



# Monthly Editorial Quiz

## CONSOLIDATION

### June 2025



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## Practice Question

1. Consider the following statements:

**Statement-I:**

The government's strong focus on national security and increased private-sector involvement have significantly boosted local defence manufacturing and optimized the Centre's defence budget.

**Statement-II:**

The foreign direct investment (FDI) limit in the defence business is 74%, with approvals granted under the automatic route.

**Statement-III:**

100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is allowed in India through the government route if it results in access to modern technology.

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

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

2. Regarding the Monetary Policy Committee, consider the following statements:

- It sets the benchmark policy rate (repo rate) to keep inflation within a targeted range.
- It is required to meet at least four times in a year.
- Each MPC member has one vote, with the Governor casting a deciding vote in case of a tie.

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

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

3. The term Internet of Things (IoT) is best described as:

- A network of satellites providing global internet coverage
- A computing concept where everyday physical objects are connected to the internet and can identify themselves to other devices
- A programming language used for web development
- A cloud storage service for large-scale data backup

4. Regarding the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan Scheme, consider the following statements:

- It is a flagship program of the Ministry of Education that was launched in 2014 and aims to integrate human and economic development for holistic village growth.

2. Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) 1.0 invited institutions to participate, while UBA 2.0 requires all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to adopt at least five villages voluntarily.

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

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

5. Consider the following statements:

- It says the universe goes through repeated cycles of expanding and contracting over long periods while remaining largely unchanged overall.
- It suggests that the universe has existed eternally and undergoes periodic episodes of matter creation and expansion.
- Matter is continuously created in localized, non-singular events called 'mini-bangs' or creation events, which occur intermittently in the universe, avoiding a single origin point.

Which of the following theories best matches the above description?

- Quasi-steady State Cosmology Theory
- Big Bang Theory
- Cyclic or Oscillatory Universe Theory
- None of the Above

6. Consider the following statements:

- She was married in 1733 to the son of Malhar Rao Holkar, the ruler of Malwa and the founder of the Holkar dynasty.
- She made Maheshwar in Madhya Pradesh the Holkar dynasty's capital.
- She patronised scholars like Khushali Ram, Marathi poet Moropant, and Shahir Anantaphandi.
- She promoted women's education, widow remarriage, and opposed practices like sati, while uplifting Bhil, Gond tribes, and lower castes.

Which of the following personalities best matches the above description?

- Ahilyabai Holkar
- Maharani Tukoji Rao Holkar
- Maharani Gautama Bai Holkar
- Rani Durgavati

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7. Which of the following initiatives was announced for the Maritime Sector in the Union Budget 2025-26?
1. Maritime Development Fund (MDF)
  2. Ship Breaking Credit Note Scheme
  3. Infrastructure Harmonised Master List (HML)
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- A. 1 and 2 only
  - B. 2 and 3 only
  - C. 1 only
  - D. 1, 2 and 3
8. Regarding the President's Rule, consider the following statements:
1. It is imposed under Article 356 of the Indian Constitution.
  2. It can be imposed at the President's discretion without requiring a Governor's report.
  3. A proclamation of President's Rule must be approved by both Houses of Parliament within two months.
- How many of the statements given above is/are correct?
- A. Only One
  - B. Only Two
  - C. All Three
  - D. None
9. The terms First-Person-View (FPV), Fibre-optic FPV, Magura, TheMIS were recently in the news in the context of:
- A. Development of advanced drones and unmanned systems for defense applications.
  - B. Innovations in space exploration and satellite technology.
  - C. Modernization of agricultural machinery and precision farming.
  - D. Breakthroughs in telecommunications and high-speed internet infrastructure.
10. Consider the following statements:
1. A vaccine stimulates the immune system to recognize and fight specific pathogens like viruses or bacteria, without causing the disease.
  2. Viruses like SARS-CoV-2 and influenza cause frequent mucosal reinfections because they transmit rapidly before the immune system responds.
  3. A viral vector Covid-19 vaccine uses a harmless virus to deliver genetic material from the coronavirus into human cells.
- How many of the statements given above is/are correct?
- A. Only One
  - B. Only Two
  - C. All Three
  - D. None
11. Consider the following statements:
1. It is crucial to global energy supplies, with about a fifth of all oil traded at sea passing through it.
  2. It separates Iran and Oman.
  3. It is the route used for nearly all the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) produced by Qatar.
- Which of the following locations best matches the above description?
- A. Strait of Malacca
  - B. Strait of Hormuz
  - C. Bab el-Mandeb Strait
  - D. Bosphorus Strait
12. Which of the following are the likely factors of landslides in the Himalayan Region?
1. Steep, rugged terrain with high-altitude, unstable slopes.
  2. Heavy monsoon rainfall combined with rapid snowmelt from glaciers, increasing soil saturation and instability.
  3. Unconsolidated debris (scree, moraine) and fragile rock formations prone to displacement.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- A. 1 and 2 only
  - B. 2 and 3 only
  - C. 1 only
  - D. 1, 2 and 3
13. Which of the following are part of the Sangam Literature?
1. Tolkappiyam
  2. Ettutogai
  3. Pathinenkilkanakku
  4. Keeladi
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- A. 1, 2, and 3 only
  - B. 2 and 3 only
  - C. 4 only
  - D. 1, 2, 3 and 4
14. The term hot money recently seen in the news is best described as:
- A. Long-term foreign direct investment in infrastructure projects
  - B. Short-term capital flows that move quickly between countries seeking high returns
  - C. Money used exclusively for heating and energy purposes in industries
  - D. Funds allocated for humanitarian aid and disaster relief

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15. Regarding Sikkim, consider the following statements:

1. Under the Treaty of Tumlong (1861), Sikkim became a protectorate state of British India.
2. The 35th Amendment Act of 1974 ended Sikkim's protectorate status and designated it as an 'Associate State' of India.
3. Recently, it became the first State to Attain Full Functional Literacy.

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

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

16. Regarding the Project Tiger, consider the following statements:

1. It is a centrally sponsored Scheme of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), launched in 1973.
2. It provides central assistance to tiger range States for ex-situ conservation of tigers.
3. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), established in 2005 based on the Tiger Task Force's recommendations, is its implementation agency.

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

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

17. Regarding the Skill India Programme (SIP), consider the following statements:

1. It is a skill development initiative launched in 2015 under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
2. All the courses and certifications under the SIP are aligned with the National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF).
3. All the courses and certifications under this program are integrated with DigiLocker, ensuring formal recognition.

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

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

18. Consider the following:

Initiative	Objective
ADITI Scheme	Encourage innovations in critical and strategic defence technologies.

Technology Development Fund (TDF)	Run by DRDO to support MSMEs and startups for developing defence technologies.
SRIJAN Portal	Online platform listing imported items for indigenisation by Indian industry.

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

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

20. Regarding the Open Market Operations (OMOs), consider the following statements:

1. It is the simultaneous sale and purchase of government securities and treasury bills by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
2. It is conducted by the RBI through commercial banks and does not involve direct dealings with the public.
3. It is one of the qualitative instruments employed by the RBI to stabilize liquidity conditions.

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

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

21. Regarding the Flag of Convenience (FoC), consider the following statements:

1. It is a system where ships are registered in a country other than that of the ship's owners to benefit from more lenient regulatory regimes.
2. It is considered illegal under the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

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

22. Regarding Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), consider the following statements:

1. India was the first country to mandate CSR through its Companies Act, 2013.
2. Companies with a net profit of Rs 5 crore or more need to donate 2% of their profits to social causes.
3. CSR spending is generally prohibited from contributing to government funds, except for specific funds like the PM CARES Fund, which are explicitly permitted.

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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23. Which of the following states shares a border with Myanmar?
1. Arunachal Pradesh
  2. Nagaland
  3. Manipur
  4. Sikkim

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

24. Regarding the Bharat Forecast System, consider the following statements:

1. It has been developed by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, and will be operationalised by the India Meteorological Department (IMD).
2. It has been tested in experimental mode since 2022 and is now being scaled for nationwide operational use with high-performance computing support.
3. It allows for more accurate detection of localised extreme weather events, such as cloudbursts and flash floods.

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

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

25. Regarding GM Mustard, consider the following statements:

1. Dhara Mustard Hybrid-11 (DMH-11) is an indigenously developed transgenic mustard.
2. It is a result of a cross between Indian mustard variety 'Varuna' and East European 'Early Heera-2' mustard.
3. It contains two alien genes isolated from a soil bacterium called *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens*, one of the most promising bacteria for plant growth promotion (PGP).

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

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

26. With reference to Erucic acid, consider the following statements:

1. It is a type of fatty acid predominantly found in mustard oil extracted from Indian mustard.
2. Mustard oil with high erucic acid is considered unsuitable for human consumption as it can cause heart disease, harm the liver, etc.

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

27. Regarding the "Operation Spider's Web," consider the following statements:

1. It was launched by Ukraine, targeting military installations deep within Russian territory using drones.
2. The drones used in the operation were first-person view (FPV) drones.

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

28. Consider the following pairs:

Type of Hydrogen	Production Method
Grey Hydrogen	Natural gas or coal gasification combined with carbon capture storage (CCS) to reduce carbon emissions.
Blue Hydrogen	Coal or lignite gasification or steam methane reforming (SMR) of natural gas.
Green Hydrogen	Electrolysis of water using electricity from renewable sources.

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

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

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

1. The MPC consists of six members, all of whom are appointed by the Central Government.
2. The quorum for the MPC meeting is four members.
3. The Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has the casting vote in case of a tie in the voting process.

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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30. Consider the following statements:

1. India surpassed Germany to become the third-largest producer of wind and solar power in 2024, generating 10% of global electricity.
2. The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) of India determines the solar power tariffs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

31. Regarding the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM), consider the following statements:

1. It was launched in 2021 under the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY).
2. It operates as an Independent Business Division within the Digital India Corporation and has full administrative and financial powers.
3. It has been working as a nodal agency for the schemes approved under the Semicon India Programme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

32. With reference to the NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India), consider the following statements:

1. The transformation of the Planning Commission into NITI Aayog in 2015 replaced the Centre-to-state one-way flow of policy with a collaborative partnership.
2. The Aspirational Districts and Blocks Programme is an initiative of NITI Aayog for improving the quality of life in underdeveloped regions.
3. The annual Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog serves as the primary platform for the political leadership of the Centre and states to discuss national issues.

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

33. Regarding the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India, consider the following statements:

1. It applies only to the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram.
2. It provides for the creation of Autonomous Districts and Autonomous Regions within tribal areas.
3. The laws made by District or Regional Councils under the Sixth Schedule require the assent of the President to come into effect.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

34. Regarding the Circular Economy (CE), consider the following statements:

1. It focuses on designing products for durability, reuse, and recyclability, ensuring that most items are remanufactured, recycled, or repurposed for energy recovery.
2. India has not yet joined the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (GACERE), as it seeks to protect the interests of its domestic manufacturers.
3. The Hanoi 3R Declaration (2013-2023) set 33 voluntary goals for a resource-efficient and circular economy.

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

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

35. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 30 of the Constitution gives all citizens the right to conserve their language and prohibits discrimination based on language.
2. Article 120 provides for the use of Hindi or English for transactions of Parliament, but gives the right to members of Parliament to express themselves in their mother tongue.
3. Article 350A requires States and local authorities to provide primary education in the mother tongue for linguistic minority children.

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

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

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36. Regarding the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS), consider the following statements:

1. It was introduced under the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Act, 2022, replacing the Perform, Achieve, and Trade (PAT) scheme.
2. It is a market-based mechanism and aims to decarbonize the Indian economy by pricing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and facilitating carbon trading.
3. It includes energy-intensive industries such as the power sector, iron & steel, and cement.

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

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

37. Regarding the Breeder Reactor, consider the following statements:

1. It is a nuclear reactor that generates more fissile material than it consumes by irradiation of fertile material.
2. These are designed to extend the nuclear fuel supply for electric power generation.

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. Regarding the PM-PRANAM scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It was announced in the 2023-24 Budget to complement state/UT efforts in promoting the sustainable and balanced use of fertilizers.
2. States and UTs that lower their chemical fertilizer consumption below the past three years' average will receive 50% of the savings from the fertilizer subsidy.

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

39. Regarding the Chenab River, consider the following statements:

1. It rises in the upper Himalayas in the Lahaul and Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh state.
2. It is formed by the confluence of the rivers Chandra and Bhaga.

3. The Chenab Bridge, constructed over the river, is the world's highest railway arch bridge.

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

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

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

1. It is the average number of children a woman would have between the ages of 15- 49 if current fertility rates remained constant and no deaths occurred.
2. A TFR of 2.1 is considered the replacement level, where each generation replaces itself without significant population growth or decline.

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

41. Adi, Nyishi, and Apatani tribal groups, often seen in the news, are found in which of the following states?

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

42. What are the powers of the Indian parliament under Article 3 of the Constitution?

1. It can create a new state by separating territory from an existing state.
2. It can alter the boundaries of any state.
3. It can change the name of any state.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

43. Regarding Ethanol, consider the following statements:

1. Molasses, a byproduct of sugar manufacture, is generally the main source of production of ethanol.
2. The production process involves the fermentation of sugars by yeasts or via petrochemical processes such as ethylene hydration.
3. It is a combustible material and has a lower combustion temperature than gasoline, making it a cleaner-burning alternative.

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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44. Regarding Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), consider the following statements:

1. It has been launched by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and partner banks.
2. Like cryptocurrencies, they function as digital forms of paper currency and operate in a regulatory vacuum.
3. They can be transacted using wallets backed by blockchain.

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

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

45. Regarding the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009, consider the following statements:

1. Elementary education shall be free until completion, even if the child is older than 14 years.
2. Aided schools shall provide free and compulsory education proportionate to the funding received, subject to a minimum of 25%.
3. No child can be detained in any class under the provisions of the act.

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

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

46. Which of the following best describes the term Greenwashing?

- A. A process where companies reduce their carbon footprint by investing in renewable energy sources.
- B. A marketing tactic where a company promotes itself as environmentally friendly while engaging in environmentally harmful practices.
- C. A strategy used by companies to recycle waste materials in an effort to lower production costs.
- D. A process of auditing and improving the environmental impact of a company's supply chain.

47. The term quantum entanglement, often seen in the news, is best described as:

- A. Quantum entanglement occurs when two or more particles' states are interconnected, so the state of one affects the other, regardless of the distance.
- B. Quantum entanglement is the process by which two particles share the same physical location.

C. Quantum entanglement occurs when two particles exchange energy through a classical connection.

D. Quantum entanglement is when particles lose their individual characteristics and merge into a single entity.

48. Regarding the PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to provide free electricity to one crore households through rooftop solar panels, offering up to 300 units per month and a 40% subsidy on installation costs.
2. It mandates using only Made in India solar cells and modules.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

49. Consider the following statements:

1. Fission is a process in which the nucleus of an atom splits into two or more smaller nuclei and some byproducts.
2. Fusion is defined as the combining of several small nuclei into one large nucleus with the subsequent release of huge amounts of energy.
3. The process of Fission fuels the Sun and could potentially provide an endless, clean source of energy.

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

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

50. Regarding the Aravalli Range, consider the following statements:

1. It extends from Gujarat to Delhi through Rajasthan.
2. The Aravali Mountains in Rajasthan are split into two main ranges, the Sambhar Sirohi Range and the Sambhar Khetri Range.
3. Mount Abu is the highest peak in the range.

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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51. Regarding DIGIPIN, consider the following statements:
1. It divides India into 4m x 4m grids, each with a 10-character alphanumeric code.
  2. It uses latitude and longitude coordinates for geospatial referencing.
  3. It is designed to function offline, and its programming code has been made available in the public domain for decoding and fetching the code.

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

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

52. Regarding the Special Economic Zone (SEZ), consider the following statements:

1. The Baba Kalyani-led committee was constituted by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to study the SEZ policy of India.
2. Asia's first Export Processing Zone (EPZ) was set up in Kandla, Gujarat, in 1965.
3. SEZs in India have their own rules, and Indian laws do not apply to them.

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

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

53. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 85 of the Indian Constitution authorizes the President to summon each House of Parliament, ensuring no more than six months elapse between sessions.
2. The Constitution of India does not mandate a specific location for holding Parliamentary sessions.

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

54. India Stack, often seen in the news, is best described as:

- A. A cloud-based computing system for data storage.
- B. A set of APIs for enabling paperless, presence-less, and cashless service delivery in India.
- C. A mobile app for online shopping in India.
- D. A social media platform for government services.

55. Regarding Measles, consider the following statements:

1. It is caused by the RNA virus.
2. The National Zero Measles-Rubella Elimination Campaign aims to eliminate Measles in India by 2026 through 100% immunization coverage.

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

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

1. It was enacted in 2005 with the Ministry of Labour and Employment as the nodal ministry.
2. Workers are entitled to an unemployment allowance if employment is not provided within 15 days upon request.
3. A minimum of one-third of the beneficiaries must be women.

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

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

57. Regarding the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, consider the following statements:

1. It is an autonomous statutory body established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.
2. It functions under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
3. FSSAI's "Diet4Life" initiative aims to raise awareness about metabolic disorders.

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

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

58. With reference to Aravalli Green Wall Project, consider the following statements:

1. The project aims to reforest 700 km of the Aravalli mountain range across Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Gujarat.
2. It is modeled after Africa's Great Green Wall project, which is focused on regenerating the Sahel region.
3. One of the objectives is to prevent the eastward expansion of the Thar Desert.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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59. Regarding the Population Census, consider the following statements:

1. The 2027 census will be the first census to include caste data for the first time since Independence.
2. The first synchronous census in India was conducted in 1881.
3. The Census is conducted under the Office of the Registrar General, which operates under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

60. With reference to Cyber Security, consider the following statements:

1. The National Cyber Security Coordinator (NCSC) is responsible for coordinating cyber security efforts among different agencies in India.
2. The “Cyber Swachhta Kendra” is a service provided by CERT-In that helps citizens remove malware and detect malicious programs.

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

61. Consider the following statements:

1. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) was initially established as a non-statutory body in 1988 and became a statutory body under the SEBI Act, 1992.
2. “Niveshak Shivir” is a SEBI initiative aimed at simplifying the process of reclaiming unclaimed dividends and shares.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

62. Which of the following is **not** a valid ground for restricting the right to freedom of speech and expression under Article 19(2) of the Indian Constitution?

1. Defamation.
2. Protection of Scheduled Tribes.
3. Maintaining friendly relations with foreign states.
4. Contempt of Court.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

63. Regarding the SAMARTH, consider the following statements:

1. It is a flagship skill development scheme of the Ministry of Textiles.
2. The scheme provides support only for the spinning and weaving sectors.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

1. It aims to provide free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of society, ensuring equal opportunities.
2. It issues guidelines to District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) for implementing legal programs and schemes across the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

65. Which of the following indicators are included in the key employment-unemployment indicators of the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)?

1. Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)
2. Worker Population Ratio (WPR)
3. Unemployment Rate (UR)
4. Gender Wage Gap

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1, 2, and 3 only      B. 1, 3, and 4 only  
C. 1 and 2 only      D. All of the above

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

1. The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, is the lead agency for India's Arctic studies.
2. India has established the Himadri Research Station at the Svalbard Arctic research base.
3. India is an Observer nation of the Arctic Council and has actively contributed to its six Working Groups.
4. India has set up its northernmost atmospheric laboratory at Gruebadet, equipped to study clouds, precipitation, pollutants, and atmospheric parameters.

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

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

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67. Regarding the removal of Judges, consider the following statements:

1. The Supreme Court judge is removed under Article 124, while the same process applies to High Court judges under Article 218.
2. The Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968, outlines the removal process for removing Supreme Court and High Court judges.
3. The reasons for removal include proven misconduct, incapacity, or other factors such as failure to meet performance standards or breach of trust.

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

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

68. Consider the following statements:

1. Most-Favoured-Nation (MFN) under WTO agreements mandates equal treatment of all trading partners, requiring any special favor to be extended to all members.
2. National treatment mandates equal treatment for foreign and local goods, services, trademarks, copyrights, and patents once they enter the market.

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

69. Consider the following pairs:

Terms	Meanings
APIs	Active components in a drug that produce the therapeutic effect.
Biosimilars	Medicines derived from living organisms (e.g., vaccines, antibodies).
Biologics	Cost-effective versions of biologics developed after patent expiry.

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

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

70. Regarding the Quality Council of India (QCI), consider the following statements:

1. It is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
2. Its Chairperson is appointed by the Prime Minister based on industry recommendations.
3. Gunvatta Samarpan Initiative is an initiative of QCI to enhance digital accreditation access for MSMEs and promote public commitment to quality standards.

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

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

71. Regarding Nickel, consider the following statements:

1. Nickel extraction is an energy-heavy process where carbon removes oxygen from nickel oxide, producing pure nickel and carbon dioxide emissions.
2. As a crucial element in lithium-ion batteries for Electric Vehicles (EVs), nickel supports clean energy, but its carbon-intensive extraction comes with hidden environmental costs.
3. Since India has no nickel reserves, it is completely dependent on imports.

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

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

72. Regarding the Delimitation Commission, consider the following statements:

1. It is a high-powered 3-member body whose orders have the force of law and cannot be called in question before any court.
2. It includes two Supreme Court or High Court judges, one appointed as chairman by the central government, and the Chief Election Commissioner as an ex-officio member.
3. Its orders are presented to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies but cannot be modified.

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

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

73. Regarding the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), consider the following statements:

1. The UN General Assembly elects 10 non-permanent members to the Security Council for two-year terms, with seats distributed regionally.
2. The UNSC remains the only UN body whose decisions member states are obligated to implement under the UN Charter.
3. India will serve as vice-chair of the UNSC Counter-Terrorism Committee during its 2025–26 tenure as a non-permanent member of the Council.

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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74. Consider the following pairs:

Act/Rules		Specifications	
A)	Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016	1)	Phased out non-recyclable multi-layered plastics and introduced producer registration under CPCB.
B)	Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2018	2)	Banned single-use plastics by 2022 and increased plastic bag thickness to 120 microns.
C)	Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021	3)	Introduced Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and raised plastic bag thickness to 50 microns.
D)	Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2022	4)	Set mandatory recycling targets and promote a circular economy approach.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

75. Regarding the Bar Council of India (BCI), consider the following statements:

- It is a statutory and autonomous body, established under the Advocates Act, 1961.
- It regulates the legal education and legal practice in India and exercises disciplinary authority over advocates.
- The Attorney General of India and the Solicitor General of India are ex-officio members of the BCI.

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

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

76. Regarding the Monetary Policy Committee, consider the following statements:

- It is a statutory and institutional framework established under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, as recommended by the Urjit Patel Committee in 2014.
- The Finance Minister is the ex-officio Chairman of the committee.
- The MPC sets the repo rate to meet the inflation target of  $4\% \pm 2\%$ .

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

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

77. Regarding the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), consider the following statements:

- It is a legal tender issued by a central bank in digital form.
- It can be transacted using wallets backed by blockchain.

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

78. Which of the following are enshrined in the Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDP Act), 2023?

- Empowers individuals with rights to access, correction, and erasure of their personal data.
- Requires explicit consent for data processing, with clear consent forms.
- Requires sensitive data to be stored and processed within India for security and enforcement.
- Establishes the Data Protection Board of India (DPBI) for compliance and grievance handling.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

79. Which of the following are the criteria for granting classical language status?

- High antiquity of its early texts/recorded history over a period of 1500- 2000 years.
- A body of ancient literature/texts, which is considered a heritage by generations of speakers.
- Knowledge texts, especially prose texts, in addition to poetry, epigraphical, and inscriptional evidence.
- Language being used as an official language in multiple countries.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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80. The Simla agreement is often seen in the news, in the context of:
- Trade relations between India and the United Kingdom
  - Bilateral relations and peace between India and Pakistan
  - Environmental cooperation in the Himalayan region
  - Disarmament talks between India and China

81. Which of the following are the likely consequences of the reduction in the Repo rate?

- Lower borrowing costs for banks, leading to cheaper loans for consumers and businesses.
- Increased liquidity in the market, encouraging investment and spending.
- Higher interest rates on savings accounts to attract more deposits.
- Depreciation of the domestic currency due to increased money supply and lower interest rates.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

82. With reference to the initiatives taken by the Government of India to curb child labour, consider the following statements:

- The Right to Education Act, 2009, guarantees free and compulsory education to all children aged 5 to 14 years.
- The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act bans all forms of child labour below 14 years of age.
- The Factories Act, 1948, prohibits the employment of adolescents in all sectors irrespective of the nature of work.

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

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

83. Consider the following:

- Ranthambore National Park
- Kuno National Park
- Kailadevi Wildlife Sanctuary
- Sawai Madhopur Sanctuary
- National Gharial Sanctuary

How many of the above are officially part of the Ranthambore Tiger Reserve?

- Only two
- Only three
- Only four
- All five

84. With reference to the Chenab Rail Bridge, consider the following statements:

- It is a part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link (USBRL), aimed at connecting the Kashmir Valley to the rest of India.
- It is the world's highest railway arch bridge, standing taller than the Eiffel Tower.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

85. Regarding the International Monetary Fund (IMF), consider the following statements:

- It was established following the Great Depression during the Bretton Woods Conference of the United Nations.
- The governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) serves as an ex-officio member of the IMF's Executive Board.
- The IMF offers financial assistance to member countries to address balance of payments (BoP) imbalances.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

86. Regarding the World Trade Organization (WTO), consider the following statements:

- The WTO was established in 1995 under the Marrakesh Agreement (1994), following the Uruguay Round of negotiations.

- WTO is a UN specialized agency.

- The General Council is the WTO's highest-level decision-making body located in Geneva, meeting regularly to carry out the functions of the WTO.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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87. With reference to the State of World Population Report (2025), consider the following statements:

1. It was released by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).
2. India has made progress in lowering fertility rates—from nearly five children per woman in 1970 to about two in 2024.
3. It highlights that India has achieved below-replacement fertility in all its states and union territories.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

88. Regarding the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is a market-based mechanism introduced to regulate and trade carbon credits under the Indian Carbon Market (ICM).
2. It replaced the PAT scheme, shifting the focus from energy intensity to reducing GHG emission intensity, monitoring emissions per tonne of GHG equivalent.
3. It is exclusively regulated by the National Steering Committee for Indian Carbon Market (NSCICM).

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

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

89. Regarding the Critical Minerals, consider the following statements:

1. China's increasing control over critical minerals vital for high-tech industries is heightening global economic and geopolitical tensions.
2. Their limited availability and concentration in a few regions can lead to supply chain vulnerabilities and disrupt key industries.
3. India has identified 30 critical minerals based on availability, import reliance, and their importance for future technologies, clean energy, and agriculture.

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

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

90. The term "Dark Patterns" often seen in the news is best described as:

- A. A strategy to enhance user experience and simplify navigation on websites.

- B. A design technique to encourage users to make decisions that benefit the website or app provider, sometimes without the user's full knowledge.
- C. A user interface element designed to increase user engagement through rewards and achievements.
- D. A way to manipulate the visual design of a website to make it look more appealing and professional.

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

1. It is a quasi-judicial body and is responsible for enforcing the Competition Act, 2002.
2. It can review mergers, acquisitions, and combinations to prevent anti-competitive outcomes.
3. The "Green Channel" allows automatic approval of low-risk deals, but most still face lengthy reviews, especially with market dominance concerns.

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

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

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

1. It represents the average number of children a woman would have between the ages of 15-49, assuming current fertility rates and no mortality.
2. A TFR of 2.1 is considered the replacement level, where each generation replaces itself without significant population growth or decline.
3. As per the National Family Health Survey-5, the TFR for India has declined to less than 2.0 children per woman.

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

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

93. Regarding the Invasive Alien Species, consider the following statements:

1. They are organisms introduced to new regions outside their native range, where they establish self-sustaining populations.
2. These species often coexist with native species and help maintain the balance of ecosystems, leading to a range of positive impacts.

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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94. Consider the following statements:

- Article 6 of the Paris Agreement provides for the use of international carbon markets by countries to fulfill their NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions).
- Compliance markets, regulated by national, regional, or international policies, primarily operate under the 'cap-and-trade' principle, most notably in the European Union (EU).
- A carbon credit is a tradable permit representing the removal or reduction of one tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere, as per UN standards.

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

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

95. Which of the following is a part of the critical minerals?

- Beryllium
- Indium
- Sodium
- Tin

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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

- It is compiled by the National Statistical Office (NSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) with 2012 as its base year.
- The CPI basket is frequently updated within the same base year to capture real-time consumption pattern shifts.
- It was originally designed to track cost-of-living changes for workers to adjust their wages with price movements.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

97. Regarding the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), consider the following statements:

- It was established in 1957 to promote peaceful use of nuclear energy and prevent its military use under the UN's 'Atoms for Peace' initiative.
- It can report matters to both the UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly in case of non-compliance with safeguards.
- It expands the IAEA's access to India's civilian nuclear programme for more rigorous verification.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

98. Consider the following pairs:

Passage	Connected Regions
A. Red Sea	Connects the Mediterranean Sea with the Indian Ocean
B. Panama Canal	Connects the Atlantic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean
C. Strait of Hormuz	Connects the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

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

- It was launched by the Government of India in 2025 with the aim to build a robust framework for self-reliance in the critical mineral sector.
- Critical minerals such as silicon, tellurium, indium, and gallium are used in producing photovoltaic (PV) cells for solar panels.
- The MMDR Act, 1957, was amended to include 24 critical minerals in Part D of its First Schedule.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

100. Regarding the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) in India, consider the following statements:

- They are jointly owned by the Central Government, State Governments, and Sponsor Banks.
- These banks operate in every state except Goa and Sikkim only.
- With the 'One State, One RRB' policy taking effect from 1st May 2025, the total number of RRBs will reduce to 28.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

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101. With reference to the Airports Authority of India (AAI), consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Civil Aviation and was created by merging the National Airports Authority and the International Airports Authority of India.
2. It controls and manages Indian airspace in accordance with standards approved by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).
3. It has set up the Civil Aviation Research Organization (CARO) at Begumpet Airport in Hyderabad to boost research and development in the civil aviation sector.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

102. The “Rising Lion” operation, recently in the news, was launched by which of the following countries?

- A. Israel      B. Iran  
C. Saudi Arabia      D. United States

103. With reference to India’s Aditya-L1 mission, consider the following statements:

1. It is India’s first solar mission designed to continuously observe the Sun’s chromosphere and corona.
2. All payloads on Aditya-L1 are developed exclusively by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

1. The Western Ghats receive the first rainfall of the summer monsoon season.
2. The Southwest Monsoon generally sets in over Kerala around the first week of June.
3. The North-East Monsoon brings rainfall to the coastal regions of Tamil Nadu at the onset of winter.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

105. Regarding the Indus Water Treaty (IWT), consider the following statements:

1. It was signed in 1960 in Karachi and was mediated by the World Bank.
2. India has full control over the Western Rivers (Indus, Chenab, Jhelum) while Pakistan controls the Eastern Rivers (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej).

3. The treaty established a Permanent Indus Commission and a three-tiered dispute resolution mechanism.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

106. With reference to the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), consider the following statements:

1. It was announced in 2023 at the G20 Summit in New Delhi through an MoU signed by the European Union and seven countries, including India, the US, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE.
2. The corridor aims to provide an alternative to China’s Belt and Road Initiative by promoting transparent, sustainable, and debt-free infrastructure.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

107. Regarding the Strait of Malacca, consider the following statements:

1. It connects the Andaman Sea in the Indian Ocean with the South China Sea in the Pacific Ocean.
2. It lies between the Indonesian island of Sumatra to the east and Peninsular Malaysia and southern Thailand to the west.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

108. With reference to Global Gender Gap Index report 2025, consider the following statements:

1. India’s overall rank has declined by two positions from the previous year, standing at 131 out of 148 countries.
2. The Index assesses gender parity in a country based on four dimensions — economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, health and survival, and political empowerment.
3. The political empowerment category shows improved female representation in Parliament and ministerial roles since the last evaluation.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

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109. Consider the following pairs:

Writ	Primary Purpose
A. Habeas Corpus	To ensure release from unlawful detention
B. Mandamus	To quash an order of a lower court passed without jurisdiction
C. Prohibition	To prevent a lower court or tribunal from exceeding its jurisdiction
D. Quo Warranto	To challenge a private individual's contractual obligations

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

110. With reference to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in India, consider the following statements:

1. The EIA process in India was first formalized under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, through a notification issued in 1994.
2. The Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) primarily grants final environmental clearances for projects based on its recommendations.
3. Category A projects require prior environmental clearance without undergoing a screening process, whereas Category B projects are subject to a screening procedure to determine if a full EIA is needed.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

111. Consider the following pairs:

Type	Descriptions
A. Nominal GDP	Usually higher than Real GDP due to inflation
B. Real GDP	Adjusted for inflation, uses GDP deflator
C. GDP at PPP	Useful for comparing living standards across countries

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

112. Consider the following pairs:

Port	Location
A. Deendayal Port	Andhra Pradesh
B. Paradip	Odisha
C. Haldia	West Bengal

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

114. Consider the following statements:

1. The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is permanently based at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City.
2. India has served on the Security Council as an elected member on seven occasions so far.
3. India is a founding member of the United Nations and signed the UN Charter in San Francisco.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

115. Regarding the procedure for the removal of a judge, consider the following statements:

1. The procedure for removal of a judge is outlined in the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968.
2. A judge of the Supreme Court or High Court can be removed by the President under Articles 124 and 218 on grounds of 'proved misbehaviour' or 'incapacity'.
3. The motion for removal must be passed by a majority of the total membership of both Houses of Parliament.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

116. Regarding the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR), consider the following statements:

1. It is the share of a bank's total deposit that must be maintained with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as liquid cash reserves.
2. Banks earn interest on the amount kept as CRR with the RBI.

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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117. With reference to the Jordan Valley, consider the following statements:

1. It is a rift valley located in southwestern Asia.
2. It is located along the Jordan River and forms the western border of Jordan with Israel and the West Bank.
3. The Dead Sea, located in the Jordan Valley, is the lowest natural point on Earth's surface.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

118. As per the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, which of the following is responsible for ensuring the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) compliance?

- A. Producers, Importers, and Brand Owners (PIBOs)  
B. Central Government  
C. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)  
D. State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)

119. Consider the following statements:

1. Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016 provides for a time-bound resolution process for insolvency, with a maximum limit of 180 days for corporate companies.
2. The National Companies Law Tribunal (NCLT) adjudicates the insolvency proceedings of companies, while the Debt Recovery Tribunal handles insolvency resolutions for individuals.
3. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) is a statutory body established under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

120. With reference to human trafficking laws in India, consider the following statements:

1. Article 23 of the Indian Constitution prohibits human trafficking and forced labour.
2. The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 is specifically focused on preventing trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation.

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

121. With reference to the G-7 Summit, consider the following statements:

1. The G7 is a formal intergovernmental grouping founded in 1975 in response to the oil crisis.
2. The 2025 Summit is themed around three pillars: protecting global communities, building energy security and accelerating the digital transition, and securing the partnerships of the future.
3. India endorsed the Kananaskis Wildfire Charter, pledging global cooperation on wildfire prevention, response, and recovery.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

122. With reference to the Finance Commission, consider the following statements:

1. Article 280 of the Constitution provides for the establishment of a Finance Commission by the President within two years of the Constitution's commencement and thereafter every five years or earlier.
2. The recommendations of the Finance Commission are not legally binding on the Union government.
3. The 15th Finance Commission has re-introduced tax effort criteria to reward fiscal performance.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

123. With reference to the National Mission for Green India (GIM), consider the following statements:

1. It was launched in 2014 as one of the eight missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change.
2. One of the key objectives of GIM is to create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3.0 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

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124. With reference to India's R&D ecosystem, consider the following statements:

1. According to the World Intellectual Property Indicators (WIPI) 2024, India ranks among the top three countries globally in terms of annual patent filings.
2. India's Gross Expenditure on research and development (R&D) is over 2% of its GDP, similar to countries like China and the US.
3. The Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) subsumes the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) to promote R&D and innovation across India's academic and research institutions.

Which of the above statements is/are **not** 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 use of force in international relations, consider the following statements:

1. The UN Charter allows the use of force only if an armed attack occurs, and must adhere to necessity and proportionality.
2. The UN Charter allows pre-emptive strikes if the aggressor country is developing nuclear weapons.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

126. Which of the following has been excluded from the initial list of obligated entities under the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS)?

- A. Cement      B. Thermal Power  
C. Fertilizer      D. Pulp and Paper

127. With reference to the Election Commissioners, consider the following statements:

1. The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) is removed via impeachment.
2. The selection committee for the CEC and ECs comprises the Prime Minister as Chairperson, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha as a member, and a Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister as another member.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

128. Consider the following statements regarding Global Gender Gap Report 2025:

1. Women's educational attainment in India is close to 97%.
2. Women currently constitute 30% of the total membership in India's Parliament.
3. India ranks 131st out of 148 countries in the Global Gender Gap Index 2025, it remains among the lowest-ranked in South Asia.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

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Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

137. Regarding the Wholesale Price Index (WPI), consider the following statements:

1. It measures the changes in the prices of goods sold and traded in bulk by wholesale businesses to other businesses.
2. It includes both goods and services sold in wholesale markets.
3. It is published on a monthly basis by the Office of Economic Advisor in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

138. Consider the following statements:

1. The Abujhmad region is home to the Abujhmediya tribal people, which is recognised as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTGs) in Chhattisgarh.
2. The Abujhmediyas are sub-tribes of the Muria tribe.

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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139. Regarding the Government e-Marketplace (GEM), consider the following statements:

1. It was launched by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in 2016.
2. Its objective is to achieve mandatory procurement of 25% from MSMEs, with a sub-target of 4% from MSME entrepreneurs within SC/ST communities.
3. It requires all government purchases to be made through the GEM portal, with a mandate to purchase from the vendor offering the lowest price.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

140. With reference to Atal Pension Yojana (APY), consider the following statements:

1. The scheme was launched in 2015 and is available to all Indian citizens between the ages of 18 and 40.
2. It is administered by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) under the National Pension System (NPS) architecture.

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

141. Regarding the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), consider the following statements:

1. It was approved by the UN General Assembly in 1968 and aims for nuclear disarmament by Nuclear-Weapon States (NWS).
2. The Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) is responsible for monitoring compliance with the NPT.

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 International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), consider the following statements:

1. It was established in 1947 by the Convention on International Civil Aviation, also known as the Chicago Convention.
2. It operates as a non-governmental organization and is associated with the United Nations.
3. India is one of the founding members of the ICAO.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

143. Regarding the Freedom of Speech and Expression in India, consider the following statements:

1. Article 19(1)(a) guarantees all citizens the right to freedom of speech and expression, subject to reasonable restrictions under Article 19(2).
2. The Freedom of the Press is included within the scope of freedom of speech and expression.
3. Article 19(1)(b) guarantees the right to peacefully assemble and hold public meetings or processions reasonably restricted in the interests of sovereignty, integrity, and public order.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

1. It has introduced the Holistic Progress Card to exclusively monitor the overall development of students with disabilities.
2. A major focus of NEP 2020 is multilingualism and mother tongue-based education in school education.

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

145. Consider the following provisions related to the protection of tribal identities in India:

1. Fifth Schedule
2. Article 371
3. Article 25
4. Article 26

How many of the above provide constitutional safeguards for the distinct customs and religious practices of Scheduled Tribes?

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

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146. With reference to the Critical and Emerging Technologies Missions, consider the following information:

Mission	Implemented Under
National Quantum Mission	Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
India Semiconductor Mission	Ministry of Science & Technology
National Mission on Bioeconomy	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

147. With reference to Operation Sindoor, consider the following statements:

- Operation Sindoor was solely an Air Force operation.
- The strikes were aimed at Pakistani military facilities to ensure deterrence.
- Advanced precision weapons like SCALP Cruise Missiles and Kamikaze drones were used.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

148. With reference to the India's trade scenario, consider the following statements:

- The US is India's largest export destination for merchandise as of FY25.
- India is among the top 5 largest exporters of refined petroleum products.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

149. Consider the following statements:

- Operation Sindhu was launched by the Government of India to evacuate Indian citizens from conflict-affected regions of Iran and Israel.
- Operation Ajay is an evacuation mission launched by India to facilitate the return of Indian citizens from Iran.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

150. Which of the following have been found at the recent excavation of Keezhadi site?

- Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions
- Terracotta seals with Sanskrit inscriptions
- Carnelian beads indicating trade
- Buddhist stupas

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

151. Consider the following statements:

- Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) are regulated by Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)
- InvITs are recognized as borrowers under the 'Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002'.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

152. Consider the following statements regarding the QS World University Rankings 2026:

- India is the fourth most represented country with 54 universities ranked, after the US, UK, and China.
- The average Citations per Faculty score for India is higher than that of Germany, the UK, and the US.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

153. Regarding the Indian National Congress (INC), consider the following statements:

- It was formed by Allan Octavian Hume in 1885.
- The inaugural session of the Indian National Congress took place in Bombay under the chairmanship of W.C. Bonnerjee.
- In 1924, Mahatma Gandhi was chosen as the President of the Indian National Congress during its Annual Session held in Belgaum.

Which of the statements above are correct?

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

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

1. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, regulating film exhibitions as per the Cinematograph Act, 1952.
2. It consists of non-official members and a Chairman appointed by the state government and Central Government respectively.
3. It uses the E-Cinepramaan for online film certification system, which was launched in March 2017.

Which of the statements above are correct?

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

155. Regarding the National Quantum Mission (NQM), consider the following statements:

1. The mission is planned for 2023 to 2031 with aims to position India at the forefront of quantum technology research and development.
2. It is implemented by the Department of Science & Technology (DST) under the Ministry of Science & Technology.
3. India is now the seventh country to establish a dedicated quantum mission, following the US, Austria, Finland, France, Canada, and China, with the launch of this mission.

Which of the statements above are correct?

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

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

1. It was established in 1966 as a multilateral development bank.
2. India is the largest contributor to the ADB's financial commitments among developing member countries.
3. The World Economic Outlook (WEO) is an extensive report released by the ADB.

Which of the statements above are correct?

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

157. Regarding the Minimum Support Prices (MSP), consider the following statements:

1. The government sets Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for 22 mandated crops based on recommendations from the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP).

2. The estimates for procurement of wheat and paddy are finalized solely by the Food Corporation of India.
3. It is approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister.

Which of the statements above are correct?

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

158. With reference to Patanjali, consider the following statements:

1. He is regarded as the compiler of the Yogasutras, a foundational text of classical Yoga philosophy.
2. The Yogasutra includes eight limbs that guide encompassing ethical, physical, and mental disciplines.
3. His philosophy is classified under the heterodox schools of Indian philosophy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

159. Consider the following statements:

1. National Emergency can be proclaimed under Article 352 when there is war, external aggression, or armed rebellion that threatens the security of India.
2. The President's Rule under Article 356 allows the central government to take control of a state if the state government fails to act in accordance with the Constitution.
3. Financial Emergency under Article 360 is proclaimed if the financial stability or credit of India or any part of its territory is threatened.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

160. Regarding the Bal Gangadhar Tilak, consider the following statements:

1. He was referred as "The Father of Indian Unrest" to by the British.
2. He founded the All India Home Rule League in 1916 along with Annie Besant.
3. He opposed the Age of Consent Bill that sought to raise the minimum marriage age for girls from 10 to 12 years.

Which of the statements above are correct?

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

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161. Which of the following statements regarding the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme is/are correct?

1. The PMFME scheme was launched by the Ministry of Food Processing Industry under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan to enhance the competitiveness of existing individual micro-enterprises in the unorganized food processing sector.
2. The scheme provides a credit-linked capital subsidy of 35% of the eligible project cost, subject to a maximum of Rs. 10 lakh per unit, to food processing entrepreneurs.
3. The scheme is to be implemented over a period of five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25 with a total outlay of Rs. 10,000 crore.
4. Only individual entrepreneurs are eligible for support under the scheme; groups such as FPOs, SHGs, and Producer Cooperatives are not included.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

162. Regarding the Election Commission of India, consider the following statements:

1. The Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners are appointed by the President of India and enjoy security of tenure; however, only the Chief Election Commissioner can be removed in the same manner as a judge of the Supreme Court.
2. The administrative expenses of the Election Commission of India, including the salaries and allowances of its members, are charged upon the Consolidated Fund of India.
3. The Election Commission is responsible for conducting elections to Parliament, State Legislatures, the offices of President and Vice-President, as well as Municipalities and Panchayats.

Which of the statements above are correct?

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

163. Consider the following pairs:

Air Defence System	Country of Origin
THAAD	USA
Iron Dome	Israel
Patriot PAC-3	France

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

164. With reference to Governor, consider the following statements:

1. The Governor can promulgate ordinances under Article 213 only when the State Legislature is not in session.
2. The Governor is the ex-officio Chancellor of all State Universities as per the Constitution of India.
3. Article 153 provides for a Governor in each State and allows one person to serve as Governor for two or more States.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

165. Regarding the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA), consider the following statements:

1. It is the free trade arrangement of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).
2. It came into force in 2006, replacing the SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA) of 1993.
3. It includes all SAARC countries as its signatories, except for Afghanistan.

Which of the statements above are correct?

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

166. With reference to Financial Action Task Force (FATF), consider the following statements:

1. It is an international watchdog established in 1989 by the G7 nations in Paris to combat money laundering and terrorist financing globally.
2. Countries on the FATF blacklist are known as Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories (NCCTs) and are subjected to international sanctions.

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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167. Consider the following statements:

1. The repo rate refers to the interest rate at which the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) provides short-term loans to commercial banks.
2. The Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) enables banks to deposit surplus funds with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) without any collateral.
3. The Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) is a provision introduced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) that allows scheduled commercial banks to access overnight liquidity in situations where inter-bank borrowing avenues are exhausted.

Which of the statements above are correct?

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

168. With reference to the First Information Report (FIR), consider the following statements:

1. An FIR can be filed only for cognizable offences.
2. Even a telephonic message can be treated as an FIR.
3. Once an FIR is registered, the police are legally bound to start an investigation.
4. A police officer, even if he comes to know about a cognizable offence, cannot file an FIR himself.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

169. Regarding the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), consider the following statements:

1. It was signed in 2015 between Iran and the Permanent 5 +1 countries along with the European Union (EU).
2. Under the JCPOA, Iran agreed to cap its uranium enrichment to 90%, the level needed for weapons-grade material.
3. Under the JCPOA, Iran had to redesign its Arak heavy-water reactor to prevent the production of weapons-grade plutonium.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

1. Chabahar is located in Iran's Sistan and Baluchistan Province on the Makran coast situated in the Gulf of Oman.
2. India, Iran, and Afghanistan signed a trilateral agreement to establish the International Transport and Transit Corridor in 2016.
3. Iran offered India the development of the Shahid Beheshti Port, one of the two main ports of the Chabahar Port project.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

171. Regarding the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992, consider the following statements:

1. The Act mandates the reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and women in Panchayats.
2. It provides for the constitution of a State Finance Commission to review the financial position of Panchayats.
3. It provides for the establishment of a two-tier system of Panchayats in rural areas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

1. It was established in 1957 for handling violations under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947.
2. The primary objectives of the ED are the enforcement of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), and Fugitive Economic Offenders Act (FEOA).
3. It operates under the Ministry of External Affairs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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173. Regarding the Godavari River, consider the following statements:

1. It is the second-longest river in India, after the Ganga.
2. The river originates in the Brahmagiri Mountain at Trimbakeshwar in Maharashtra.
3. Pravara, Purna, and Indravati are tributaries of the Godavari.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

174. Regarding the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), consider the following statements:

1. It was established in 2002 under the provisions of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.
2. It is responsible for publishing the State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) in collaboration with the Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

175. Which of the following statements best describes the strategic significance of the Strait of Hormuz?

- A. It connects the Red Sea to the Mediterranean Sea and is vital for European oil imports.
- B. It is a narrow sea passage between Iran and the Arabian Peninsula, connecting the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman and serving as a critical chokepoint for global oil and LNG shipments.
- C. It separates Saudi Arabia from Africa and is the only maritime link between the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean.
- D. It links the Caspian Sea to the Black Sea and is important for Russia's natural gas exports.

176. Regarding the AI and digital skilling initiatives in India, consider the following statements:

1. Odisha has expanded its Mission Shakti programme to include digital and AI-related skills for women, particularly in tribal and rural districts.
2. The initiative aims to introduce women to AI concepts, digital literacy, and data-driven enterprise

development, thereby linking traditional livelihoods with the digital economy.

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. Regarding the Small Finance Banks (SFB), consider the following statements:

1. They are a category of banks established to provide basic banking services and credit facilities to underserved sections of the population.
2. They are regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
3. All RBI prudential norms and regulations, including CRR and SLR requirements, applicable to commercial banks don't apply to Small Finance Banks (SFBs).

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

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

178. The places Fordo, Natanz, and Esfahan, recently seen in the news, are located in which of the following countries?

- A. Saudi Arabia      B. Iran  
C. Turkey      D. Iraq

179. Regarding the Economic Capital Framework (ECF), consider the following statements:

1. It is a structured process used by the RBI to determine the appropriate risk provisions and the surplus (profit) to be transferred to the Government under the RBI Act, 1934.
2. The framework was recommended by the Bimal Jalan Committee (2018), and formally adopted in 2019.
3. It enables the RBI to maintain a Contingency Risk Buffer (CRB) as a financial safeguard against unforeseen shocks like currency volatility and economic crises.

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

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

180. Regarding the International Space Station, consider the

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following statements:

1. It is a massive multi-nation spacecraft orbiting Earth, where 15 nations collaborate on scientific, educational, and technological experiments.
2. Orbiting Earth at 17,500 mph and completing a revolution every 90 minutes, the ISS lets astronauts witness only twice as many sunrises and sunsets each day as on Earth.

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

181. Regarding the Axiom-4 Mission, consider the following statements:

1. It is a private spaceflight to the ISS operated by Axiom Space using the SpaceX Crew Dragon spacecraft.
2. It aims to enable commercial activities such as space tourism and demonstrate the viability of space stations in Low Earth Orbit for business and research.
3. The mission features a diverse multinational crew including India, emphasising global cooperation in space exploration.

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

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

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

1. It is proclaimed by the President under Article 352 when the security of India or a part of it is threatened by War, External Aggression, or Armed Rebellion.
2. The 44th Amendment Act, 1978, requires a National Emergency to be approved by both Houses within one month by a special majority.
3. It can be revoked only once approved by both Houses by a special majority.

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

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

183. Regarding the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyaan (PM JANMAN), consider the following statements:

1. It was launched on 15th November 2023, coinciding with Janjatiya Gaurav Divas.
2. It aims to enhance the socio-economic conditions of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) by providing comprehensive development interventions.
3. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is the nodal ministry responsible for the implementation of the scheme in collaboration with the respective state governments.

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

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

184. Consider the following statements:

1. It is the largest and southernmost island in the Mariana archipelago.
2. A coral reef surrounds most of the island.
3. It is the closest landmass to the Mariana Trench.
4. Because of its strategic location in the western North Pacific Ocean, the U.S. has long maintained military bases there.

Which of the following locations best matches the above description?

- A. Guam
- B. Saipan
- C. Tinian
- D. Rota

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

1. It indicates that the people of India are the source of authority behind the Constitution.
2. It was inspired by the Preamble of the Constitution of the United Kingdom.
3. It is part of the Constitution but is not enforceable by courts.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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186. Regarding the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), consider the following statements:

1. It is a perpetual agreement with no exit clause, requiring mutual consent for any amendments or revisions by India and Pakistan.
2. Under it, Pakistan was granted unrestricted use of the western rivers - Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej, while India was granted unrestricted use of the eastern rivers - Indus, Chenab, and Jhelum.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

187. With reference to Rabindranath Tagore, consider the following statements:

1. He was the first non-European to win the Nobel Prize in Literature.
2. He renounced his knighthood in 1919 as a protest against the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

188. Regarding the Finance Commission of India, consider the following statements:

1. It is a permanent constitutional body established under Article 280 of the Constitution.
2. Its recommendations are binding on the Union and State governments.
3. The qualifications of its members are determined by the Parliament through the Finance Commission Act, 1951.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

189. With reference to Dara Shikoh, consider the following statements:

1. He was the eldest son and heir apparent of Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan.
2. He wrote Safinat-ul-Awliya, a work detailing the lives of the Prophet Muhammad, his family, the Caliphs, and saints from five major Sufi orders in India.

3. He commissioned shrines for Mulla Shah and Miyan Mir in Delhi to honor their spiritual teachings.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

190. Regarding the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), consider the following statements:

1. It is the only binding multilateral treaty aimed at nuclear disarmament by Nuclear-Weapon States (NWS) and promoting peaceful nuclear energy use.
1. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is responsible for monitoring compliance with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).
2. India is not a signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

1. Turkmenistan is one of the founding members of it.
2. It recognizes Chinese and Russian as its official languages.
3. The latest member to join the SCO is Iran, which became a full member in 2024.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

192. Regarding the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), consider the following statements:

1. It is a global network established in 2012 by the United Nations (UN).
2. India ranked 99th in the 2025 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index, released by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

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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## Answers

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

## Practice Explanation

1.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The government's **strong focus on national security** and increased private-sector involvement have significantly boosted local defence manufacturing and optimized the Centre's defence budget. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- The foreign direct investment (FDI) limit in the **defence business is 74%**, with approvals granted under the automatic route. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
- **100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** is allowed in India through the government route if it results in access to modern technology. **Hence, statement III is correct.**
- **Statement I** reflects the overall impact of government policies and private investment that have **strengthened domestic defence capabilities** and improved budget efficiency.
- **Statement II** reflects that this policy encourages foreign investment by **simplifying approvals up to 74%**, enabling

private companies to participate more actively in defence manufacturing.

- **Statement III reflects that allowing full FDI via government approval helps attract advanced technology** and expertise from foreign investors, further boosting local defence production and innovation.
- Hence, both Statement II and Statement III are correct, and both of them explain Statement I.

2.

Ans: C

Exp:

Monetary Policy Committee (MPC):

- It sets the **benchmark policy rate (repo rate)** to keep inflation within a targeted range. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is required to meet at least four times in a year. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Each MPC member has **one vote**, with the Governor casting a deciding vote in case of a tie. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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# Monetary Policy Committee



## Monetary Policy

- It is formed and managed by **Reserve Bank of India** to control a nation's overall money supply and achieve economic growth
- It is **different from Fiscal Policy** which is managed by the **Ministry of Finance** that measures the spending and taxation in Indian Economy

## Monetary Policy Committee (MPC):

- **Ex-officio Chairperson:** RBI Governor
- **Objective:** To determine the policy rate required to achieve the inflation target (  $4 \pm 2\%$ , Urjit Patel Committee)

- **Legal Framework:** Under Section 452B of the amended RBI Act, 1934, the Central Government is empowered to constitute a six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)
  - The MPC is required to meet at least four times in a year. Each member of the MPC has one vote, and in the event of an equality of votes, the Governor has a second or casting vote.
- **Monetary Policy Report:** RBI once in every six months, releases Monetary Policy Report to explain the sources of inflation and the forecast of inflation for 6-18 months ahead



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3.

Ans: B

Exp:

Internet of Things (IoT):

- Internet of Things (IoT) is a **computing concept** that describes the idea of everyday physical objects being connected to the internet and being able to identify themselves to other devices.
- IoT is significant because an **object that can represent itself digitally** becomes something greater than the object by itself. No longer does the object relate just to its user, but it is now **connected to surrounding objects** and database data.

Hence, option B is correct.

4.

Ans: D

Exp:

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan Scheme:

- Launched in 2014, it is a **flagship Ministry of Education program** that promotes holistic village development by integrating human and economic growth. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Unnat Bharat Abhiyan 1.0 invited select institutions to participate, whereas **UBA 2.0, launched in 2018**, mandates all Higher Education Institutions to voluntarily adopt at least five villages. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Main Objectives:
  - ◆ To engage the **faculty and students of HEIs in identifying development issues** in rural areas and finding sustainable solutions for the same.
  - ◆ Identify & select existing innovative technologies, enable customisation of technologies, or devise implementation methods for innovative solutions, as required by the people.
  - ◆ To allow HEIs to contribute to devising systems for the smooth implementation of various Government programmes.

5.

Ans: A

Exp:

Quasi-steady State Cosmology Theory of the Universe:

- The Quasi-Steady State Cosmology (QSSC) is a **refined version of the Steady-State Theory of the universe.**
- It was developed in the early 1990s by Fred Hoyle, Jayant Narlikar, and Geoffrey Burbidge as a response to the increasing dominance of the Big Bang theory, while addressing some of its limitations.

➤ Key Features of QSSC:

- ◆ QSSC proposes that the **universe follows a cyclical pattern** of periodic expansion and contraction over vast timescales, while still maintaining an overall steady-state appearance.
- ◆ While the Big Bang theory posits a **singular origin of the universe**, QSSC rejects the idea of a singular explosive beginning.
- ◆ Instead, it suggests that the **universe has existed eternally** and undergoes periodic episodes of matter creation and expansion.
- ◆ **Matter is continuously created in localized**, non-singular events called 'mini-bangs' or creation events, which occur intermittently in the universe, avoiding a single origin point.

Hence, option A is correct.

6.

Ans: A

Exp:

Ahilyabai Holkar:

- Ahilyabai was born on 31st May 1725 in Chondi, Ahmednagar (Maharashtra).
- She was married to Khanderao Holkar in 1733, the son of Malhar Rao Holkar, the ruler of Malwa and the founder of the Holkar dynasty.
- Ahilyabai was widowed in 1745 after Khanderao died in the **siege of Kumher Fort.**
- Malhar Rao Holkar prevented Ahilyabai from committing sati and trained her in military and administrative matters.
- After the death of Malhar Rao Holkar in 1766 and her son Male Rao Holkar in 1767, **Ahilyabai Holkar took charge of Malwa** and became the ruler of Indore in 1767.
- She **appointed Tukoji Rao Holkar as army commander** and made Maheshwar in Madhya Pradesh the Holkar dynasty's capital.
- Ahilyabai Holkar **rebuilt the Somnath and Kashi Vishwanath temples**, restoring key Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva. She patronised scholars like Khushali Ram, Marathi poet Moropant, and Shahir Anantaphandi.
- She **promoted women's education, widow remarriage**, and opposed practices like sati, while uplifting Bhil, Gond tribes, and lower castes.
- She made **Maheshwar and Indore major trade hubs**, promoting the Maheshwari weaving industry and making Maheshwari sarees renowned across India, now registered with a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

Hence, option A is correct.

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7.

Ans: D

Exp:

Initiatives for Maritime Sector in Union Budget 2025-26:

- **Maritime Development Fund (MDF):** It is a Rs 25,000 crore MDF to support the **maritime sector** through equity and debt financing.
- **Ship Breaking Credit Note Scheme:** It incentivises ship scrapping by issuing a credit note of 40% of the scrap value, which can be **reimbursed to buy new Made in India ships**.
- **Infrastructure HML:** Large ships will be added to the Infrastructure Harmonised Master List (HML), enabling long-term financing, tax incentives, private investment, and fleet modernization.

Hence, option D is correct.

8.

Ans: C

Exp:

President's Rule:

- President's Rule refers to the **suspension of a state government** and its legislative assembly, placing the state under the direct control of the central government.
- It is imposed under Article 356 of the Indian Constitution. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- If a state government fails to function as per the constitution, the Centre can intervene under Article 356 by imposing President's Rule.
- The President can impose President's Rule if a situation arises where the state government cannot function as per the Constitution. This can be done:
  - ◆ On the recommendation of the Governor.
  - ◆ On the President's discretion, **even without the Governor's report. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- A proclamation of President's Rule must be **approved by both Houses** of Parliament within two months. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
  - ◆ If President's Rule is declared when the Lok Sabha is dissolved, or **if it dissolves within two months** without approving the proclamation, it remains valid until 30 days after the Lok Sabha reconvenes, provided the Rajya Sabha approves it during this period.
  - ◆ Approving or extending the President's Rule requires a simple majority in Parliament (majority of members present and voting).

9.

Ans: A

Exp:

Drones:

- The terms **First-Person-View (FPV), Fibre-optic FPV, Magura, and THeMIS** were recently highlighted in news regarding the **development of advanced drone and unmanned defense systems**.
- **First-Person-View (FPV)** drones are **remotely piloted unmanned aerial vehicles** equipped with cameras that transmit real-time video feeds directly to the operator's goggles or screen.
- **Fibre-optic FPV drones** use **fibre-optic cables** for real-time First-Person-View (FPV) control, making them highly resistant to electronic warfare and jamming attempts.
- The **Magura is a Ukrainian autonomous sea drone** designed for maritime surveillance and potentially for mine detection and clearance, enhancing Ukraine's naval capabilities without risking human sailors.
- The **THeMIS is a modular, tracked unmanned ground vehicle** that can carry payloads such as weapons or supplies, and it is increasingly integrated with AI for autonomous operations, including swarm tactics. **Hence, option A is correct.**

10.

Ans: C

Exp:

- Vaccine immunity, also known as acquired immunity or immunisation, refers to the protection against infectious diseases that is conferred by vaccination.
- A **vaccine stimulates the immune system** to recognize and fight specific pathogens like viruses or bacteria, without causing the disease. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Viruses causing **mucosal infections like SARS-CoV-2** and influenza lead to frequent reinfections due to their quick transmission before the immune system can mount a response. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- A viral vector Covid-19 vaccine uses a **harmless virus to deliver genetic material** from the coronavirus into human cells. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

11.

Ans: B

Exp:

Strait of Hormuz:

- The strait is located at the **mouth of the Persian Gulf** and is crucial to global energy supplies, with about a fifth of all oil traded at sea passing through it.

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- The **waterway separates Iran and Oman**, linking the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.
- The **Strait is 33 km wide at its narrowest point**, but the shipping lane is just three km wide in either direction.
- Most crude exported from Saudi Arabia, Iran, the UAE, Kuwait, and Iraq – all members of the Organization of

the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) – is shipped through this waterway.

- It is also the **route used for nearly all the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)** produced by the world's biggest LNG exporter, Qatar.



Hence, option B is correct.

12.

Ans: D

Exp:

Factors of landslides in Himalayan Region:

- Steep, rugged terrain with high-altitude, unstable slopes.
- Heavy monsoon rainfall combined with **rapid snowmelt from glaciers**, increasing soil saturation and instability.
- Unconsolidated debris (scree, moraine) and **fragile rock formations** prone to displacement.
- High rates of deforestation for agriculture, timber, and fuel, weakening soil cohesion.
- Highly **tectonically active region** due to the collision of the Indian and Eurasian plates, triggering earthquakes.

Hence, option D is correct.

13.

Ans: A

Exp:

Sangam Literature:

- The Sangam literature includes **Tolkappiyam, Ettutogai, Pattuppattu, Pathinenkilkanakku**, and two **epics** named **Silappathikaram and Manimegalai**.
- **Tolkappiyam** was authored by Tolkappiyar and is considered the earliest of Tamil literary works. Though it is a work on Tamil grammar, it also provides insights into the political and socio-economic conditions of the time.
- **Ettutogai (Eight Anthologies)** consists of eight works: Aingurunooru, Narrinai, Aganaooru, Purananooru, Kuruntogai, Kalittogai, Paripadal, and Padirruppatu.

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- **Pathinenkilkanakku** contains eighteen works about ethics and morals. The most important among these works is Tirukkural, authored by Thiruvalluvar, the Tamil great poet and philosopher.
- The two epics, **Silappathikaram**, is written by **Elango Adigal and Manimekalai by Sittalai Sattanar**. They also provide valuable details about the Sangam society and polity.
- **Keeladi is an archaeological site** located in the Sivaganga district of Tamil Nadu, India, near the Vaigai River.
  - ◆ Excavations have uncovered **evidence of an urban settlement dating back to the Sangam period**, challenging previous assumptions about the antiquity of Tamil civilization.

Hence, option A is correct.

14.

Ans: B

Exp:

Hot Money:

- Hot money refers to the **flow of funds or capital that moves quickly across countries** seeking short-term profit from interest rate differentials or currency speculation.
- It is **highly liquid and can enter or exit markets rapidly**, often causing volatility.
- Because hot money flows are **speculative and short-term**, they can lead to sudden inflows or outflows of capital, which may destabilize exchange rates, cause inflation, or disrupt financial markets in emerging economies.

Hence, option B is correct.

15.

Ans: A

Exp:

Sikkim:

- Under the **Treaty of Tumlong (1861)**, Sikkim became a protectorate state of British India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **35<sup>th</sup> Amendment Act of 1974** ended Sikkim's protectorate status and designated it as an 'Associate State' of India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ Under the **36<sup>th</sup> Amendment Act, 1975**, Sikkim became a full-fledged state in India.
- **Mizoram has exceeded the 95% literacy rate benchmark**, achieving 98.20% literacy as per the PLFS Survey 2023-24, meeting the Ministry of Education's criteria for **full functional literacy** under the ULLAS (Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society) programme. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

16.

Ans: B

Exp:

Project Tiger:

- It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), launched in 1973. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It provides **central assistance to tiger range States** for the in situ conservation of tigers in designated tiger reserves. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)**, established in 2005 based on the Tiger Task Force's recommendations, is the implementation agency. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
  - ◆ It was **granted statutory status** through the 2006 amendment of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

17.

Ans: C

Exp:

Skill India Programme:

- The Skill India Programme (SIP) is a **skill development initiative** launched in 2015 under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Over 2.27 crore people have benefited from these schemes so far, including rural youth, women, and marginalized communities.
- All courses and certifications under the Skill India Program are aligned with the **National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF)**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ They are integrated with **DigiLocker and the National Credit Framework (NCrF)**, ensuring formal recognition and a seamless transition into employment and higher education. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

18.

Ans: C

Exp:

- **ADITI Scheme:** The ADITI Scheme is a sub-scheme within iDEX and has been launched to encourage innovations in critical and strategic defence technologies. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
  - ◆ **Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)** encourages start-ups and MSMEs to innovate for defence needs.
- **Technology Development Fund (TDF):** Run by DRDO to support MSMEs and startups for developing defence technologies. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
  - ◆ Funding limit raised to ₹50 crore per project in FY25.

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- **SRIJAN Portal:** Online platform **listing imported items** for indigenisation by Indian industry. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**

◆ Over 14,000 items indigenised till February 2025.

**Hence, option C is correct.**

19.

Ans: B

Exp:

Open Market Operations (OMOs):

- It is the **simultaneous sale and purchase** of government securities and treasury bills by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is conducted by the RBI **through commercial banks** and does not involve direct dealings with the public. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It is one of the **quantitative instruments** employed by the RBI to stabilize liquidity conditions. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- ◆ **Quantitative tools control the extent of money supply** by changing the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR), bank rate, or open market operations.
- ◆ **Qualitative tools include persuasion by the Central bank** in order to make commercial banks discourage or encourage lending, which is done through moral suasion, margin requirements, etc.

20.

Ans: A

Exp:

Flag of Convenience (FoC):

- It is a system where **ships are registered in a country** other than that of the ship's owners to benefit from more lenient regulatory regimes. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- FoC is **not illegal under** the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), but it has often been criticised for diluting safety and labour standards. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

21.

Ans: B

Exp:

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR):

- **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.**
- CSR rules apply to companies that, in the preceding financial year, have a **net worth exceeding Rs 500 crore**, or a turnover of over Rs 1,000 crore, or a net profit above Rs 5 crore. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ◆ Such companies must spend at least 2% of their average net profit of the last 3 financial years (or available years if newly incorporated) on CSR activities.
- 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.**

22.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **India's 1,643-km border with Myanmar** runs through Arunachal Pradesh (520 km), Nagaland (215 km), Manipur (398 km), and Mizoram (510 km).
- ◆ 1,472 km of the border have been demarcated.

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Hence, option A is correct.

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23.

Ans: D

Exp:

Bharat Forecast System:

- It has been developed by the **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune**, and will be operationalised by the India Meteorological Department (IMD). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It has been tested in experimental mode since 2022 and is now **being scaled for nationwide operational use** with high-performance computing support. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It **allows for more accurate detection** of localised extreme weather events, such as cloudbursts and flash floods. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

24.

Ans: C

Exp:

GM Mustard:

- **Dhara Mustard Hybrid-11 (DMH-11)** is an indigenously developed transgenic mustard. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ It is a **genetically modified** variant of Herbicide Tolerant (HT) mustard.
- DMH-11 is a result of a cross between **Indian mustard variety 'Varuna'** and East European 'Early Heera-2' mustard. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It contains two alien genes ('barnase' and 'barstar') isolated from a soil bacterium called ***Bacillus amyloliquefaciens***, one of the most promising bacteria for plant growth promotion (PGP). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- DMH-11 has shown approximately **28% more yield than the national check** and 37 % more than the zonal checks, and its use has been claimed and approved by the GEAC.

Anuj

25.

Ans: C

Exp:

Erucic Acid:

- The **mustard oil** extracted from the Indian mustard crop contains high levels of a unique **fatty acid** called **erucic acid** (40% to 54% of total fatty acid). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Mustard oil with high levels of **erucic acid** is considered unsuitable for human consumption due to its potential to cause **heart disease, liver damage**, and other health issues. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- ◆ This oil is particularly **undesirable in advanced countries**, such as the United States, Canada, and Europe.

26.

Ans: C

Exp:

Operation Spider's Web:

- It was **launched by Ukraine**, targeting military installations deep within Russian territory using drones. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The drones used in the operation were first-person view (FPV) drones. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ FPV drones are **Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)** equipped with cameras that **transmit live video footage** to the operator, allowing them to see and control the drone as if they were in the cockpit, creating a "first-person" perspective.

27.

Ans: A

Exp:

Types of Hydrogen Energy:

- Depending on the nature of the method of its extraction, hydrogen is categorised into three categories, namely, Grey, Blue, and Green.
  - ◆ **Grey Hydrogen:** It is produced via coal or lignite gasification (black or brown), or via a process called **steam methane reformation (SMR)** of natural gas or **methane** (grey). These tend to be mostly carbon-intensive processes. **Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
  - ◆ **Blue Hydrogen:** It is produced via **natural gas** or **coal gasification** combined with **carbon capture storage (CCS)** or **carbon capture use (CCU)** technologies to reduce carbon emissions. **Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
  - ◆ **Green Hydrogen:** It is produced using **electrolysis** of water with electricity generated by renewable energy. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**
    - The carbon intensity ultimately depends on the carbon neutrality of the source of electricity (i.e., the more renewable energy there is in the electricity fuel mix, the "greener" the hydrogen produced).

Hence, option A is correct.

28.

Ans: D

Exp:

Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)

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- As per the provisions of the RBI Act, 1934, the **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** consists of six members: three Members from the RBI and three appointed by the Central Government.
  - ◆ The Members of the Monetary Policy Committee are **appointed by the Central Government** and shall hold office for a period of four years. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **quorum** for a meeting shall consist of four members, with at least one being the **Governor**, or in his absence, the **Deputy Governor**, who is a member of the MPC. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- As per **Section 13 of the RBI Act, 1934**, the Governor, or the Deputy Governor authorized by the Governor in his absence, shall preside at meetings of the Central Board.
  - ◆ In case of a tie, the presiding officer shall have a **second or casting vote**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

29.

Ans: C

Exp:

- **India surpassed Germany to become the third-largest producer of wind and solar power in 2024**, generating 10% of global electricity. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ Solar continued to lead new electricity generation, adding 474 TWh for the third consecutive year.
- The **Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC)** of India is key in setting solar power tariffs. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It regulates tariffs for central government-owned power utilities, inter-state generating companies, and transmission systems.
  - ◆ CERC also determines tariffs for various solar power projects, including those linked to the inter-state transmission system (ISTS).

30.

Ans: D

Exp:

India Semiconductor Mission (ISM):

- The India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) was officially launched in December 2021 as a part of the larger Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme.
  - ◆ It is led by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- This government initiative aims to promote the growth of semiconductor and display manufacturing ecosystems in India.

- It has been set up as an **Independent Business Division** within Digital India Corporation. ISM has all the administrative and financial powers. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) has been working as a **nodal agency** for the schemes approved **under the Semicon India Programme**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

31.

Ans: D

Exp:

**National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog):**

- In 2015, the **Planning Commission** was replaced by NITI Aayog, which brought a major change.
  - ◆ Unlike the old system, where policy flowed only from the Centre to the states, NITI Aayog fosters a partnership between the two. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It encourages states to take control of their own development plans and helps connect the Centre and states. In today's digital and physical world, NITI Aayog plays an important role in bridging the knowledge gap between them.
  - ◆ The **Aspirational District Programme (ADP)**, launched by NITI Aayog in January 2018, aims to transform 112 underdeveloped districts across 27 states in India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ These districts are selected based on socio-economic indicators, and the programme focuses on improving living standards and fostering inclusive growth.
- The NITI Aayog's **annual Governing Council Meeting** acts as the apex platform for the political leadership of the Centre and states to deliberate on issues of national importance. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

32.

Ans: A

Exp:

**Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution:**

- The Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution governs the administration of tribal areas and is specifically applicable to the northeastern states of **Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ It safeguards the rights and interests of the tribal populations in these states.
- A key provision of the Sixth Schedule is the administration of tribal areas as **Autonomous Districts** and **Autonomous Regions**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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- ◆ The Governor of the State is granted the authority to designate specific areas as administrative units for these Autonomous Districts and Regions.
- Laws enacted by the District and Regional Councils under the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution **must receive the Governor's assent** before becoming effective. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- ◆ This provision ensures that the Governor, as the state's executive head, oversees these laws and their potential impact on the state.

33

Ans: B

Exp:

Circular Economy (CE):

- It focuses on **designing products for durability**, reuse, and recyclability, ensuring that most items are remanufactured, recycled, or repurposed for energy recovery. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ◆ Circularity is about **keeping materials in circulation** for as long as possible. The ultimate goal is to **minimize environmental and socio-economic impacts** by reducing waste generation and maximizing the value of materials.
- ◆ It includes **6 R's** - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Refurbish, Recover, and Repair of materials.
- India is a key member of the **Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (GACERE)**, which aims to foster a global transition to circular economic practices. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The **Hanoi 3R Declaration (2013-2023)** set 33 voluntary goals for a resource-efficient and circular economy. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- ◆ **Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum** was launched in 2009 and **aims to promote 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) principles** and circular economy practices across the Asia-Pacific region.
- ◆ It brings together policymakers, industry leaders, researchers, and partners to advance resource efficiency strategies.

34.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Article 29** of the Constitution (Protection of interests of minorities) gives all citizens the right to conserve their language and prohibits discrimination based on language. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- ◆ **Article 30** of the Indian Constitution guarantees the right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.

- **Article 120** (Language to be used in Parliament) provides for the use of Hindi or English for **transactions of Parliament**, but gives the right to members of Parliament to express themselves in their mother tongue. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Article 350A** (Facilities for instruction in mother-tongue at primary stage) provides that it shall be the endeavour of **every State and of every local authority** within the State to provide adequate facilities for instruction in the mother-tongue at the **primary stage of education to children** belonging to linguistic minority groups. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

35.

Ans: A

Exp:

Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS):

- It was introduced under the **Energy Conservation (Amendment) Act, 2022**, replacing the Perform, Achieve, and Trade (PAT) scheme to establish the Indian Carbon Market (ICM), aligning with India's climate commitments under the Paris Agreement. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is a **market-based mechanism** and aims to decarbonize the Indian economy by pricing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and facilitating carbon trading. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ◆ The PAT scheme focused on **energy efficiency improvements** in energy-intensive industries through Energy Saving Certificates (ESCs).
- CCTS initially **includes energy-intensive industries** such as iron & steel, aluminium, cement, fertilizers, petroleum refineries, pulp & paper, and textiles (account for 16% of India's total emissions).
- ◆ The **power sector (40% of India's GHG emissions)** is **not currently included** in it and may be included later. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

36.

Ans: C

Exp:

Breeder Reactor:

- A breeder reactor is a nuclear reactor **that generates more fissile material** than it consumes by irradiation of fertile material, such as Uranium-238 or Thorium-232, that is loaded into the reactor along with fissile fuel. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- These are designed to **extend the nuclear fuel supply** for electric power generation. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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37.

Ans: D

Exp:

PM-PRANAM scheme:

- It was announced in the 2023-24 Budget by the Union government to **complement state/UT efforts in promoting** the sustainable and balanced use of fertilizers. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- States and UTs that lower their chemical fertilizer consumption below the past three years' average will receive **50% of the savings** from the fertilizer subsidy. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ This grant can be used for the benefit of the local population, including farmers.
- It **covers various types of fertilizers**, including Urea, DAP (Diammonium Phosphate), NPK (Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium), and MOP (Muriate of Potash).

38.

Ans: C

Exp:

Chenab River

- It rises in the **upper Himalayas in the Lahaul and Spiti** district of Himachal Pradesh state. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The river is formed by the **confluence of two rivers, Chandra and Bhaga**, at Tandi, 8 km southwest of Keylong, in the Lahaul and Spiti district. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ The Bhaga river originates from Surya taal lake, which is situated a few kilometers west of the Bara-lacha la pass in Himachal Pradesh.
- It flows through the Jammu region of Jammu and Kashmir into the plains of Punjab, Pakistan, before flowing into the Indus River.
- The Chenab Bridge, constructed over the river, is the **world's highest railway arch bridge**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

39.

Ans: C

Exp:

Total Fertility Rate (TFR):

- The TFR is the **average number of children a group of women** would have by the end of their reproductive years (ages 15 to 49) if they followed the current fertility rates throughout their lives, assuming no mortality. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ It is expressed as children per woman.

- ◆ As per the **National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5)** (2019-21), the TFR has declined to 2.0 children per woman from 2.2 children per woman (NFHS-4 (2015-16)).

- A TFR of 2.1 is considered the **replacement level**, where each generation replaces itself without significant population growth or decline. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- ◆ A TFR lower than 2.1, however, can lead to negative population growth, potentially causing long-term **demographic challenges**, including an ageing population.

40.

Ans: A

Exp:

Tribes of Arunachal Pradesh:

- The Apatani, or Tanw, also known by Apa and Apa Tani, are a tribal group of people living in the **Ziro valley** in the Lower Subansiri district of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The **Nyishi are the largest ethnic group in Arunachal Pradesh**.
  - ◆ In Nishi, their traditional language, Nyi refers to "a man" and the word shi denotes "a being", which combined together refers to a civilized human being.
- The Padams, Milangs, Komkars, Minyongs and Pasis collectively call themselves as ADI meaning hill people.
  - ◆ The **Adi constitute a major group and inhabit the lower part of Lower Dibang Valley district** especially Roing and Dambuk areas.
  - ◆ Akin to one another, they speak the same dialect, claim a common origin and also perform and celebrate the same rituals and festivals.

**Hence, option A is correct.**

41.

Ans: D

Exp:

Powers Under Article 3:

- Article 3 of the Indian Constitution **grants Parliament the authority to undertake various actions regarding the formation, alteration, or dissolution of states**. These actions include:
  - ◆ Parliament can **create a new state by separating territory** from an existing state, uniting two or more states, or combining any territory with a part of an existing state.
  - ◆ Parliament has the **power to increase** or diminish the area of any state.

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- ◆ Parliament can **alter the boundaries** of any state.
- ◆ Parliament can **change the name** of any state.

Hence, option D is correct.

42.

Ans: C

Exp:

Ethanol:

- Molasses, a byproduct of sugar manufacture, is generally the **main source of production of ethanol** (anhydrous alcohol) and rectified spirit. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The production process involves the **fermentation of sugars by yeasts** or via petrochemical processes such as ethylene hydration. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Ethanol is a **combustible material** and has a lower combustion temperature than gasoline, making it a cleaner-burning alternative. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

43.

Ans: B

Exp:

Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC):

- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, in association with the Department of Financial Services (DFS), National Health Authority (NHA), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), and partner banks, has launched India's own Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) – Digital Rupee or 'e-RUPI'. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- CBDCs are a **digital form of a paper currency**, and unlike cryptocurrencies that operate in a regulatory vacuum, these are legal tenders issued and backed by a central bank. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The digital fiat currency or CBDC can be transacted using wallets backed by blockchain. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
  - ◆ Though the concept of CBDCs was directly inspired by Bitcoin, it is **different from decentralised virtual currencies** and crypto assets, which are not issued by the state and lack the 'legal tender' status.

44.

Ans: A

Exp:

Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009:

- The Eighty-sixth Amendment Constitution Act, 2002, made the Right to Education a fundamental right under Article 21A for children aged 6-14 years.

- Elementary education shall be **free until completion**, even if the child is older than 14 years. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Aided schools shall **provide free and compulsory education** proportionate to the funding received, subject to a minimum of 25%. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009, was amended in 2019 to eliminate the no-detention policy. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

45.

Ans: B

Exp:

Greenwashing:

- The term refers to any **deceptive or misleading practice** involving exaggeration, omission, or false environmental claims.
- Use of misleading symbols, imagery, or language that highlights **positive environmental aspects while concealing harmful ones.**
  - ◆ It does not include obvious hyperbole, puffery, or generic colour schemes/images that aren't deceptive.
- Environmental Claims refer to the **representations about goods or services, including their components, manufacturing processes, packaging, usage, or disposal**, that suggest environmentally friendly attributes.
 

Hence, option B is correct.

46.

Ans: A

Exp:

Quantum Entanglement:

- Quantum entanglement is a phenomenon in which **two qubits** (or any two or more quantum particles) intertwine in such a way that the **state of one particle cannot be described independently** of the state of the other, regardless of the distance between them.
- When two qubits are entangled, they **both exist in a superposition** until either is measured. Once observed, the quantum superposition of both is collapsed, and whichever qubit isn't observed **assumes the opposite position** of the one that was observed.
- In this way, entangled qubits seemingly can **transfer information across even light years instantaneously**, faster than the speed of light. While qubits do not actually transfer data faster than light, quantum entanglement can dramatically increase the power of quantum circuits.
 

Hence, option A is correct.

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47.

Ans: C

Exp:

PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana:

- It was launched in February 2024 by the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** and aims to provide **free electricity to one crore households** by installing rooftop solar panels.
  - ◆ It offers up to **300 units of free electricity per month** and provides a subsidy covering up to 40% of the installation cost, promoting widespread solar energy adoption across the country. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It mandates using only **made-in-India** solar cells and modules. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Households can **earn income by selling surplus electricity to DISCOMs**, with systems like the 3 kW rooftop setup generating over 300 units per month.

48.

Ans: B

Exp:

- Fission is a process in which the **nucleus of an atom splits** into two or more smaller nuclei and some byproducts. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ When the nucleus splits, the kinetic energy of the fission fragments (primary nuclei) is **transferred to other atoms** in the fuel as heat energy, which is eventually used to produce steam to drive the turbines.
- **Fusion** is defined as the combining of several small nuclei into one large nucleus with the subsequent release of huge amounts of energy. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ The **process of Fusion fuels the Sun** and could potentially provide an endless, clean source of energy. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
  - ◆ In the sun, the extreme pressure produced by its immense gravity creates the conditions for fusion to happen.

49.

Ans: B

Exp:

Aravalli Range:

- It extends from Gujarat to Delhi through Rajasthan, measuring 692 km in length and **varying between 10 and 120 km in width**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ The range acts as a **natural green wall**, with 80% located in Rajasthan and 20% in Haryana, Delhi, and Gujarat.

- The Aravali Mountains are divided into **two main ranges** – the Sambhar Sirohi Range and the Sambhar Khetri Range in Rajasthan, where their extension is about 560 km. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ It serves as an **ecotone** between the Thar Desert and the Gangetic Plain.
    - Ecotones are areas where two or more ecosystems, biological communities, or biotic regions meet.
- **Gurusikhar (Rajasthan)**, the highest peak in the range, reaches an elevation of 1,722 meters. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

50.

Ans: D

Exp:

DIGIPIN (Digital Postal Index Number):

- DIGIPIN divides India into **approximately 4m x 4m grids**, with each grid assigned a unique 10-character alphanumeric code based on latitude and longitude coordinates. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Unlike traditional postal addresses, DIGIPIN **uses geospatial references** based on the exact latitude and longitude coordinates of a location. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It is **designed to function offline**, and its programming code has been made available in the public domain for decoding and fetching the code. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

51.

Ans: A

Exp:

Special Economic Zone (SEZ):

- It is a geographical region that has economic laws that are **more liberal than a country's** domestic economic laws.
- The **Baba Kalyani-led committee** was constituted by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to study the existing SEZ policy of India and had submitted its recommendations in November 2018. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- India was one of the **first in Asia to recognize the effectiveness** of the Export Processing Zone model in promoting exports, with Asia's first EPZ set up in Kandla, Gujarat, in 1965. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Special Economic Zones Policy in India was announced in April 2000 to enhance foreign investment, create employment opportunities, and provide an internationally competitive and hassle-free environment for exports, along with the development of infrastructure facilities.

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- **All laws of India are applicable in SEZs** unless specifically exempted as per the SEZ Act/ Rules. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

52.

Ans: C

Exp:

- **Article 85** of the Indian Constitution empowers the President to summon each House of Parliament at such time and place as deemed fit, ensuring that no more than six months elapse between two sessions. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Constitution of India **does not mandate** a specific location for holding Parliamentary sessions. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ◆ However, traditionally, all sessions are held at the Parliament House in New Delhi, the nation's capital.

53.

Ans: B

Exp:

IndiaStack:

- It is a **set of APIs (Application programming interface)** that allows governments, businesses, startups, and developers to utilize a unique digital infrastructure to solve India's hard problems towards presence-less, paperless, and cashless service delivery.
- ◆ India, through India Stack, became the **first country to develop all three foundational Digital Public Infrastructures (DPIs)**: Digital identity (Aadhar), Real-time fast payment (UPI), and Account Aggregator built on the Data Empowerment Protection Architecture (DEPA).
  - ◆ **DEPA creates a digital framework** that allows users to share their data on their own terms through a third-party entity, who are known as a Consent Manager.
- Hence, option B is correct.**

54.

Ans: D

Exp:

Measles:

- Measles, caused by the **Morbillivirus (RNA virus)**, is highly infectious and can lead to severe complications, including death. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ◆ It causes red rashes and is preventable through the M-R vaccine.
- The **National Zero Measles-Rubella Elimination Campaign (2025-26)**, launched during World Immunization Week, aims to eliminate Measles and Rubella in India by 2026

through 100% immunization coverage under the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- ◆ As per 2024–25, India's M-R vaccination coverage is more than 90% for the two doses of M-R vaccine provided under UIP.
- ◆ In 2024, measles cases dropped by 73% and rubella cases by 17% compared to 2023.

55.

Ans: B

Exp:

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA):

- The MGNREGA is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** for social security aimed at providing guaranteed **rural employment** in India.
- ◆ The scheme extends across the entire country, excluding districts with 100% urban populations.
- It was enacted in 2005 under the **Ministry of Rural Development as the nodal ministry**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The scheme provides at least **100 days of guaranteed wage employment** to registered adult rural households willing to undertake unskilled manual work.
- ◆ Employment is provided on demand; if not granted within 15 days, workers are **entitled to an unemployment allowance**, which is one-fourth of the minimum wage for the first 30 days and half of the minimum wage thereafter. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- A minimum of **one-third** of the beneficiaries under MGNREGA must be women. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- ◆ This provision empowers women by offering them equal access to wages and work opportunities.

56.

Ans: A

Exp:

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI):

- FSSAI is an **autonomous statutory body** established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ◆ The Act of 2006 consolidates various laws related to food, such as the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, the Fruit Products Order, 1955, the Meat Food Products Order, 1973, and other acts that were previously handled by different ministries and departments.

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- FSSAI is responsible for **protecting and promoting public health** by regulating and supervising food safety and quality in India, operating under the **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- The Chairperson, appointed by the central government, holds the rank of Secretary to the Government of India.
- FSSAI has initiated **"Diet4Life" to help people** understand about metabolic disorders. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
  - ◆ It provides a **comprehensive platform to parents, healthcare professionals, and parent support groups** to adopt the right approach towards Inborn Errors of Metabolism (IEM) management.

57.

Ans: D

Exp:

Aravalli Green Wall Project:

- The **Aravalli Green Wall Project** is a large-scale afforestation initiative that spans approximately 700 km of the Aravalli range, covering 29 districts in Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Gujarat. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
  - ◆ The goal is to restore degraded land and improve ecological health through tree plantation and green corridor development.
- The project draws inspiration from **Africa's Great Green Wall**, which aims to combat desertification in the **Sahel region**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
  - ◆ Similarly, the Aravalli Green Wall seeks to address land degradation and desertification in India by creating a continuous green belt.
- One of the key objectives of the project is to act as a **barrier against the eastward spread of the Thar Desert**, which threatens the fertile plains of northern India. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
  - ◆ The Aravalli range plays a crucial role in this ecological function.

58.

Ans: A

Exp:

Population Census:

- The 2027 Census will be the **first to include a nationwide caste enumeration since 1931**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
  - ◆ While Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) have been counted in previous censuses, this will be the first time all caste groups will be recorded post-Independence.

- The **first synchronous census** in India was held in **1881** under Census Commissioner **W.C. Plowden**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
  - ◆ Since then, it has been conducted every ten years, providing a continuous and comprehensive demographic record.
- The Census is conducted under the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, which operates under the Ministry of Home Affairs. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

59.

Ans: C

Exp:

Cyber Security:

- The **National Cyber Security Coordinator (NCSC)** operates under the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS). It is responsible for coordinating cyber security efforts across various government agencies, ensuring a unified national response to cyber threats. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The Cyber Swachhta Kendra (Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre) is operated by the Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. It provides free tools and services to help users detect and remove malware, especially botnet infections, from their systems. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

60.

Ans: C

Exp:

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI):

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** was initially established in 1988 as a **non-statutory body**. It became a **statutory body in 1992** through the enactment of the SEBI Act, 1992. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- **SEBI**, in collaboration with the **Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA)**, launched "Niveshak Shivar" to raise awareness and simplify the reclaim process for unclaimed shares and dividends. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
  - ◆ This initiative is part of broader investor education and protection efforts.

61.

Ans: B

Exp:

Restrictions on the Freedom of Speech and Expression:

- **Defamation** is explicitly mentioned in **Article 19(2)** as a valid ground for restricting freedom of speech.

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- Protection of **Scheduled Tribes is not listed** as a ground under Article 19(2).
  - ◆ While the state may enact laws for their welfare under other provisions, it is not a direct ground for restricting speech.
- Article 19, which guarantees freedom of speech and expression, was amended to allow reasonable restrictions on these rights in the interest of public order, friendly relations with foreign states, and incitement to an offence.
  - ◆ This was added by the **First Amendment Act, 1951** and is a valid ground under Article 19(2).
- **Contempt of court** is explicitly mentioned in Article 19(2) as a ground for reasonable restrictions.

Hence, option B is correct.

62.

Ans: A

Exp:

SAMARTH:

- **SAMARTH** (Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector) is a flagship skill development scheme of the Ministry of Textiles. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ It aims to provide demand-driven, placement-oriented skill development to address the shortage of skilled workers in the textile sector.
- The scheme aims to encourage and support the industry in creating jobs in the organized textile and related sectors, covering the entire value chain of textiles, excluding spinning and Weaving. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
  - ◆ The training program and curriculum have been rationalized to meet the evolving technological and market needs.

63.

Ans: C

Exp:

National Legal Services Authority (NALSA):

- **NALSA** was constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 to ensure that justice is not denied to any citizen due to economic or other disabilities.
  - ◆ Its core mission is to provide free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of society, including women, children, SC/STs, industrial workmen, victims of trafficking, and others. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- NALSA is the central coordinating authority and is responsible for issuing guidelines, monitoring, and evaluating the performance of **State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs)**, District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs), and Taluka Legal Services Committees (TLSCs). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ It ensures uniform implementation of legal aid schemes and organizes Lok Adalats, legal literacy camps, and awareness programs.

64.

Ans: A

Exp:

Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS):

- The **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** is conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). It provides key indicators to assess the employment and unemployment situation in India.
  - ◆ The key employment-unemployment indicators included in PLFS are:
    - **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR):** The percentage of people in the working-age population (15 years and above) who are either employed or actively seeking employment. It measures the extent of active workforce participation in the economy.
    - **Worker Population Ratio (WPR):** The proportion of the working-age population that is actually employed. It indicates the employment level in the population.
    - **Unemployment Rate (UR):** The percentage of people in the labour force who are unemployed and actively seeking work. It reflects the level of joblessness in the economy.
- **Gender Wage Gap:** It is **Not** included as a key indicator in PLFS. While PLFS provides gender-disaggregated data on employment and wages, it does not directly report the gender wage gap as a headline indicator.
  - ◆ Gender wage gap analysis is typically conducted through separate analytical studies or derived from wage data, not as a standard PLFS metric.

Hence, option A is correct.

65.

Ans: D

Exp:

Arctic Region:

- India's Arctic engagement began in 1920 with the signing of the Svalbard Treaty.

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- The **National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR)**, under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, is the lead agency for India's Arctic studies. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- India's Arctic **engagement began in 2007** with its first scientific expedition, focusing on biological sciences, ocean and atmospheric sciences, and glaciology.
- In 2008, India established the **Himadri Research Station** at the Svalbard Arctic research base. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ Himadri is manned for 180 days annually. India has conducted 13 Arctic expeditions since 2007.
- India became an **Observer nation of the Arctic Council** in 2013 and has actively contributed to its six Working Groups. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- India has set up its **northernmost atmospheric laboratory at Gruvebadet**, equipped to study clouds, precipitation, pollutants, and atmospheric parameters. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**

66.

Ans: B

Exp:

Process for Removal of Judges in India:

- The SC judge is removed under **Article 124(4)**, while the same process applies to High Court judges under Article 218. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968**, outlines the impeachment process for removing Supreme Court and High Court judges. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ A motion must be signed by at least **100 Lok Sabha or 50 Rajya Sabha members** and then investigated by a three-member committee of judges and jurists.
  - ◆ If found guilty, it must be approved by a two-thirds majority in both Houses of Parliament.
- The grounds for impeachment are explicitly **limited to "proved misbehaviour" and "incapacity"**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
  - ◆ **Proved Misbehavior:** Actions or conduct by a judge that breaches the ethical and professional standards of the judiciary.
  - ◆ **Incapacity:** A judge's inability to perform judicial duties due to physical or mental infirmity.

67.

Ans: D

Exp:

- **Most-Favoured-Nation (MFN) Treatment:** Under World Trade Organization (WTO) agreements, countries **must treat all trading partners equally**, meaning if a special

favor (like a lower customs duty rate) is granted to one, it must be extended to all other WTO members. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- **National treatment:** It ensures that **foreigners and locals are treated equally**, with imported and locally-produced goods, as well as foreign and domestic services, trademarks, copyrights, and patents, being subject to the same treatment once they enter the market. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

68.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs)** are the biologically active components in a drug that produce the intended therapeutic effect. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
    - ◆ They are the key ingredients responsible for treating or managing a medical condition.
  - **Biologics** are complex medicines derived from living organisms, such as vaccines, monoclonal antibodies, recombinant proteins, and cell therapies. **Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
  - **Biosimilars** are cost-effective, clinically equivalent versions of biologics developed after patent expiry. **Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.**
- Hence, option A is correct.**

69

Ans: C

Exp:

Quality Council of India (QCI)

- It was established in 1997 as an **autonomous body** under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Its Chairperson is appointed by the **Prime Minister** based on industry recommendations. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It aims to **develop and manage the National Accreditation Structure (NAS)** for conformity assessment bodies in sectors like health, education, and quality promotion.
- National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB) and National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) are the 2 accreditation boards of the QCI.
- QCI has launched the revamped NABL Portal and **Gunvatta Samarpan Initiative** to enhance digital accreditation access for MSMEs and promote public commitment to quality standards. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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70.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Nickel extraction is a **multi-step, energy-intensive process that utilizes carbon** to eliminate oxygen from nickel oxide, resulting in the production of pure nickel and carbon dioxide emissions. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Nickel, a key component in lithium-ion batteries for Electric Vehicles (EVs), plays a vital role in clean energy, but its **carbon-intensive extraction poses** hidden environmental costs. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ Producing just one tonne of nickel can result in **more than 20 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions.**
  - ◆ So while EVs reduce emissions during operation, the process of sourcing materials like nickel simply shifts the pollution burden from the transportation sector to the mining and processing sector, among others.
- India has **substantial nickel laterite reserves**, particularly in Odisha's Sukinda region. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
  - ◆ These deposits, containing 0.4-0.9% nickel as nickeliferous limonite in chromite mine overburden, are often overlooked because traditional methods require higher-grade ores.

71.

Ans: C

Exp:

Delimitation Commission:

- It is a **high-powered 3-member body** whose orders have the force of law and cannot be called in question before any court. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It includes **two Supreme Court or High Court judges**, one appointed as chairman by the central government, and the Chief Election Commissioner as an ex-officio member. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Its orders are **presented to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies** but cannot be modified. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- It has the powers of a civil court.
- It has been set up four times till February 2024 i.e., 1952, 1963, 1973 and 2002.

72.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The **UN General Assembly elects 10 non-permanent members** to the Security Council for two-year terms, with

seats distributed regionally: 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. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The UNSC remains the **only UN body** whose decisions member states are obligated to implement under the UN Charter. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ The United Nations Security Council (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.
- **Pakistan** has been appointed as the Chair of the UNSC 1988 Taliban Sanctions Committee for 2025 and will also serve as vice-chair of the UNSC Counter-Terrorism Committee during its **2025–26 tenure as a non-permanent member of the Council.** **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

73.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016:** Introduced **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** for plastic producers, raising plastic carry bag thickness to 50 microns.
- **Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2018:** Phased out **non-recyclable multi-layered plastics (MLP)** and introduced a registration system for producers under CPCB, enhancing accountability in plastic waste management.
- **Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021:** Banned single-use plastics (SUPs) by 2022 and **increased plastic bag thickness to 120 microns.**
  - ◆ Strengthened EPR rules for packaging waste, promoting recycling and design for reuse.
- **Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2022:** Set mandatory recycling and reuse targets with environmental compensation for non-compliance.
  - ◆ Promoted a **circular economy approach** for plastic recovery and reuse.
- **Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2024:** Defined registration, reporting, and certification requirements for manufacturers.
  - ◆ Introduced **certification for biodegradable plastics** and mandates reporting of pre-consumer plastic waste.

**Hence, option A is correct.**

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74.

Ans: C

Exp:

Bar Council of India (BCI):

- It is a **statutory and autonomous body**, established under the **Advocates Act, 1961**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- BCI regulates the legal education and legal practice in India and exercises disciplinary authority over advocates. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- The Bar Council of India (BCI) is composed of **elected members** from each State Bar Council, serving a five-year term.
  - ◆ In addition to the elected members, the BCI includes two ex-officio members: the **Attorney General of India** and the **Solicitor General of India**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
  - The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the BCI are elected from among its members for a two-year term.

75.

Ans: B

Exp:

Monetary Policy Committee:

- It is a **statutory and institutional framework** established under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, as recommended by the Urjit Patel Committee in 2014. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The Governor of the **RBI is ex officio Chairman** of the committee. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- The MPC sets the repo rate to meet the inflation target of  $4\% \pm 2\%$ . Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

76.

Ans: D

Exp:

Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC):

- A CBDC is a **legal tender** issued by a central bank in digital form. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
  - ◆ Unlike private cryptocurrencies, CBDCs are backed by the central bank, ensuring stability and trust.
  - ◆ It is the **same as a fiat currency** and is exchangeable one-to-one with the fiat currency.
    - A fiat currency is a national currency that is not pegged to the price of a commodity such as gold or silver.
- The digital fiat currency or CBDC can be transacted using wallets **backed by blockchain**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

- ◆ Though the concept of CBDCs was directly inspired by Bitcoin, it is different from decentralised virtual currencies and crypto assets, which are **not issued by the state** and lack the 'legal tender' status.

77.

Ans: D

Exp:

Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDP Act), 2023:

- **Right to Data Protection:** Empowers individuals to control their personal data, including rights to access, correction, and erasure.
- **Data Processing and Consent:** Requires explicit consent for data processing, with clear consent forms.
- **Data Localisation:** Sensitive data must be stored and processed within India for security and enforcement.
- **Regulatory Authority:** Establishes the DPBI for compliance and grievance handling.
- **Data Breach Notification:** Organisations must notify individuals and the DPBI of data breaches.
- **Fines and Penalties:** Strict penalties for non-compliance to enforce data protection standards.

Hence, option D is correct.

78.

Ans: A

Exp:

Criteria for Granting Classical Language Status:

- In 2004, the Government of India decided to create a new category of languages called "**classical languages**".
- The criteria were revised in 2024 as follows:
  - ◆ High antiquity of its early texts/recorded history over a period of 1500- 2000 years.
  - ◆ A body of ancient literature/texts, which is considered a heritage by generations of speakers.
  - ◆ Knowledge texts, especially prose texts, in addition to poetry, epigraphical and inscriptional evidence.
  - ◆ The Classical Languages and literature could be distinct from their current form or could be discontinuous with later forms of their offshoots.

Hence, option A is correct.

79.

Ans: B

Exp:

Simla Agreement:

- The Simla Agreement **originated from the 1971 Indo-Pakistani War**, which ultimately led to the **establishment of Bangladesh's independence**. India's military intervention played a significant role in reshaping the South Asian geopolitical landscape.

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- The agreement was negotiated by Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Pakistan's President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, aiming to establish peace and **normalize relations between the two nations** after the conflict.
- One of India's primary **objectives was to resolve the Kashmir dispute bilaterally and prevent Pakistan from taking the issue to international forums.**
- The agreement **aimed to foster better relations between India and Pakistan**, taking into account the shift in regional power dynamics following the 1971 war.

Hence, option B is correct.

80.

Ans: A

Exp:

Consequences of Reduction in Repo Rate:

- Lower repo rate reduces bank borrowing costs, leading to cheaper loans for consumers and businesses.
  - ◆ Repo rate is the rate at which the **central bank of a country (Reserve Bank of India) lends money to commercial banks** in the event of any shortfall of funds. Here, the central bank purchases the security.
- Lower repo rate **increases money supply**, boosting liquidity, which encourages investment and spending.
- A reduction in the Repo rate **leads to lower interest rates on savings accounts**, not higher, as banks have lower borrowing costs.
- Lower repo rate **increases money supply** and reduces interest rates, leading to a depreciation of the currency.

Hence, option A is correct.

81.

Ans: D

Exp:

Initiatives taken by the Government of India to Curb Child Labour:

- **Right to Education Act (2009):** It added Article 21A to the Constitution which recognizes education as a fundamental right of every child and provides for **free and compulsory education to all children aged 6 to 14 years.** Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act (1986):** Bans the employment of children below **14 years and adolescents below 18 years in hazardous occupations and processes.** **Child labour is not banned in all forms**, children can work as artists in films, TV, advertisements, or sports (excluding circuses), etc. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**
- **The Factories Act (1948):** Prohibits the employment of children below 14 years of age in **any hazardous environment** and restricts the working hours and

conditions of adolescents (14 to 18 years) who are allowed to work only in non-hazardous processes. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct.**

- **National Policy on Child Labour (1987):** Aims to eradicate child labour by prohibiting and regulating it, providing welfare and development programmes for children and their families, and ensuring the education and rehabilitation of working children.

- ◆ **National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme:** It seeks to provide non-formal education, vocational training, mid-day meal, stipend and health care to the rescued children and then mainstream them into formal schooling system.

- **Pencil Portal:** The platform aims at engaging the Central Government, State Government, District, civil society and the public in eradicating child labour to achieve the target of a child labour free society. It was launched by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

82.

Ans: C

Exp:

Ranthambore Tiger Reserve:

- Ranthambore Tiger Reserve lies in the eastern part of Rajasthan state in Karauli and Sawai Madhopur districts, at the junction of the **Aravali and Vindhya hill ranges.**
  - ◆ It was declared a Tiger reserve in 1973.
- It comprises **Ranthambore National Park, Sawai madhopur Sanctuary, Keladevi sanctuary**, part of **National Gharial Sanctuary** etc.
- **Flora:** The region is predominantly covered with **Dhok trees (*Anogeissus pendula*)**, which constitute the primary vegetation type.
- **Fauna:** The reserve hosts a rich diversity of wildlife, including the **Royal Bengal Tiger, leopards, Indian wild boars, chital**, and avian species such as the **serpent eagle, waterfowl, cormorant, painted spurfowl**, and **sarus crane.**

Hence, option C is correct.

83.

Ans: C

Exp:

Chenab Rail Bridge:

- The **Chenab Rail Bridge** is an integral part of the **Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link (USBRL)** project. This ambitious railway line is designed to connect the **Kashmir Valley with the rest of India**, enhancing connectivity and boosting economic development in the region. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

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- The bridge is the **world's highest railway arch bridge**, with a height of 359 meters (1,178 feet) above the Chenab River. This makes it **taller than the Eiffel Tower**, which stands at approximately 300 meters (984 feet). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **Chenab Bridge** has been **engineered for a lifespan of 120 years**. It is built to withstand **wind speeds up to 260 km/h**, as well as **seismic activity**, making it a marvel of modern engineering.

84.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** is an organization of 190 member countries, each of which has representation on the IMF's **executive board in proportion** to its financial importance, so that the most powerful countries in the global economy have the most voting power.
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF), also known as the Fund, was conceived at the **United Nations Bretton Woods Conference in New Hampshire, USA, in July 1944**, following the **Great Depression**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Finance Minister of India is the **ex-officio Governor on the Board of Governors** of the IMF. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
  - ◆ The RBI Governor is the Alternate Governor at the IMF. India is represented at the IMF by an Executive Director.
- **Providing financial assistance to member countries with balance of payments problems**, the IMF lends money to replenish international reserves, stabilize currencies and strengthen conditions for economic growth. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
  - ◆ Countries must embark on structural adjustment policies monitored by the IMF.

85.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 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.

- The WTO is not a UN specialized agency, it has maintained strong relations with the UN and its agencies since its establishment. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

- ◆ The **WTO-UN relations are governed by the "Arrangements for Effective Cooperation with other Intergovernmental Organizations-Relations** between the WTO and the United Nations" signed on 15 November 1995.

- The General Council is the WTO's highest-level decision-making body located in Geneva, meeting regularly to carry out the functions of the WTO. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

- ◆ It has **representatives (usually ambassadors or equivalent) from all member governments** and has the authority to act on behalf of the ministerial conference which only meets about every two years.

86.

Ans: A

Exp:

- In India, **financial constraints emerge as a major obstacle to reproductive autonomy**. Nearly **40% of individuals** report that economic limitations hinder their ability to have the families they desire. Additionally, **job insecurity (21%), housing challenges (22%), and inadequate access to reliable childcare (18%)** further contribute to making **parenthood increasingly unattainable**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)** released the **2025 State of World Population Report**, titled **'The Real Fertility Crisis: The Pursuit of Reproductive Agency in a Changing World'**, urging a focus on fulfilling reproductive goals instead of fearing declining fertility. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ The report is based on research and a **UNFPA-YouGov** survey across 14 countries, including India.
- India has made **progress in lowering fertility rates**—from nearly **five children per woman in 1970 to about two today**—through improved education and access to reproductive healthcare. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ This has led to major reductions in maternal mortality, meaning millions more mothers are alive today, raising children and building communities.
- The **State of World Population 2025** report highlights that India's **Total Fertility Rate (TFR)** has **fallen below the replacement level of 2.1 children per woman**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

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- ◆ The current national average stands at **1.9**, reflecting significant **regional disparities**. In comparison, India's **National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 2019–21** had earlier reported a TFR of **2.0**.

87.

Ans: B

Exp:

Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS):

- The CCTS is a **market-based mechanism** introduced to regulate and trade carbon credits under the Indian Carbon Market (ICM). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ◆ The CCTS aims to **decarbonize the Indian economy** by pricing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and facilitating carbon trading.
- CCTS replaced the **Perform, Achieve, and Trade (PAT) scheme**, shifting the focus from energy intensity to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emission intensity by monitoring emissions per tonne of GHG equivalent. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ◆ The PAT scheme focused on energy efficiency improvements in energy-intensive industries through **Energy Saving Certificates (ESCs)**.
- It is managed by **multiple government bodies**, including the **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)** and the National Steering Committee for Indian Carbon Market (NSCIM). **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

88.

Ans: C

Exp:

Critical Minerals:

- **China's increasing control over critical minerals** vital for high-tech industries is heightening global economic and geopolitical tensions. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Their limited availability and concentration in a few regions can lead to **supply chain vulnerabilities** and disrupt key industries. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Government of India has identified **30 critical minerals** based on resource availability, import dependency, and their importance for future technologies, clean energy, and agriculture through a three-stage assessment process. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- ◆ This list includes lithium, cobalt, nickel, rare earth elements, titanium, molybdenum, and vanadium, among others.

89.

Ans: B

Exp:

Dark Patterns:

- Dark Patterns are **manipulative design techniques** used in user interfaces (UI) and user experiences (UX) on websites, apps, or digital platforms, which are deliberately crafted to deceive, mislead, or pressure consumers into actions they may not have intended to take.

- ◆ The term "dark patterns" was introduced in 2010 by user experience expert Harry Brignull.

- It exploits user behavior to **serve business interests**, undermining consumer autonomy, transparency, and fair trade principles.

Hence, option B is correct.

90.

Ans: C

Exp:

Competition Commission of India (CCI):

- It is a quasi-judicial body and is responsible for enforcing the Competition Act, 2002. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It reviews **mergers, acquisitions**, and combinations to prevent anti-competitive outcomes. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **"Green Channel" mechanism** allows for automatic approval of low-risk combinations, but most deals still face lengthy reviews, especially if market dominance is a concern. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

91.

Ans: A

Exp:

Total Fertility Rate (TFR):

- The **TFR represents the average number of children a woman would have between the ages of 15-49**, assuming current fertility rates and no mortality. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- A TFR of **2.1 is considered the replacement level**, where each generation replaces itself without significant population growth or decline. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ◆ A TFR lower than 2.1, however, can lead to negative population growth, potentially causing long-term demographic challenges, including an ageing population.
- As per the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) (2019-21), the **TFR has declined to 2.0 children per woman** from 2.2 children per woman (NFHS-4) (2015-16). **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

92.

Ans: A

Exp:

Invasive Alien Species:

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- Invasive alien species, also known as invasive exotic species or non-native species, refer to organisms that have been **introduced to regions or ecosystems outside of their native range** and have established self-sustaining populations. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- These species often outcompete native species and **disrupt the balance of ecosystems**, leading to a range of negative impacts. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

93.

Ans: C

Exp:

- **Article 6 of the Paris Agreement** provides for the use of international carbon markets by countries to fulfill their NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Compliance markets, regulated by national, regional, or international policies, primarily operate under the **'cap-and-trade' principle**, most notably in the European Union (EU). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- A carbon credit is a tradable certificate that, according to United Nations standards, represents the removal, reduction, or sequestration of one tonne of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
  - ◆ Carbon allowances or caps, meanwhile, are determined by countries or governments according to their emission reduction targets.

94.

Ans: B

Exp:

Critical Minerals:

- The Government of India has identified 30 critical minerals based on **resource availability, import dependency**, and their importance for future technologies, clean energy, and agriculture through a three-stage assessment process.
  - ◆ These minerals are Antimony, Beryllium, Bismuth, Cobalt, Copper, Gallium, Germanium, Graphite, Hafnium, Indium, Lithium, Molybdenum, Niobium, Nickel, PGE, Phosphorous, Potash, REE, Rhenium, Silicon, Strontium, Tantalum, Tellurium, Tin, Titanium, Tungsten, Vanadium, Zirconium, Selenium and Cadmium.

Hence, option B is correct.

95.

Ans: A

Exp:

Consumer Price Index (CPI):

- The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** is a key **economic indicator** that measures changes in the overall level of retail prices over time. In India, the **CPI** is prepared by the

**National Statistical Office (NSO)** under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** and is currently calculated using the **base year 2012**.

- ◆ Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** reflects how much households need to spend on a **fixed basket of goods and services** they typically consume, such as food, clothing, housing, and fuel.

- ◆ **Updates to the basket typically occur when the base year is revised**, which happens periodically to reflect changes in consumption patterns.

- ◆ **Real-time updates are not feasible** due to the **complexity** and scale of data collection. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- Originally, the CPI was designed to **track cost-of-living changes for workers** so that their **wages could be adjusted according to price movements**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

- ◆ **Over time**, however, it has evolved into an important **macroeconomic tool**. Today, the CPI serves as a key benchmark for targeting inflation, maintaining price stability, and **guiding the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy**. It also functions as a deflator in the National Accounts to estimate real economic growth.

96.

Ans: D

Exp:

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA):

- IAEA is an intergovernmental organisation that seeks to promote the **peaceful use of nuclear energy** and to **inhibit its use for any military purpose**, including nuclear weapons. It was **established in 1957** as the world's **"Atoms for Peace"** organisation within the UN, and governed by its own founding treaty - the Statute of the IAEA. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The IAEA has the authority to **report non-compliance** with safeguards agreements to both the **UN Security Council** and the **UN General Assembly**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ This is part of its role in ensuring that nuclear materials are not diverted for weapons use.
- The **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** has been granted expanded access to **India's civilian nuclear program**, allowing for more rigorous verification of its peaceful use. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
  - ◆ This increased access is a result of India ratifying the Additional Protocol (AP). The AP provides the IAEA with greater access to India's civilian nuclear facilities for inspection and verification purposes.

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97.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The **Red Sea**, stretching nearly 2,000 km, **connects the Mediterranean Sea to the Indian Ocean** through the narrow **Suez Canal**. Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.
  - ◆ Before the canal was built, ships had to sail around South Africa's Cape of Good Hope to travel between Europe and Asia.
- The **Panama Canal links the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans** through the narrow **Isthmus of Panama**. Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.
  - ◆ Alongside the Suez Canal, it is among the **world's most strategically vital artificial waterways**. For ships sailing between the US east and west coasts, it shortens the route by about 8,000 nautical miles, eliminating the hazardous voyage around Cape Horn.
- The **Strait of Hormuz connects the Gulf to the north with the Gulf of Oman** and the Arabian Sea to the south. Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.
  - ◆ It is **located between Oman and Iran**. At its narrowest, it is 21 miles (33 km) wide, with shipping lanes only about two miles (three km) wide in each direction. This vital passage **handles 20–25% of global oil shipments** and serves as a crucial route for LNG exports from Qatar and the UAE, with Qatar being a major LNG supplier to India.

Hence, option B is correct.

98.

Ans: D

Exp:

National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM):

- The National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) was officially launched in **April 2025** by the **Government of India**. Its primary goal is to establish a robust framework for self-reliance in the critical mineral sector. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
  - ◆ This includes reducing import dependency, securing long-term availability, and strengthening domestic exploration, processing, and recycling capabilities.
- Critical minerals such as **silicon, tellurium, indium, and gallium** are **vital for the production of photovoltaic (PV) cells used in solar panels**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
  - ◆ India's current solar capacity of **64 GW** is heavily dependent on these minerals.
- A committee set up by the **Ministry of Mines** in November 2022 **identified 30 critical minerals**, of which **24 were**

**added to Part D of Schedule I of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act). Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

- ◆ This inclusion gives the Central Government exclusive powers to auction mining leases and composite licences for these minerals.

99.

Ans: B

Exp:

Regional Rural Banks (RRBs):

- Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) began with five banks on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1975, and have grown remarkably since then.
  - ◆ They are jointly owned by the **Central Government, state governments, and sponsor banks** in a **50:15:35 ratio**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
  - ◆ The sponsors are state-run, private, and cooperative banks, and they provide managerial support to RRBs by deputing the chairman and other senior functionaries.
- These banks **operate across all Indian states, except for Goa, Sikkim, and a few Union territories**. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- During the expansion phase, the number of RRBs rose to 196, followed by two decades of multi-phase consolidation. With the **'One State, One RRB'** policy taking effect from 1<sup>st</sup> May 1 2025, their number will **reduce to 28**. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
  - ◆ It will be supported by a branch network of over 22,000 — the **largest after the State Bank of India**. However, while these consolidations have improved agility, they have also posed integration challenges.

100.

Ans: D

Exp:

Airports Authority of India (AAI):

- The Airports Authority of India (AAI) is a statutory body under the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India. It was established in 1995 through the merger of the **National Airports Authority** and the **International Airports Authority of India**, under the **AAI Act, 1994**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- AAI is responsible for **Communication, Navigation, Surveillance, and Air Traffic Management (CNS/ATM)** services across Indian airspace.
  - ◆ These operations are conducted in compliance with the **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)** standards, which ensure global safety and interoperability in civil aviation. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

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- AAI has established the **Civil Aviation Research Organization (CARO)** at **Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad** to upgrade and enhance the Research and Development (R&D) activities in the civil aviation sector. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
  - ◆ It is envisaged to provide a global research platform for the aviation community through in-house and collaborative research to provide indigenous and innovative solutions.

101.

Ans: A

Exp:

- In June 2025, **Israel launched Operation "Rising Lion"** as a large-scale, pre-planned military offensive **aimed at dismantling Iran's nuclear and missile capabilities.**
  - This operation marked a major escalation in the **historic Jewish–Persian rivalry** and leveraged Israel's doctrine of short, **technology-driven, high-intensity warfare.**
- Hence, option A is correct.**

102.

Ans: A

Exp:

Aditya-L1:

- **Aditya-L1** is **India's first space-based solar observatory**, launched by ISRO on **2<sup>nd</sup> September 2023**. The mission is designed to study the **chromosphere and corona**, the outer layers of the Sun's atmosphere, and aims to understand phenomena like coronal heating, solar flares, and coronal mass ejections (CMEs). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ It is placed in a halo orbit around the Sun-Earth Lagrange Point 1 (L1), about 1.5 million km from Earth, which allows continuous observation of the Sun without any eclipses or occultation.
- The payloads were **developed by different Indian scientific laboratories**, including the **Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA)**, the **Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA)**, and the **ISRO**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
  - ◆ Other public sector institutions such as four Kerala-based public sector undertakings – Keltron, Steel and Industrial Forgings Ltd, Travancore Cochin Chemicals, and Kerala Automobiles Ltd – also contributed to the Aditya-L1 mission.

103.

Ans: D

Exp:

Indian Monsoon:

- The **Western Ghats**, especially the windward side (western slopes), are among the first regions in India to receive rainfall from the Southwest Monsoon. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ As the **monsoon winds hit the Kerala coast**, they rise over the Western Ghats, causing orographic rainfall.
  - ◆ This typically happens in early June, making the **Western Ghats one of the first recipients of monsoon rains.**
- The **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** officially marks the onset of the Southwest Monsoon over **Kerala around 1<sup>st</sup> June**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ This **onset is a key indicator of the beginning of the summer monsoon season** in India. The monsoon then gradually advances northward across the subcontinent.
- The **Northeast Monsoon** (also called the **retreating monsoon**) occurs from October to December, which is the **onset of winter in India**. It brings significant rainfall to the southeastern coast, especially **Tamil Nadu**, which receives over 50% of its annual rainfall during this period. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
  - ◆ This is due to **northeasterly winds picking up moisture from the Bay of Bengal** and causing rainfall along the coast.

104.

Ans: A

Exp:

Indus Waters Treaty:

- The **Indus Waters Treaty was signed in Karachi in 1960** and mediated by the **World Bank**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ It is a landmark agreement between **India and Pakistan** that governs the sharing of the **Indus River system** by allocating **three rivers** each to ensure fair use for agriculture, domestic, and industrial needs.
- According to the Indus Waters Treaty, **Pakistan** has exclusive rights to use the **western rivers Indus, Jhelum and Chenab**, while **India** has exclusive rights to use the **eastern rivers Ravi, Beas and Sutlej** without restriction. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The Indus Waters Treaty established a **Permanent Indus Commission** comprising **commissioners from both India and Pakistan** to oversee the treaty's implementation and resolve issues. The treaty also outlines a **three-tiered dispute resolution mechanism**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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- ◆ It begins with bilateral negotiations between the commissioners, followed by the option of referring technical matters to a Neutral Expert appointed by the **World Bank**, and, for more serious disputes, **escalation to a Court of Arbitration**.

## The Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)

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

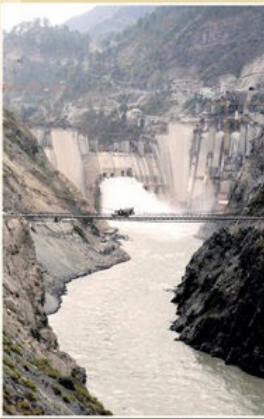
■ Was signed on Sept 19, 1960, between India, Pakistan and a representative of World Bank after eight years of negotiations.

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

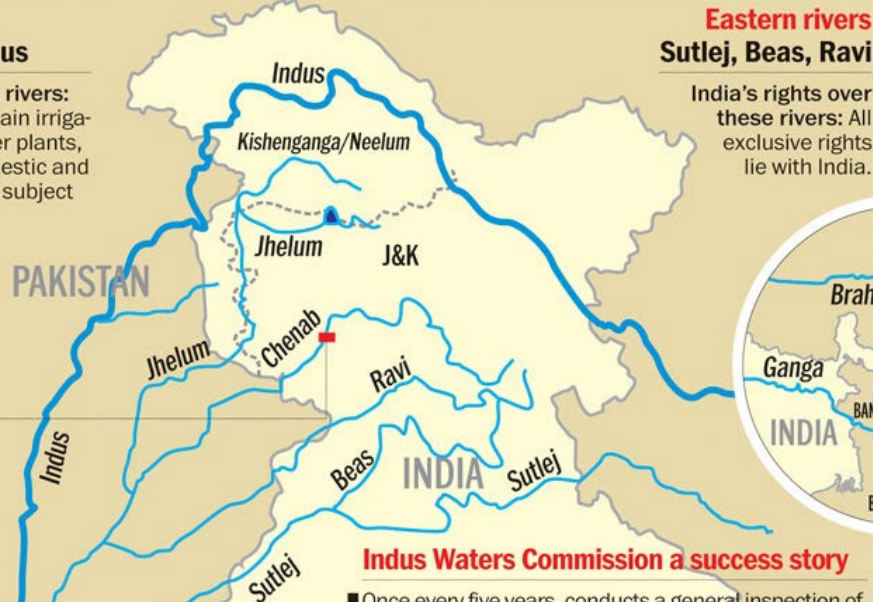
### Western rivers

#### Chenab, Jhelum, Indus

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



Baglihar dam on Chenab



### Eastern rivers

#### Sutlej, Beas, Ravi

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

### Indus Waters Commission a success story

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

105.

Ans: C

Exp:

India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC):

- The IMEC is a **strategic multi-modal connectivity** initiative launched through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) **during the G20 Summit 2023 in New Delhi**.

- ◆ It was signed between the **European Union** and **seven countries**, namely India, the US, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), France, Germany, and Italy. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- **IMEC** seeks to position itself as a viable alternative to **China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)** by promoting transparent, sustainable, and debt-free infrastructure without compromising national sovereignty. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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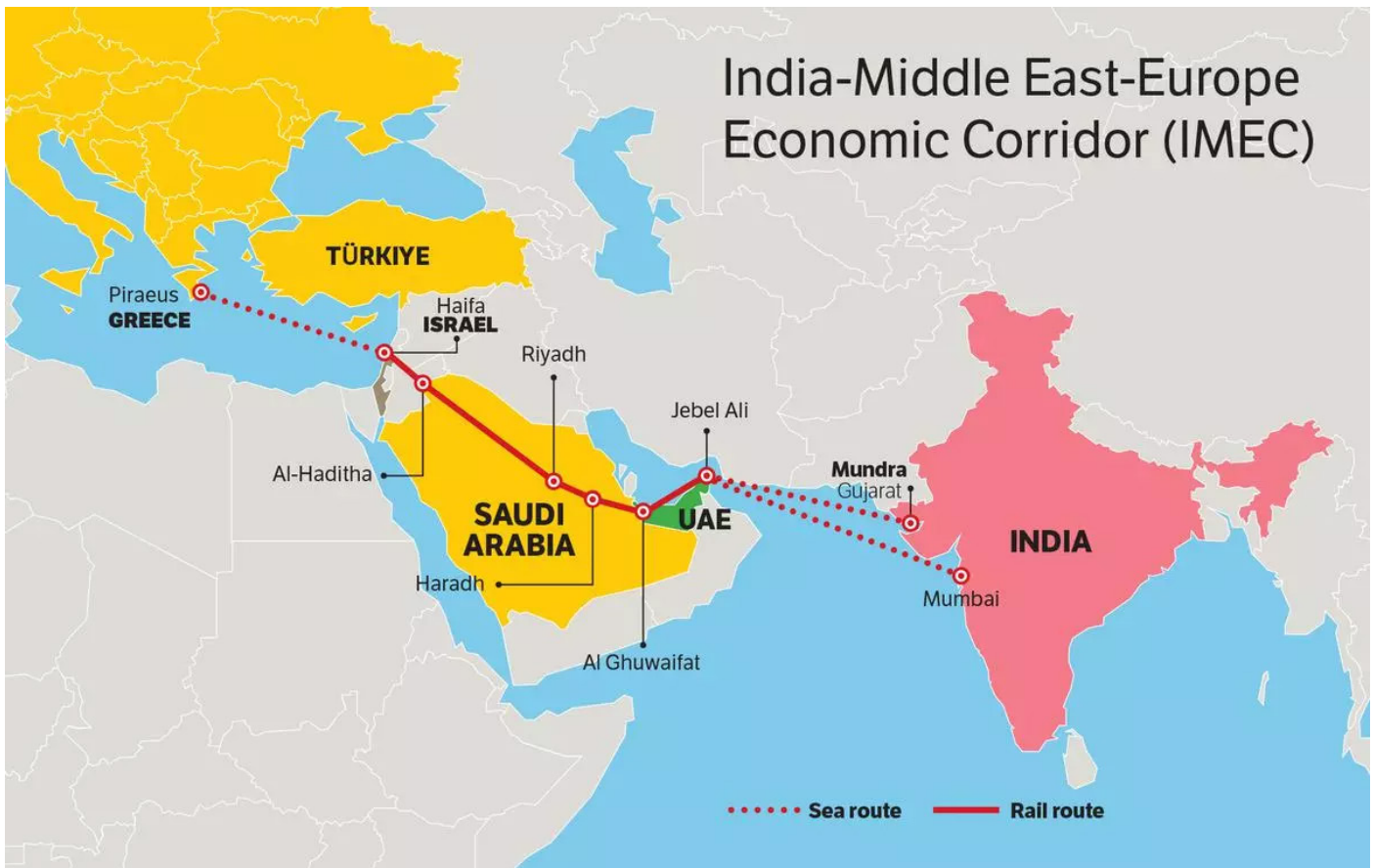


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## India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)



106.

Ans: C

Exp:

Strait of Malacca:

- The **Strait of Malacca** is a narrow stretch of water that serves as a crucial maritime passage. It connects the **Andaman Sea (part of the northeastern Indian Ocean) to the South China Sea, which is part of the western Pacific Ocean.** Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ This makes it one of the most important shipping lanes in the world, especially for trade between Europe, the Middle East, and East Asia.
- Geographically, the **Strait of Malacca** is bordered **on the east** by the **Indonesian island of Sumatra** and **on the west** by **Peninsular Malaysia** and the **southern part of Thailand.** Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ This positioning makes it a vital strategic chokepoint for global maritime traffic, serving as one of the world's busiest and most significant sea routes.

107.

Ans: A

Exp:

Global Gender Gap Index 2025:

- According to the **Global Gender Gap Index 2025** released by the **World Economic Forum (WEF)**, India ranks 131st out of 148 countries, slipping from 129th in 2024. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ With a **parity score of just 64.1%**, it remains one of the lowest-ranked countries in South Asia.
- The Index evaluates gender parity in a country across four areas: **economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, health and survival, and political empowerment.** Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ Although India's performance in three of these areas is stable or has shown slight improvement, the substantial shortfall in political empowerment continues to drag down its overall ranking.
- India has recorded a **decline in the political empowerment category** since the last assessment. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct.**
  - ◆ Female representation in Parliament decreased from 14.7% to 13.8% in 2025, lowering this indicator for the second consecutive year compared to 2023 levels.
  - ◆ Similarly, the proportion of women in ministerial positions dropped from 6.5% to 5.6%, continuing the downward trend observed since 2023.

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108.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **Habeas Corpus** means “to have the body of.” It is issued to produce a person who has been detained unlawfully before the court. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
  - ◆ The court examines the legality of the detention and can order release if it is found illegal.
- **Mandamus** means “we command.” It is issued to direct a public official or authority to perform a duty they are legally bound to perform. **Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
- **Prohibition** means “to forbid.” It is issued by a higher court to a lower court or tribunal to stop it from continuing proceedings beyond its jurisdiction. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**
  - ◆ It is preventive in nature.
- **Quo Warranto** means “by what authority.” It is issued to inquire into the legality of a person’s claim to a public office. **Hence, pair 4 is not correctly matched.**

Hence, option B is correct.

109.

Ans: B

Exp:

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):

- The Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) process was formally introduced in India through a notification issued on **27<sup>th</sup> January 1994**, under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ This notification made it mandatory for 29 categories of projects to obtain environmental clearance before commencement.
  - ◆ It marked the beginning of a structured EIA process in India, including public participation and expert review.
- The **Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC)** is a **recommendation body**. It evaluates the EIA reports and makes recommendations to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
  - ◆ The **final environmental clearance is granted by the MoEFCC**, based on EAC’s recommendations. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Under the EIA Notification 2006 (which refined the 1994 framework):
  - ◆ **Category A projects** (large-scale or high-impact) require mandatory prior environmental clearance from the central government and do not undergo a screening process.

- ◆ **Category B projects** are smaller or less impactful and are subject to a screening process by the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) to determine whether a full EIA is required.

- ◆ **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

110.

Ans: C

Exp:

- **Nominal GDP** is calculated using current market prices, without adjusting for inflation. As a result, it tends to be **higher than Real GDP when inflation is present**. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
  - ◆ It reflects the actual monetary value of goods and services produced.
- **Real GDP is adjusted for inflation** to reflect the true volume of production. It **uses a GDP deflator** to convert nominal GDP into real terms. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
  - ◆ This allows for year-to-year comparisons without the distortion of price changes.
- **GDP at Purchasing Power Parity (PPP)** **adjusts for differences in price levels between countries**. It reflects what people can actually buy with their income in their local economy.
  - ◆ Therefore, it is very **useful for comparing living standards and economic productivity across nations**. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**

Hence, option C is correct.

111.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **Deendayal Port**, formerly known as **Kandla Port**, is located in **Gujarat**. **Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
  - ◆ It is situated on the western coast of India, near the **Gulf of Kutch**. It is one of the **major ports** of India.
- **Paradip Port** is located in the state of **Odisha**, on the eastern coast of India. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
  - ◆ It is one of the **major ports** of India and handles a large volume of cargo.
- **Haldia Port** is located in **West Bengal**, near the mouth of the **Hooghly River**. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**
  - ◆ It serves as a major **trade gateway for eastern India**. It is a major port, though it functions as a part of the Kolkata Port Trust.

Hence, option B is correct.

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112.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** is one of the **six principal organs of the United Nations** and is permanently **headquartered in New York City, USA**, at the UN Headquarters. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **As of 2025**, India has served as a **non-permanent member of the UNSC on eight occasions**: 1950–51, 1967–68, 1972–73, 1977–78, 1984–85, 1991–92, 2011–12, and 2021–22. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The **United Nations** was established by the **Charter of the United Nations** and the **Statute of the International Court of Justice**. The Charter was signed on **26<sup>th</sup> June 1945** by the representatives of **50 countries including India**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

113.

Ans: D

Exp:

Removal of a Judge:

- The **Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968** provides the **detailed procedure for the investigation and removal of judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ It lays down the process for inquiry, investigation, and motion in Parliament.
- Under **Articles 124 and 218**, judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts can be **removed by the President** on grounds of **“proven misbehaviour” or “incapacity”** after a motion is passed by both Houses of Parliament. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The motion for the removal of a judge must be passed by two conditions: first, by a **majority of the total membership of each House**, and second, by a majority of **not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

114.

Ans: A

Exp:

Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR):

- The Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) is the percentage of a **bank's total deposits that must be kept with the RBI in the form of liquid cash**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ This is a **regulatory requirement** to ensure that banks maintain a minimum level of liquidity and financial stability.
  - ◆ The RBI uses CRR as a monetary policy tool to control inflation and liquidity in the economy.

- **Banks do not earn any interest** on the amount maintained as **CRR** with the RBI. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
  - ◆ This is one reason why CRR is considered a **cost to banks**, as it locks up funds that could otherwise be used for lending or investment.

115.

Ans: D

Exp:

Jordan Valley:

- The **Jordan Valley** is part of the **Great Rift Valley system**, which extends from **Lebanon to Mozambique**. It is a rift valley, formed by tectonic plate movements. Geographically, it lies in the **Middle East, which is in southwestern Asia**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Jordan River flows through the valley and acts as a **natural boundary between Jordan (to the east) and Israel and the West Bank (to the west)**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **Dead Sea**, situated in the southern part of the Jordan Valley, is the **lowest natural point on Earth's surface**, at approximately 430 meters below sea level. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

116.

Ans: A

Exp:

- According to the **Centralized Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Portal for Plastic Packaging maintained by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)**:
  - ◆ Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) regime is under implementation in Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, according to which it is the **responsibility of Producers, Importers and Brand-owners (PIBOs)** to ensure processing of their plastic packaging waste through recycling, re-use or end-of-life disposal (such as co-processing/Waste-to-energy)

**Hence, option A is correct.**

117.

Ans: D

Exp:

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016:

- The **IBC, 2016** indeed provides a **time-bound resolution process** for insolvency cases. **For corporate insolvency resolution, the initial time limit is 180 days**, which can be extended by 90 days, making a total of 270 days. However, due to judicial delays, the maximum cap is 330 days, including litigation time. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

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- The **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)** is the adjudicating authority for **insolvency proceedings related to companies**, while the **Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT)** is responsible for handling insolvency resolutions for individuals and partnership firms (excluding limited liability partnerships). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)**, established under the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016**, is a **statutory body** responsible for formulating and enforcing rules for insolvency and bankruptcy resolution of corporate persons, partnership firms, and individuals in India. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

118.

Ans: C

Exp:

Human Trafficking:

- **Article 23(1)** of the Constitution of India states that **traffic in human beings** and **begar** and other similar forms of **forced labour** are prohibited and any contravention of this provision shall be an offence punishable in accordance with law. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act (ITPA), 1956** is the primary legislation in India aimed at preventing and combating trafficking for **commercial sexual exploitation**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ It criminalizes running or managing a brothel, living off the earnings of prostitution and procuring or inducing a person for prostitution. It is focused on organized sex trafficking, especially of women and children.

119.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The G7 is an **informal group** of seven advanced economies—France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK, the US, and Canada—formed in 1975 in response to the oil crisis (Canada joined in 1976). **Hence, statement 1 not is correct.**
- The 2025 G-7 Outreach Summit, hosted by Canada, is themed around three pillars: protecting global communities, building energy security and accelerating the digital transition, and securing the partnerships of the future. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- India endorsed the Kananaskis Wildfire Charter at the 2025 G7 Summit, aligning with its commitment to halt and reverse global deforestation and forest and land degradation by 2030. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

- ◆ This Charter builds on the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use (2021), reinforcing global cooperation in tackling wildfires and protecting forest ecosystems.

120.

Ans: D

Exp:

- Article 280 of the Indian Constitution mandates the President to constitute a Finance Commission within two years of the Constitution's commencement and every five years thereafter, or earlier if necessary. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The recommendations of the Finance Commission are **advisory in nature and not binding on the Union government**. However, they are usually accepted with minor modifications or deviations. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The 15th Finance Commission reintroduced the tax effort criterion to reward states with higher tax collection efficiency. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

121.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The National Mission for a Green India or the commonly called Green India Mission (GIM), is one of the eight Missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). It aims to protect and enhance forest cover, safeguard biodiversity and livelihoods, and address climate change through adaptation and mitigation. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The GIM aims to create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 -- 3 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent through afforestation on degraded lands, wastelands, and along railways and highways. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

122.

Ans: A

Exp:

- India ranked 6<sup>th</sup> globally in WIPO's World Intellectual Property Indicators (WIPI) 2024, reflecting a rapidly growing IP ecosystem. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- India spends only 0.7% of GDP on R&D, far behind Israel (6.3%), South Korea (5%), USA (3.4%), and China (2.6%). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The ANRF, established under the ANRF Act 2023, aims to promote R&D and innovation across India's academic and research institutions.

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- ◆ It serves as an apex body for strategic scientific direction, as recommended by the National Education Policy (NEP), and subsumes the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

123.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Article 51 of the UN Charter outlines the right to **self-defense for member states**. It allows a nation to use force in self-defense if an armed attack occurs, subject to necessity and proportionality. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The UN Charter does not explicitly allow pre-emptive strikes based on the development of nuclear weapons by another country.
  - ◆ While Article 51 of the UN Charter permits the use of force in self-defense when an armed attack occurs, it does not extend to preemptive strikes against a potential future threat. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

124.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS), 2023 is a mechanism under the **Indian Carbon Market (ICM)** aimed at decarbonizing the economy by pricing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and enabling carbon trading.
  - ◆ CCTS shifts the focus to reducing GHG emission intensity, monitoring emissions per tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent.
  - ◆ Under India's CCTS, the initial list of obligated entities (registered entities under the Compliance Mechanism under the Indian Carbon Market) are Aluminium, Chlor-Alkali, Cement, Fertilizers, Iron and Steel, Pulp and Paper, Petrochemicals, Petroleum Refining, and Textiles.
  - ◆ The initial phase of India's CCTS (from 2026) **excludes major polluting sectors like thermal power** plants, which contribute significantly to India's Greenhouse Gas emissions.

**Hence, option B is correct.**

125.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The CEC can be removed from office only through a process of removal similar to that of a Supreme Court judge by Parliament. The Constitution **does not use**

**the word 'impeachment', for the removal of the CEC.** The term 'Impeachment' is only used for removing the President. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- The **Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners Act, 2023** provides that the CEC and ECs will be appointed by the President on the recommendation of a Selection Committee comprising the Prime Minister (Chairperson), the Leader of the Opposition (or largest opposition party leader) in the Lok Sabha, and a Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the PM. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

126.

Ans: B

Exp:

- In educational attainment, the Global Gender Gap Report 2025 states that India scored 97.1%, reflecting positive improvements in female literacy and tertiary education enrolment. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Global Gender Gap Report 2025 notes a decline in female representation in Parliament from 14.7% to 13.8%. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- India ranks 131 out of 148 countries in the Global Gender Gap Report 2025 by the World Economic Forum, slipping two spots from 2024. With a parity score of 64.1%, it remains among the lowest-ranked in South Asia. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

127.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The G7 is an **informal group** of seven advanced economies—France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK, the US, and Canada—formed in 1975 in response to the oil crisis (Canada joined in 1976). **Hence, statement 1 not is correct.**
- The 2025 G-7 Outreach Summit, hosted by Canada, is themed around three pillars: protecting global communities, building energy security and accelerating the digital transition, and securing the partnerships of the future. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- India endorsed the Kananaskis Wildfire Charter at the 2025 G7 Summit, aligning with its commitment to halt and reverse global deforestation and forest and land degradation by 2030. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
  - ◆ This Charter builds on the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use (2021), reinforcing global cooperation in tackling wildfires and protecting forest ecosystems.

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128.

Ans: D

Exp:

- Article 280 of the Indian Constitution mandates the President to constitute a Finance Commission within two years of the Constitution's commencement and every five years thereafter, or earlier if necessary. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The recommendations of the Finance Commission are **advisory in nature and not binding on the Union government**. However, they are usually accepted with minor modifications or deviations. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The 15th Finance Commission reintroduced the tax effort criterion to reward states with higher tax collection efficiency. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

129.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The National Mission for a Green India or the commonly called Green India Mission (GIM), is one of the eight Missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). It aims to protect and enhance forest cover, safeguard biodiversity and livelihoods, and address climate change through adaptation and mitigation. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The GIM aims to create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 -- 3 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent through afforestation on degraded lands, wastelands, and along railways and highways. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

130.

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- India ranked 6<sup>th</sup> globally in WIPO's World Intellectual Property Indicators (WIPI) 2024, reflecting a rapidly growing IP ecosystem. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
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- The ANRF, established under the ANRF Act 2023, aims to promote R&D and innovation across India's academic and research institutions.
  - ◆ It serves as an apex body for strategic scientific direction, as recommended by the National Education Policy (NEP), and subsumes the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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**Hence, option B is correct.**

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Exp:

- The CEC can be removed from office only through a process of removal similar to that of a Supreme Court judge by Parliament. The Constitution **does not use the word 'impeachment', for the removal of the CEC**. The term 'Impeachment' is only used for removing the President. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

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134.

Ans: B

Exp:

- In educational attainment, the Global Gender Gap Report 2025 states that India scored 97.1%, reflecting positive improvements in female literacy and tertiary education enrolment. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
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- India ranks 131 out of 148 countries in the Global Gender Gap Report 2025 by the World Economic Forum, slipping two spots from 2024. With a parity score of 64.1%, it remains among the lowest-ranked in South Asia. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

135.

Ans: B

Exp:

Wholesale Price Index (WPI):

- The **WPI** tracks the price changes of goods sold and traded in bulk by **wholesale businesses to other businesses**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ It reflects the price movement of goods traded between organizations, not directly to consumers.
- Unlike the **Consumer Price Index (CPI)**, which may include services like education, healthcare, etc., **WPI** focuses **solely on commodities** such as manufactured products, fuel, and primary articles. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The **WPI** is published **monthly** by the **Office of the Economic Adviser**, which is part of the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, Government of India. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
  - ◆ This publication includes detailed data on price movements across various categories of goods.

136.

Ans: A

Exp:

Abujhmad Forest Region:

- The Abujhmad region is inhabited by the **Abujhmediya tribal people**, which is recognized as one of the **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)** in Chhattisgarh. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- ◆ **PVTGs** are a **special category of tribal groups** identified by the Government of India based on criteria like pre-agricultural level of technology, stagnant or declining population, and extreme backwardness.

- The **Abujhmediyas** are **sub-tribes of the Gond tribe**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

137.

Ans: D

Exp:

Government e-Marketplace (GEM):

- The Government e-Marketplace (GEM) initiative was launched in **August 2016** by the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** to create an open and transparent procurement platform for government buyers. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **GeM** is collaborating with various stakeholders from the MSME ecosystem, focusing on SC/ST entrepreneurs, **to achieve the mandatory procurement goal of 25% from MSMEs**. It also aims for a **sub-target of 4% procurement from MSME entrepreneurs within SC/ST communities**, across all government departments and public sector enterprises, encouraging active participation of the MSME sector in public procurement. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **GEM norms** require that **all government purchases, from laptops to furniture** must be made through the GEM portal, with a mandate to buy from the **vendor offering the lowest price**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

138.

Ans: B

Exp:

Atal Pension Yojana (APY):

- To tackle the dual challenges of longevity risks and inadequate retirement security among India's large unorganised workforce, the **Government of India** introduced the **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)** on **9th May 2015**, with its implementation starting on **1st June 2015**.
  - ◆ The scheme targets workers in the unorganised sector, who frequently lack formal pension coverage. **Initially**, it was **available to all Indian citizens between the ages of 18 and 40**. However, from **1st October 2022**, **individuals who pay income tax are no longer eligible to join the scheme**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

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- The APY is administered by the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)**. It is managed under the institutional architecture of the **National Pension System (NPS)**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

139.

Ans: A

Exp:

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT):

- NPT was approved by the UN General Assembly on **12th June 1968** and came into force on **5th March 1970**. NPT is the **only multilateral binding treaty for Nuclear-Weapon States (NWS) to disarmament** while **promoting peaceful nuclear energy use**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** is the designated body **responsible for monitoring compliance with the NPT**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
  - ◆ It conducts inspections and safeguards to ensure that nuclear materials are not diverted for weapons use.

140.

Ans: B

Exp:

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO):

- The ICAO was established in **1947** under the provisions of the Convention on International Civil Aviation, commonly known as the **Chicago Convention**, which was signed in 1944. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- While **ICAO is associated with the United Nations**, it is **not a non-governmental organization (NGO)**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
  - ◆ It is a **specialized agency of the United Nations**, meaning it is an **intergovernmental organization (IGO)**.
- India is **one of the ICAO's founding members**, having attended the Chicago Conference in 1944, and has since been a member of the council of the ICAO, including the Provisional ICAO between 1944 and 1947. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
  - ◆ India has maintained a permanent delegation at the headquarters of ICAO in **Montreal**.

141.

Ans: D

Exp:

Freedom of Speech and Expression in India:

- **Article 19(1)(a)** of the Indian Constitution guarantees all citizens the right to freedom of speech and expression with reasonable restrictions.

- ◆ **Article 19(2)** allows the State to **impose reasonable restrictions** in the interests of sovereignty and integrity of India, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality, contempt of court, defamation and incitement to an offence. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

- Though not explicitly mentioned, the **Freedom of the Press is considered to be part of Article 19(1)(a)**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

- ◆ The Supreme Court of India has interpreted this right to include the freedom of the press, as the press serves as a medium for citizens to express and receive information.

- ◆ Landmark cases like **Romesh Thappar v. State of Madras (1950)** and **Brij Bhushan v. State of Delhi (1950)** affirmed this interpretation.

- **Article 19(1)(b)** guarantees the right to peacefully assemble and hold public meetings or processions reasonably restricted in the interests of sovereignty, integrity, and public order. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

- ◆ However, **Article 19(3)** permits the State to impose reasonable restrictions on this right in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India and Public order.

142.

Ans: A

Exp:

National Education Policy (NEP) 2020:

- NEP 2020 introduces the **Holistic Progress Card (HPC)** to monitor overall student development, including academics, skills, and socio-emotional growth.
  - ◆ However, it is designed for all students, **not specifically or exclusively for students with disabilities**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- NEP 2020 strongly **promotes multilingualism** and recommends that the **mother tongue or regional language be the medium of instruction at least till Grade 5, preferably till Grade 8**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
  - ◆ This is based on **pedagogical research** supporting better learning outcomes in the child's home language.

143.

Ans: D

Exp:

- Under Article 244(1) of the Constitution, the Fifth Schedule applies to the administration of **Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes** in all states except Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram. Its primary aim is to protect tribal rights over land, habitat, and economy, preserve their customs and traditions, and promote socio-economic development.

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- Article 371 provides special constitutional provisions for various states, mainly in the Northeast, to protect tribal culture and ensure local autonomy. For example, Article 371(A) applies to Nagaland; laws related to religion, customs, justice, and land ownership apply only if approved by the State Assembly.
- Article 25 ensures the right to profess, practice, and propagate one's faith.
- Article 26 guarantees the right to manage religious affairs.
- Hence, option D is correct.

144.

Ans: D

Exp:

- The National Quantum Mission (NQM), launched by the **Ministry of Science & Technology** and implemented by the Department of Science & Technology (DST) for the period 2023–2031, aims to advance scientific and industrial R&D in Quantum Technology (QT). **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
  - ◆ The mission focuses on quantum material development (e.g., superconductors), high-sensitivity magnetometers for atomic clocks and navigation, and secure quantum communications through satellite-based links.
- The **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)** is a specialized and independent Business Division within the Digital India Corporation, **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**. It aims to build a robust semiconductor and display ecosystem, positioning India as a global hub for electronics manufacturing and design. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The National Mission on Bioeconomy, launched in 2016 by the Institute of Bio-resources and Sustainable Development under the **Ministry of Science and Technology**, aims to boost the rural economy through sustainable use of bio-resources. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

145.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Operation Sindoor, launched on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2025 in response to the Pahalgam terror attack, was a coordinated precision strike by the **Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force** from Indian territory. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Under Operation Sindoor, the Indian Armed Forces targeted terror hubs of Jaish-e-Mohammed, Lashkar-e-Taiba, and Hizbul Mujahideen in Pakistan and Pakistan-

occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK), aiming to dismantle their infrastructure while avoiding Pakistani military sites.

**Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- The Indian Air Force used advanced systems like **SCALP cruise missiles, HAMMER bombs, and loitering munitions (Kamikaze drones)** in Operation Sindoor for precision strikes with minimal collateral damage. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

- ◆ SCALP Missile is a long-range air-launched cruise missile by MBDA, deployed via Rafale jets, used for deep strikes on fortified targets.

- ◆ HAMMER Bomb is a precision-guided munition GPS, infrared, and laser targeting for engaging mobile and dynamic threats.

- ◆ Kamikaze drones provide surveillance and autonomous strike capability, ideal for time-sensitive targets.

146.

Ans: A

Exp:

- According to the Ministry of Commerce, the US is India's largest merchandise export destination with shipments growing at 9.1% to USD 76.4 billion during FY25. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- India is the 7<sup>th</sup>-largest exporter of refined petroleum products (after the US, Russia, Netherlands, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, and South Korea) supported by major facilities like the Jamnagar refinery (one of the world's largest). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

147.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The Government of India launched Operation Sindhu in June 2025 to evacuate Indian citizens from conflict-affected regions of Iran and Israel amid escalating tensions with Israel. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- India in 2023 launched Operation Ajay to facilitate return of citizens from conflict-hit Israel. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

148.

Ans: B

Exp:

- Keezhadi, a site near the Vaigai River in Tamil Nadu, has emerged as a major archaeological discovery, indicating an advanced urban civilisation dating back to the 8th–5th century BCE.
- Key findings at Keezhadi, include **Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions and carnelian beads**, pointing to early literacy and trade, and suggesting urbanisation in South India possibly

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parallel to the Indus Valley Civilisation. There is no mention of Sanskrit inscriptions or Buddhist stupas in the Keezhadi findings so far.

Hence, option B is correct.

149.

Ans: B

Exp:

- InvITs are like mutual funds that pool money from investors to invest in income-generating infrastructure assets, distributing part of the returns as dividends.
- InvITs are regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), which sets rules and regulations governing the formation and operation of InvITs. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- InvITs are classified as borrowers under the 'Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002, which allows enforcement of security interests and asset securitization in case of default. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

150.

Ans: C

Exp:

- According to the QS World University Rankings 2026, India is the fourth most represented country with 54 universities ranked, after the US (192), UK (90), and Mainland China (72). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The average Citations per Faculty score for India is 43.7, higher than that of Germany, the UK, and the US. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) is a London-based global higher education analyst, best known for the trusted QS World University Rankings, which offer data-driven insights and assessments of universities worldwide.

151.

Ans: D

Exp:

Indian National Congress (INC):

- The INC was **founded in 1885 by Allan Octavian Hume**, a retired British civil servant. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ He played a key role in bringing together Indian leaders from different regions to form a political platform that would voice Indian concerns to the British government.
- The **first session of the INC** was held in **Bombay (now Mumbai)** from 28<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> December 1885.
  - ◆ **Womesh Chunder Bonnerjee was elected as the President** of this session, making him the first president of the INC. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- **Mahatma Gandhi** presided over the **Belgaum session of the INC in 1924**, which was the **only time he accepted the presidency of the Congress**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

- ◆ This session was significant as it marked Gandhi's formal leadership within the Congress during the freedom struggle.

152.

Ans: C

Exp:

Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC):

- CBFC is a **statutory body** under the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**, regulating the public exhibition of films under the provisions of the **Cinematograph Act 1952**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Board consists of non-official members** and a **Chairman** (all of whom are **appointed by Central Government**) and functions with headquarters at Mumbai. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
  - ◆ CBFC has **nine Regional Offices** in Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Thiruvananthapuram, Hyderabad, New Delhi, Cuttack, and Guwahati, supported by Advisory Panels **nominated by the Central Government for two years.**
- **E-Cinepramaan** is an **online film certification system** launched by the **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting in march 2017** and implemented by the **Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

153.

Ans: D

Exp:

National Quantum Mission (NQM):

- The mission was approved in **April 2023** and is scheduled to run from **2023–24 to 2030–31**. Its goal is to develop quantum technologies in computing, communication, sensing, and materials, and to position India as a global leader in this field. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The National Quantum Mission (NQM) is **implemented by the Department of Science & Technology (DST)**, which functions under the **Ministry of Science & Technology**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- With the launch of this mission, **India became the seventh country** to have a dedicated quantum mission after the US, Austria, Finland, France, Canada and China. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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154.

Ans: A

Exp:

Asian Development Bank (ADB):

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) was established in 1966. It is a multilateral development bank that aims to promote social and economic development in Asia and the Pacific. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **India ranks first** in terms of **financial commitments to developing country members**, contributing 14% of the total financial commitment of the bank, followed by **China, Bangladesh, the Philippines, and Pakistan**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **World Economic Outlook (WEO)** is published by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
  - ◆ The ADB publishes the Asian Development Outlook (ADO), which provides economic analysis and forecasts for its member countries.

155.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The **Government determines the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for 22 designated agricultural crops** based on the recommendations of the **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)**, after consulting with State Governments and relevant Central Ministries and Departments. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Before each marketing season, the **Government of India**, in **coordination with State Governments** and the **Food Corporation of India**, finalizes **wheat and paddy procurement targets** based on estimated production, marketable surplus, and cropping trends. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The final **approval for MSPs** is given by the **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)**. This committee is chaired by the **Prime Minister**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

156.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Patanjali is traditionally credited with compiling the **Yogasutras around the 2nd century B.C.** The Yogasutras are a concise collection of aphorisms that form the core text of **classical Yoga philosophy**, covering both theoretical and practical aspects. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- **The Yogasutra outlines the eightfold path of Yoga**, encompassing ethical, physical, and mental disciplines that ultimately lead to spiritual realization. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- ◆ These eight limbs are Yama (moral restraints), Niyama (personal observances), Asana (physical postures), Pranayama (breath control), Pratyahara (withdrawal of senses), Dharana (concentration), Dhyana (meditation) and Samadhi (spiritual absorption).

- Patanjali's Yoga philosophy is part of the **orthodox (Āstika) schools of Indian philosophy**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

- ◆ Orthodox schools accept the authority of the Vedas, and Yoga is one of the six such systems, alongside Nyaya, Vaisheshika, Samkhya, Mimamsa, and Vedanta.

157.

Ans: D

Exp:

- **Article 352** empowers the President to declare a National Emergency if the security of India or any part of its territory is threatened by War, External aggression and Armed rebellion (added by the **44th Amendment Act, 1978**). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- ◆ During such an emergency, the fundamental rights under Article 19 may be suspended, and the Centre gains overriding powers over states.

- **Article 356** allows the President to impose President's Rule in a state if the Governor reports that the state government is not functioning in accordance with constitutional provisions. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- ◆ In such cases, the state legislature may be dissolved or suspended, and the executive powers of the state are exercised by the Centre.

- **Article 360** provides for a Financial Emergency if the financial stability or credit of India or any part of its territory is threatened. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

- ◆ During this emergency:

- The President can direct states to observe financial propriety.
- Salaries of government officials, including judges, can be reduced.
- All money bills must be approved by the President.

158.

Ans: D

Exp:

- The British colonial authorities labeled Bal Gangadhar Tilak as "**The Father of Indian Unrest**" due to his assertive and radical approach in opposing British rule. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

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- ◆ This title was notably used by British writer Valentine Chirol, reflecting Tilak's influence in mobilizing nationalist sentiment and challenging colonial authority.

➤ **Bal Gangadhar Tilak** along with **Annie Besant** founded the **All India Home Rule League in 1916** to demand self-governance for India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- ◆ While Besant's League operated across most parts of the country, Tilak's League was primarily active in Maharashtra, Karnataka, the Central Provinces, and Berar.

➤ He **opposed the Age of Consent Bill** that sought to raise the **minimum marriage age for girls from 10 to 12 years**, arguing that the government should not interfere in social customs or personal lifestyles. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

159.

Ans: B

Exp:

**Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme**

- The PMFME scheme was launched under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan with an outlay of Rs 10,000 crore to empower unorganised micro food enterprises through formalisation, capacity building, and access to credit. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Under the scheme, **individual micro food processing units are eligible for a credit-linked subsidy of 35% of the eligible project cost, subject to a maximum of ₹10 lakh.** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The PMFME scheme is designed to be implemented over five years, from 2020-21 to 2024-25, with a total financial outlay of Rs. 10,000 crore. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- The scheme specifically places a special focus on supporting groups such as Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs), and Producer Cooperatives, in addition to individual entrepreneurs. **Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**

160.

Ans: A

Exp:

**Election Commission of India:**

- The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and other Election Commissioners are appointed by the President of India. The **CEC can only be removed in the same manner and on the same grounds as a judge of the Supreme Court** (i.e., by a special majority of both Houses of Parliament on grounds of proved misbehaviour or incapacity).

- ◆ Other Election Commissioners do not enjoy the same level of protection; they can be removed by the President on the recommendation of the CEC. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

➤ Unlike the Supreme Court and the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), the **administrative expenses of the Election Commission of India are not charged** on the Consolidated Fund of India.

- ◆ Instead, these expenses are voted on in the Parliament, which means they are not non-votable, guaranteed expenditures. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

➤ The Election Commission of India is responsible for conducting elections to Parliament, State Legislatures, and the offices of President and Vice-President.

- ◆ However, **elections to Municipalities and Panchayats are conducted by separate State Election Commissions**, not the Election Commission of India. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

161.

Ans: B

Exp:

➤ **THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense)** is developed by the United States. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**

- ◆ It is a missile defense system designed to intercept and destroy short to intermediate-range ballistic missiles during their terminal phase. It is produced by Lockheed Martin.

➤ **Iron Dome** is an **air defense system** developed by Israel, specifically by Rafael Advanced Defense Systems in collaboration with Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI). **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**

- ◆ It is designed to intercept and neutralize short-range rockets and artillery shells.

➤ **Patriot PAC-3 (Phased Array Tracking Radar to Intercept on Target)** is also developed by the **United States**. **Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.**

- ◆ This system is manufactured by Raytheon and is used to counter tactical ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, and advanced aircraft.

**Hence, option B is correct.**

162.

Ans: B

Exp:

Governor:

- **Under Article 213** of the Indian Constitution, the **Governor has the power to promulgate ordinances when the State Legislature is not in session** and if he is satisfied that circumstances require immediate action. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

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- ◆ This ordinance-making power is similar to that of the President under Article 123 and is meant to address urgent legislative needs during recess.

- The role of the Governor as the **ex-officio Chancellor of State Universities** is **not a constitutional provision**. It is derived from **state-specific legislation governing universities**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Article 153 of the Constitution** states that there shall be a Governor for each State, but it also allows for the same individual to be appointed as **Governor for two or more States**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

163.

Ans: A

Exp:

South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA):

- The **South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA)** is a trade agreement established by the **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)** to promote intra-regional trade and economic cooperation among its member countries. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- SAFTA was **signed in 2004** and **came into force on 1 January 2006**, succeeding the SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA), which was operational since 1993. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Afghanistan is a signatory to SAFTA**. Although it **joined SAARC later**, Afghanistan ratified the SAFTA agreement in 2011, making it the eighth member of the trade arrangement. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

164.

Ans: C

Exp:

Financial Action Task Force (FATF):

- The **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** is an international watchdog established in **1989 at a G7 summit in Paris**. Its primary mandate is to **combat money laundering, terrorist financing, and related threats to the integrity of the international financial system**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Black List** countries identified as **Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories (NCCTs)** are placed on the FATF blacklist. These nations are involved in supporting terrorism financing and money laundering activities and are subjected to international sanctions. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ The FATF regularly updates the blacklist by adding or removing countries.

165.

Ans: D

Exp:

- The repo rate refers to the interest rate at which the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) provides short-term loans to commercial banks. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Standing Deposit Facility (SDF)** was introduced by the RBI in April 2022. The SDF enables banks to deposit surplus funds with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) without any collateral. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)**, a provision made by the RBI that **enables scheduled commercial banks to obtain overnight liquidity** if inter-bank funds completely dry up. It is an emergency facility that allows banks to borrow at a rate higher than the repo rate. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

166.

Ans: C

Exp:

First Information Report (FIR):

- An FIR is filed only for cognizable offences, i.e., offences for which the police can arrest without a warrant and start investigation without court orders. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- A telephonic message can be treated as an FIR if it contains sufficient details about the commission of a cognizable offence and is not cryptic. In multiple cases such as Lalita Kumari vs State of UP, courts have held that non-cryptic, detailed telephonic messages can be considered FIRs. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- As per section 173 of BNSS, after registration of an FIR, the police are legally obligated to begin investigating the case. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- A police officer can file an FIR himself if he comes to know about the commission of a cognizable offence (this is called a "suo motu" FIR).
  - ◆ In Hallu v. State of MP (1974), it was held that Section 154 of the CrPC (now BNSS) talks about the information that an informant holds relating to the cognizable offence given to the officer in charge; thus it is not necessary for the informant to have personal knowledge of such an offence. **Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**

167.

Ans: B

Exp:

Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA):

- The **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)**, commonly known as the **Iran nuclear deal**, was a

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landmark agreement reached in **2015** between **Iran and the P5+1 countries** (the five permanent members of the UN Security Council: China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States) along with the **European Union (EU)**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

- Under the **JCPOA**, Iran agreed to cap its uranium enrichment at **3.67%**, which is far **below the 90% threshold required for weapons-grade uranium**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

- ◆ This limit was set to ensure that Iran's nuclear program remained peaceful and could not be used to develop nuclear weapons.

- Under the **JCPOA**, Iran had to **redesign its Arak heavy-water reactor** to prevent the production of **weapons-grade plutonium**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

- ◆ The reactor was to be modified to minimize plutonium production and prevent its use for nuclear weapons.

168.

Ans: D

Exp:

- **Chahabar** is Iran's oceanic port nearest to India. It is situated in **Sistan and Baluchistan Province**, on the **Makran coast**. It lies in the Gulf of Oman. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

- In **May 2016**, **India, Iran, and Afghanistan** signed a trilateral agreement to establish the **International Transport and Transit Corridor**, also known as the **Chabahar Agreement**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

- ◆ This agreement aimed to improve transportation and trade connectivity between the three countries by utilising the port of Chabahar in Iran as a key transit point.

- The **Chahabar Port** project has two main ports called the **Shahid Kalantari Port** and the **Shahid Beheshti Port**.

- ◆ Iran had offered India the project of developing the **Shahid Beheshti port**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

169.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992** is a landmark legislation that gave constitutional status to **Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)** in India. It added **Part IX to the Constitution and introduced Articles 243 to 243-O**, along with the Eleventh Schedule, which lists 29 subjects under the jurisdiction of Panchayats.

- ◆ The Act mandates the reservation of seats for **Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and women in Panchayats**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

- **Article 243-I** of the Constitution mandates the establishment of a **State Finance Commission** every five years to **review the financial position of Panchayats**, and recommend principles for distribution of financial resources between the state and Panchayats. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

- The Act provides for a **three-tier structure of Panchayati Raj in rural areas**, **Gram Panchayat (village level)**, **Panchayat Samiti (block/intermediate level)** and **Zila Parishad (district level)**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

- ◆ States with populations below 20 lakhs may opt for a **two-tier system**.

170.

Ans: A

Exp:

Enforcement Directorate (ED):

- The **ED originated as an Enforcement Unit in 1956** under the Department of Economic Affairs to handle violations of the **Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA), 1947**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

- ◆ In 1957, it was renamed as the Enforcement Directorate.

- The primary objectives of the **Enforcement Directorate** is to implement and enforce three major legislations enacted by the Government of India: the **Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA)**, the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA)**, and the **Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 (FEOA)**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

- The **ED operates under the Department of Revenue**, which is part of the **Ministry of Finance**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

171.

Ans: D

Exp:

Godavari River:

- It is **India's second-longest river, after the Ganga**, and the third-largest, draining about 10% of the country's total area. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

- ◆ It is also known as the **"Dakshina Ganga"** or South Ganges.

- The **Godavari River** originates from the **Brahmagiri Hills in Trimbakeshwar**, located in the Nashik district of Maharashtra. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

- The main **tributaries of the Godavari River** are **Pravara, Purna, Manjra, Penganga, Wardha, Wainganga, Pranhita, Indravati, Maner, and Sabri**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

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172.

Ans: C

Exp:

Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE):

- The **BEE** was **established on 1st March 2002** under the provisions of the **Energy Conservation Act, 2001**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
  - ◆ It functions under the **Ministry of Power** and aims to promote energy efficiency and conservation across various sectors.
- The **State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI)** is jointly developed and published by the **Bureau of Energy**

**Efficiency (BEE) and the Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE)**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

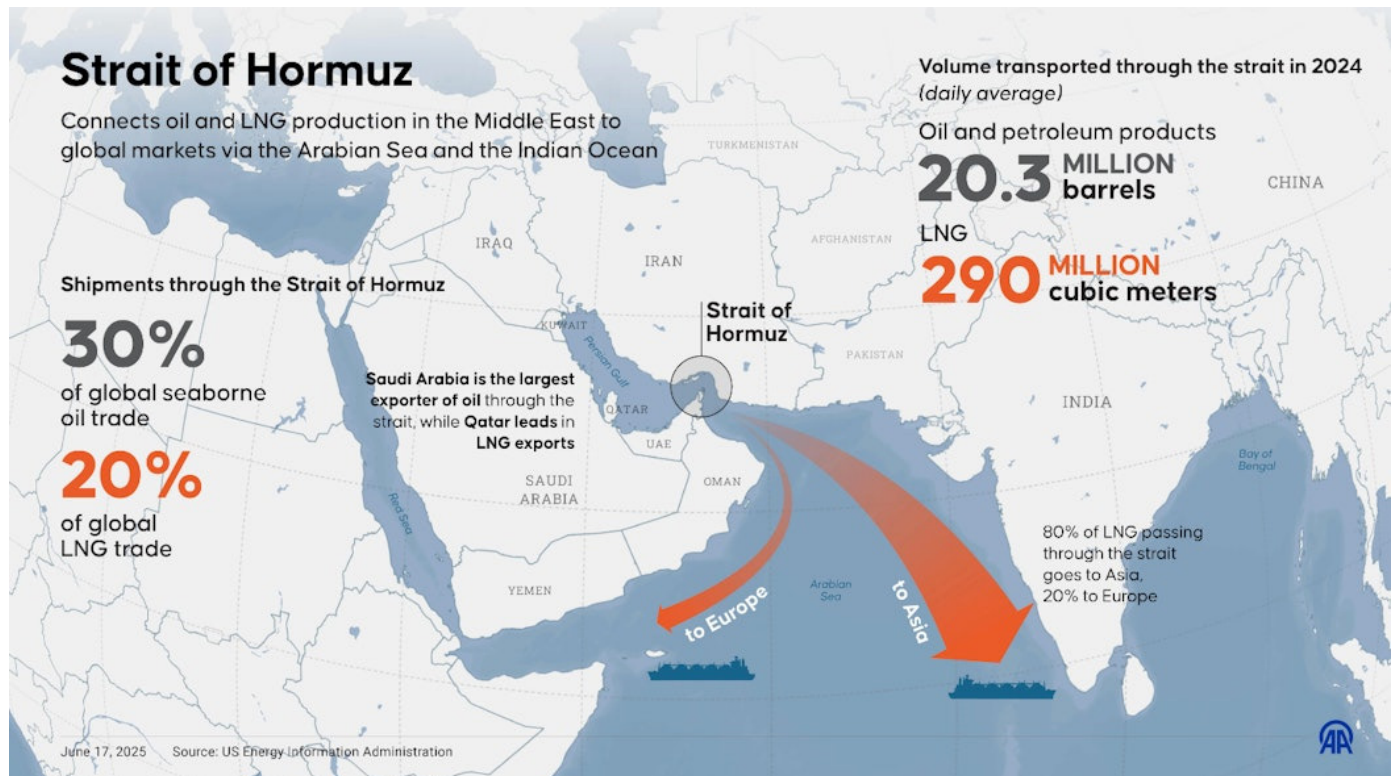
- ◆ The index evaluates the energy efficiency performance of Indian states and union territories.

173.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The Strait of Hormuz is a narrow sea passage (33–97 km wide) between Iran and the Arabian Peninsula, connecting the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea. It is a vital transit route for global oil and LNG shipments, carrying about 30% of the world's total oil supply. Hence, **option B is correct**.



174.

Ans: C

Exp:

- **Odisha's Mission Shakti programme**, originally focused on **empowering women through Self-Help Groups (SHGs)**, has been expanded to include digital and AI-related skill development. This expansion is aimed at tribal and rural women, helping them adapt to the evolving digital economy. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The initiative aims to introduce women to AI concepts, digital literacy, and data-driven enterprise development, thereby linking traditional livelihoods with the digital economy. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

- ◆ This approach helps women transition from informal economic activities to more structured, tech-enabled enterprises.

175.

Ans: A

Exp:

Small Finance Banks (SFB):

- SFBs in India are a category of banks established to provide basic banking services and credit facilities to **underserved sections of the population**, including small business owners, micro and small industries, farmers, and the unorganized sector. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

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- They are regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- All prudential norms and regulations of the RBI as applicable to existing commercial banks, including the requirement of maintenance of CRR and SLR, **are also applicable to SFBs. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

176.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The places **Fordo, Natanz, and Esfahan** (also spelled Isfahan), recently seen in news reports regarding nuclear facilities and related events, **are all located in Iran.**
- **Fordo:** This is a village in Fordo Rural District, Kahak County, Qom province, Iran. It is also the name sometimes used for the Fordow (Fordo) **Uranium Enrichment Plant**, a major nuclear facility, though the plant is not located precisely in the village but is nearby.
- **Natanz:** A city in the **Central District of Natanz County**, Isfahan province, Iran. It is notable for the Natanz Nuclear Facility, a key site in Iran's nuclear program.
- **Esfahan (Isfahan):** A major city and the capital of Isfahan province, Iran. While primarily known for its **historical and cultural significance**, it is sometimes referenced in news related to regional security and nuclear issues.

**Hence, option B is correct.**

177.

Ans: C

Exp:

Economic Capital Framework (ECF):

- The ECF is a structured mechanism adopted by the RBI to determine the appropriate level of risk provisions and the surplus (profit) that can be transferred to the Government of India under **Section 47 of the RBI Act, 1934. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The framework was recommended by the former RBI Governor, **Bimal Jalan Committee (2018)**, and formally adopted in 2019. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - ◆ It aims to strike a balance between maintaining adequate financial buffers for monetary and financial stability and ensuring prudent surplus distribution.
- It enables the RBI to maintain a **Contingency Risk Buffer (CRB)** as a financial safeguard against unforeseen shocks like currency volatility and economic crises. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- CRB is a financial safety net of 5.5% to 6.5% of RBI's balance sheet, ensuring its stability and capacity to act as Lender of Last Resort during crises.

178.

Ans: A

Exp:

International Space Station (ISS):

- It is a massive multi-nation spacecraft orbiting Earth, where **15 nations collaborate on scientific**, educational, and technological experiments in the ISS national laboratory to benefit Earth and support deep space exploration. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It orbits the Earth at about 17,500 miles per hour, completing a full orbit every 90 minutes, so astronauts on the ISS witness **16 sunrises** and sunsets daily. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Astronauts and cosmonauts perform spacewalks for space station tasks and exercise for two hours daily to counter muscle and bone loss in microgravity.

179.

Ans: C

Exp:

Axiom-4 Mission:

- It is a private spaceflight to the ISS operated by Axiom Space using the SpaceX Crew Dragon spacecraft. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It aims to enable commercial activities such as space tourism and demonstrate the viability of space stations in Low Earth Orbit for business and research. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The mission features a diverse multinational crew, including India, emphasising global cooperation in space exploration. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- It aims to strengthen international partnerships and promote joint efforts in advancing space science.
- The mission supports scientific experiments and technological advancements in microgravity.
- Research areas include materials science, biology, and Earth observation, offering potential breakthroughs.

180.

Ans: B

Exp:

National Emergency:

- It is proclaimed by the President under **Article 352** when the security of India or a part of it is threatened by War, External Aggression, or Armed Rebellion. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **44th Amendment Act, 1978**, requires a National Emergency to be approved by both Houses within one month by a special majority. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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- ◆ If the Lok Sabha is dissolved at the time of declaration, the Rajya Sabha's approval remains valid, but the reconstituted Lok Sabha must approve it within 30 days of its first sitting.
  - ◆ It continues for 6 months, and can be extended to an indefinite period with the approval of Parliament for every 6 months (44th Amendment Act 1978).
- It can be revoked anytime by the president without the requirement of approval by Parliament. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

181.

Ans: D

Exp:

Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyaan (PM JANMAN):

- It was launched on 15th November 2023, coinciding with Janjatiya Gaurav Divas. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It aims to enhance the socio-economic conditions of **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)** by providing comprehensive development interventions. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs is the nodal ministry** responsible for the implementation of the scheme in collaboration with 9-line Ministries/ Departments, and the respective state governments. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

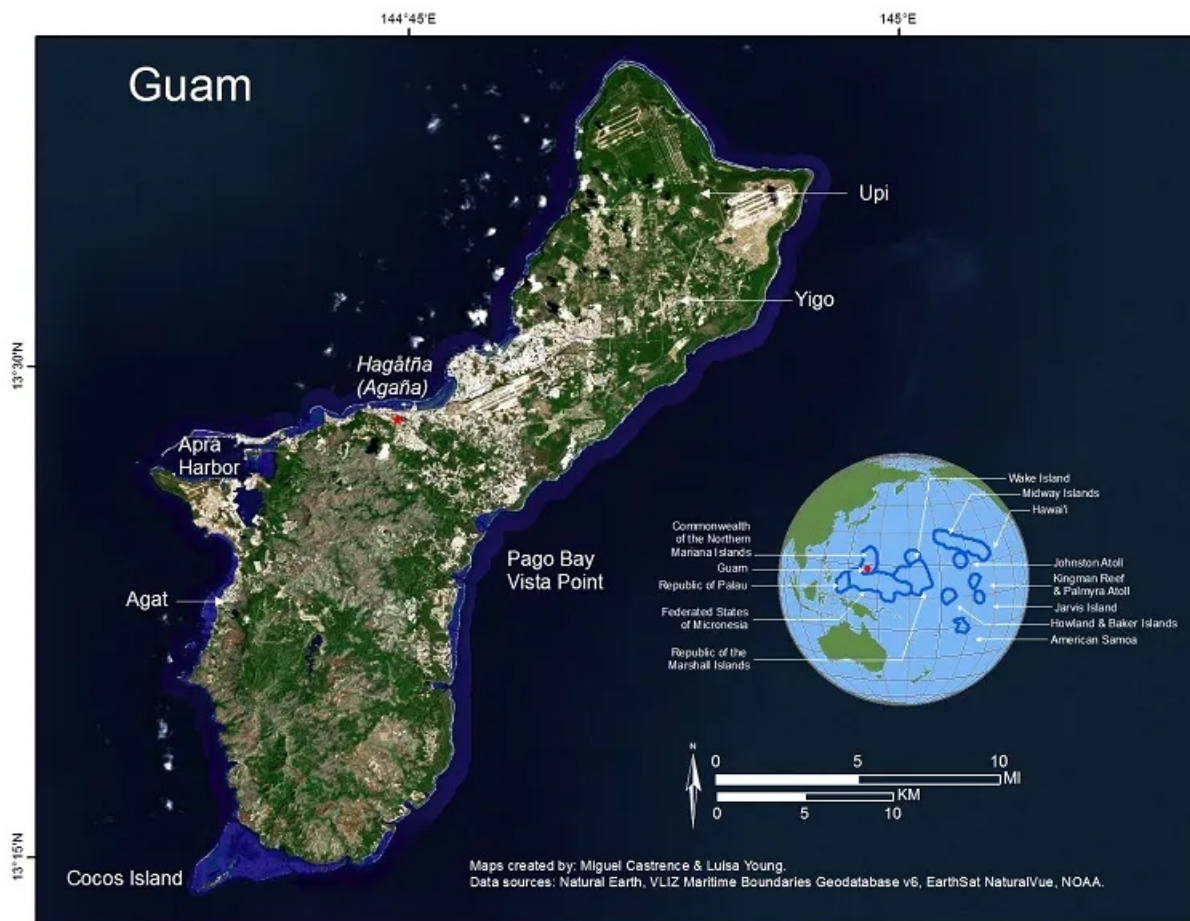
182.

Ans: A

Exp:

Guam:

- The island of Guam is the **largest and southernmost island** in the Marianas archipelago, which continues northward from Guam and makes up the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
- A **coral reef surrounds most of the island**, except in areas where bays exist that provide access to small rivers and streams that run down from the hills into the Pacific Ocean and Philippine Sea.
- Guam is the **closest landmass to the Mariana Trench**, the deepest point in the ocean.
- Because of its strategic location in the western North Pacific Ocean, the U.S. has long maintained military bases there.



Hence, option A is correct.

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183.

Ans: B

Exp:

Preamble:

- The Preamble begins with the words **“We, the people of India...”**, which clearly signifies that the Constitution derives its authority from the citizens of India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ This reflects the principle of popular sovereignty, meaning the people are the ultimate source of power.
- The Preamble to the Indian Constitution was inspired by the Preamble of the Constitution of the USA. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The Supreme Court of India, in the **Kesavananda Bharati case (1973)**, held that the **Preamble is a part of the Constitution**. However, it is **not legally enforceable**, meaning one cannot directly approach a court to enforce the ideals stated in the Preamble. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
  - ◆ It serves as a guiding philosophy for interpreting the Constitution and laws.

184.

Ans: A

Exp:

Indus Waters Treaty (IWT):

- The Indus Waters Treaty is a **perpetual agreement** with **no exit clause**, requiring **mutual consent** for any amendments or revisions by India and Pakistan. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Under the Indus Water Treaty, Pakistan was granted unrestricted use of the **western rivers—Indus, Chenab, and Jhelum**—while India was granted unrestricted use of the **eastern rivers—Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

185.

Ans: C

Exp:

Rabindranath Tagore:

- In **1913**, **Rabindranath Tagore** made history as the **first non-European to win the Nobel Prize in Literature**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ He was awarded the **Nobel Prize in Literature** for his collection of poems titled **Gitanjali**.
- In **1915**, he was awarded knighthood by the **British King George V**. In **1919**, following the **Jallianwalla Bagh massacre**, he **renounced his Knighthood**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

186.

Ans: A

Exp:

Finance Commissions:

- The Finance Commission is a **non-permanent constitutional body** constituted every five years or earlier by the President to make recommendations on the distribution of financial resources between the Union and the states. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The **recommendations of FCs are advisory in nature and not binding** on the Union government. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
  - ◆ However, they are usually accepted with minor modifications or deviations.
- **Parliament** has enacted the **Finance Commission Act, 1951**, which **lays down the qualifications for its members**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

187.

Ans: A

Exp:

Dara Shikoh (1615-1659):

- Dara Shikoh (1615-1659) was the **eldest son and heir apparent of Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ He was known for his intellectual contributions and attempts to bridge the gap between Hinduism and Islam.
- At the age of twenty-five, Dara Shikoh wrote *Safinat-ul-Awliya*, a work detailing the lives of the Prophet Muhammad, his family, the Caliphs, and saints from five major Sufi orders in India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Dara's close association with the Qadiri Sufi order, guided by Mulla Shah, significantly shaped his intellectual and spiritual pursuits.
  - ◆ As a devoted disciple, he commissioned shrines for **Mulla Shah and Miyan Mir** in **Lahore** to honor their spiritual teachings. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

188.

Ans: D

Exp:

Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT):

- The NPT is the only binding multilateral treaty aimed at nuclear disarmament by Nuclear-Weapon States (NWS) and promoting peaceful nuclear energy use. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

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- ◆ It is a landmark international treaty with the **goal of preventing the spread of nuclear weapons** and weapons technology, promoting cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and achieving nuclear disarmament.
- The **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** is responsible for monitoring compliance with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- India has not signed the NPT, primarily because it considers the treaty discriminatory—it allows only five countries (the US, Russia, China, France, and the UK) to possess nuclear weapons while denying the same right to others. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
  - ◆ India advocates for a more equitable global nuclear disarmament framework.

189.

Ans: B

Exp:

Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO):

- SCO is an intergovernmental political, economic, and security alliance **established in 2001** by **Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- ◆ Its first summit was held in Shanghai, China.

- The SCO recognizes **Chinese and Russian** as its **official and working languages**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The latest member to join the SCO is **Belarus**, which became a full member in **July 2024**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

190.

Ans: C

Exp:

Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN):

- It is a **global network established in 2012** by the **United Nations (UN)**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ It aims to promote practical solutions for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the national and international levels.
- According to the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network's **10th Sustainable Development Report (SDR) 2025**, India ranks **99th** in the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index**, marking its first time in the top 100 out of 167 countries with a score of 67. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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