEF in 1987.
 - ◆ In 2015, **WEF was officially recognized as an international organization**, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

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- **Purpose:** To engage leaders from business, government, and civil society to address global challenges and promote economic and social progress.
 - ◆ Introduced the Stakeholder Capitalism concept, emphasizing that companies should prioritize long-term value creation, benefiting all stakeholders.
- **Funding:** Primarily funded by global corporations with annual turnovers above USD 5 billion. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Reports:** Global Competitiveness Report, Global Gender Gap Report, Future of Jobs Report, Global Risks Report, and Global Travel and Tourism Report. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

185.

Ans: D

Exp:

Western Disturbances

- Western Disturbances are a **series of cyclonic storms** that originate in the Mediterranean region, travel over 9,000 km to bring winter rains to northwest India.
 - ◆ A Western Disturbance collects moisture from the **Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea, and Caspian Sea** and traverses over Iran and Afghanistan before hitting the western Himalayas. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- While the **storm systems occur throughout the year**, they travel to India mostly between December and April because the trajectory of the subtropical westerly jet stream, which transports them, shifts during the winter months to the rim of the Himalayas.
 - ◆ For the rest of the year, **the jet stream travels from above the Himalayas to the Tibetan Plateau and China.** Its trajectory changes as per the position of the Sun.
- **Western Disturbances are the primary source of snowfall** that replenishes the Himalayan glaciers during winter. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ These glaciers feed major Himalayan rivers like the Ganga, Indus and Yamuna as well as myriad mountain springs and rivulets.

186.

Ans: C

Exp:

Bioplastics:

- Bioplastics are **derived from renewable organic sources like sugarcane, corn**, unlike traditional plastics made from petroleum.

- ◆ Bioplastics are produced by extracting sugar from plants like corn and sugarcane and converting it into **polylactic acids (PLAs)**. Alternatively, they can be made from polyhydroxyalkanoates (PHAs) from microorganisms which are then polymerized into bioplastic. **Hence, Statement-I is correct.**

- ◆ Bioplastics are **not always biodegradable** or compostable. **Hence, Statement-II is not correct.**

➤ **Advantages of Bioplastics:**

- ◆ The production of Bioplastics **absorbs carbon dioxide (CO₂)** and contributes to a neutral or potentially negative carbon balance, **helping reduce the carbon footprint** compared to fossil-based plastics.
- ◆ Bioplastics are as strong and durable as traditional plastics, making them ideal for **use in a variety of applications such as food packaging**, agricultural films, and medical supplies.

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

187.

Ans: D

Exp:

National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP)

- NTEP: In 2020, the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Program (RNTCP) was renamed the NTEP with the **goal to eliminate TB in India by 2025**, five years ahead of the global target of 2030.
 - ◆ The **Sustainable Development Goal targets for TB include 80% reduction** in incidence, 90% reduction in mortality, and zero TB patients facing catastrophic costs.
 - ◆ The program is guided by the **National Strategic Plan (2017-2025)** under the strategic pillars: Detect – Treat – Prevent – Build (DTPB). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ Under NTEP, India introduced improved drug-resistant TB treatments, including a safer, shorter **all-oral Bedaquiline regimen**, increasing success rates from 68% in 2020 to 75% in 2022. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - The mBPAL regimen (Bedaquiline, Pretomanid, Linezolid) offers 80% success for MDR-TB, reducing treatment duration to six months.

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188.

Ans: D

Exp:

Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

- OECD is an **intergovernmental body established in 1961** to promote economic growth and global trade.
 - ◆ Headquartered in Paris, France it has 38 member countries, **mostly high-income nations** with high Human Development Index (HDI). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ While **India is not a member**, it is a key economic partner. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- OECD and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) **Agricultural Outlook 2025-2034 report offers a 10-year outlook** on global agricultural and fish markets to guide evidence-based policymaking. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

189.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **Pay Commission (PC):**
 - ◆ It assesses the **pay scales, allowances, and benefits for central government** employees, taking into account inflation and its impact on remuneration and the cost of living. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- Its recommendations are often adopted by state-owned organizations as well.

- ◆ A new PC is **established every 10 years** under the Department of Expenditure (Ministry of Finance) to revise salaries and pensions, ensuring fair compensation for government employees. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- ◆ Usually, a **retired Supreme Court judge** heads the PC. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

190.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **FDI Regulation:** Currently, FDI in India is regulated by the **FDI Policy 2020 and the FEMA (Non-debt Instrument) Rules, 2019** under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999.
 - ◆ The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, is the main regulator of FDI in India.
 - ◆ RBI also plays a key role by enforcing the FDI Rules.
- **FDI Prohibition in India:** FDI is strictly prohibited in sectors like **atomic energy generation**, gambling and betting, lotteries, **chit funds**, real estate, and the **tobacco industry**.
 - ◆ **100% FDI** (through automatic route) is permitted for **Single Brand Retail Trading**.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

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