



Monthly Editorial Quiz

CONSOLIDATION

September 2025



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Practice Questions

1. With reference to the measurement of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), consider the following statements:
 1. GDP includes the value of only those goods and services which are newly produced during the year of estimation.
 2. The resale of an old house is excluded from GDP, but the commission earned by a real estate agent on such a sale is included.
 3. Transactions involving purchase and sale of stocks and bonds are counted in GDP as they involve monetary exchanges.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

 - A. 1 only
 - B. 1 and 2 only
 - C. 2 and 3 only
 - D. 1, 2 and 3
2. The initiatives namely TRUST, INDUS Innovation, and COMPACT recently seen in news are related to:
 - A. India–Japan Economic and Technology Cooperation
 - B. India–European Union Green Deal Partnership
 - C. India–United States Strategic and Technology Relations
 - D. India–Australia Critical Minerals and Defense Dialogue
3. The Indian government amended its FDI policy in 2020. A key provision of this amendment mandates that:
 - A. All Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into India must now be routed through the Government approval path, regardless of the sector or country of origin.
 - B. Entities from any country where the beneficial owner is a citizen of Pakistan can only invest under the Government route, but this does not apply to other bordering countries.
 - C. Entities from countries sharing a land border with India, or where the beneficial owner is situated in such a country, can only invest under the Government route and not the automatic route.
 - D. A complete ban on all FDI from China (including Hong Kong) was instituted to protect Indian companies from opportunistic takeovers.
4. Which of the following countries/territories form part of the Iberian Peninsula?
 1. Spain
 2. Portugal
 3. Andorra
 4. France
 5. British Overseas Territory of Gibraltar

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

 - A. 1, 2 and 3 only
 - B. 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
 - C. 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
 - D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
5. A manufacturing company reported an investment in plant and machinery of ₹18 crore and an annual turnover of ₹95 crore for the financial year 2024-25. According to the revised composite criteria effective from April 1, 2025, how will this company be classified?
 - A. It will not be classified as an MSME.
 - B. Micro Enterprise
 - C. Small Enterprise
 - D. Medium Enterprise
6. The term “Dragon-Elephant Tango” is often mentioned in the context of international relations. It refers to:
 - A. A trade agreement between ASEAN and India
 - B. A vision of peaceful and cooperative relations between China and India
 - C. A historical period of intense military conflict between China and India
 - D. A framework for maritime cooperation in the Indo-Pacific led by India and ASEAN
7. What combination of economic factors characterizes stagflation, creating a particularly tough environment?
 - A. High inflation and high unemployment
 - B. High economic growth and high inflation
 - C. Low economic growth and low unemployment
 - D. High unemployment and deflation
8. Consider the following statements regarding Cotton:
 1. Cotton is a soft, fluffy staple fibre that grows in a boll around its seeds.

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2. In India, cotton is grown on alluvial soils in the north, black clayey soils in the central region, and black & red soils in the south.
3. Cotton fibres are mainly composed of proteins.
4. Warm days and cool nights with large diurnal variations during the period of fruiting are conducive to good boll and fibre development.

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

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

9. Consider the following statements regarding the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO):

1. The 25th SCO Summit was held under the chairmanship of China in Tianjin.
2. Iran and Belarus are full members of the SCO.
3. The theme of the 25th SCO Summit was Upholding the Shanghai Spirit: SCO on the Move.

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

10. Which of the following statements most accurately describes Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)?

- A. A learning disability that primarily affects a person's ability to read and write.
- B. A neurodevelopmental disorder characterized by challenges with social communication and interaction, along with restricted and repetitive patterns of behavior.
- C. A mental health condition that develops in adolescence due to social stress.
- D. A temporary behavioral issue in children that can be outgrown with proper discipline.

11. The term "two-state solution" is often mentioned in the news in the context of the affairs of:

- A. Syria and Israel
- B. Israel and Palestine
- C. North Korea and South Korea
- D. Russia and Ukraine

12. Among the major islands of Japan, which one is located farthest to the north?

- A. Hokkaido
- B. Honshū
- C. Shikoku
- D. Okinawa

13. The regions of Dnipropetrovsk, Kirovohrad, Poltava, and Kharkiv were recently in the news primarily because:

- A. They form a major inland waterway network crucial for European trade.
- B. They are the core of a significant industrial and mineral-rich basin in Eastern Europe.
- C. They were declared UNESCO World Heritage Sites for their historical architecture.
- D. They are the primary landing sites for a new international submarine internet cable.

14. Consider the following statements regarding Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PMVBRY):

1. The scheme focuses on employment generation, employability enhancement, and social security with special focus on the service sector.
2. It provides incentives of up to ₹50,000 to newly employed youth and ₹3,000 per month to employers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

15. Consider the following statements with reference to Aadhaar:

1. Aadhaar card details are stored in the Central Identities Data Repository (CIDR) maintained by Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).
2. Foreign nationals residing in India for more than 182 days are eligible to apply for Aadhaar.
3. The Aadhaar Act, 2016 states that Aadhaar is a mandatory proof of domicile for all residents of India.

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

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

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16. Which of the following best describes the difference between Fiscal Drag and Fiscal Glide?
- Fiscal drag refers to gradual deficit reduction, while fiscal glide occurs when inflation pushes taxpayers into higher tax brackets.
 - Fiscal drag occurs when inflation or income growth pushes individuals into higher tax brackets, whereas fiscal glide refers to phased reduction of fiscal deficit over time.
 - Fiscal drag is the increase in government expenditure, while fiscal glide is the reduction of subsidies.
 - Fiscal drag is related to fiscal federalism, while fiscal glide is related to fiscal decentralization.
17. The Bhore Committee (1943), established during the pre-Independence period under the chairmanship of Sir Joseph Bhore, is primarily associated with which of the following domains?
- Educational reforms in colonial India
 - Agricultural and rural development strategies
 - Health survey and development in India
 - Reorganization of states on linguistic lines
18. The National Ambient Noise Monitoring Network Programme, involving installation of noise monitoring stations across India, has been launched by:
- National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI)
 - Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)
 - National Green Tribunal (NGT)
 - Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
19. With reference to the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), consider the following statements:
- It is designed primarily to protect EU industries from foreign competition by imposing high tariffs on all imported goods.
 - It aims to address the risk of 'carbon leakage', where industries might relocate to countries with weaker climate policies.
 - Importers will have to buy carbon certificates equal to the carbon cost that would apply if the goods were made under the EU's carbon pricing rules.
 - Its definitive regime is scheduled to be fully operational from 2026, following a transitional phase.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- Only three
- All four

20. Consider the following statements regarding the Panchsheel Agreement:

- The Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence were first formally enunciated in the Agreement on Trade and Intercourse between India and the Tibet region of China.
- One of the core principles of Panchsheel is collective security under military alliances.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

21. With reference to the Ravi River, consider the following statements:

- It originates from the northern face of the Rohtang Pass in Himachal Pradesh and is known as Irawati in ancient Indian texts.
- It forms the international boundary between India and Pakistan in the Punjab region before entering Pakistani territory.
- Under the Indus Waters Treaty, the waters of the Ravi River were allocated exclusively for India's use.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

22. With reference to the Ramon Magsaysay Award, consider the following statements:

- It was established to honor the legacy of Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay by recognizing integrity in governance and selfless service in Asia.
- The award was funded by the Rockefeller Brothers trustees in agreement with the Philippine government.
- It recognises only individuals in Asia for excellence in governance, leadership, and humanitarian service.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

23. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: The RIC (Russia-India-China) grouping is currently dormant as a strategic forum.

Statement II: The RIC format was originally conceived to act as a counterweight to Western dominance in global affairs.

Statement III: A direct military clash between two of its member states has hindered the group's diplomatic momentum.

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

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

24. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: The region encompassing Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Northern India is highly vulnerable to intense and frequent earthquakes.

Statement II: The main cause is the collision between the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates, where active tectonic movements trigger frequent seismic activity and create immense stress in the Earth's crust.

Statement III: Climate change is accelerating glacier melt, which causes the lithosphere to rebound and reduces friction between plates, thereby amplifying the intensity and frequency of seismic events.

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

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

25. The geological process of 'delamination', recently in news, can be best described as:

- A. The splitting of the Earth's lithosphere where the denser lower portion sinks into the mantle while the lighter upper portion continues to move.
- B. The process of surface rocks breaking down into smaller fragments due to weathering and erosion.
- C. The smooth sliding of one landmass over another without causing stress accumulation.
- D. The formation of new crust due to volcanic eruptions along mid-ocean ridges.

26. Consider the following regional groupings:

- 1. Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership
- 2. Shanghai Cooperation Organization
- 3. ASEAN
- 4. BIMSTEC
- 5. AUKUS

India is a member of how many of the above groupings?

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

27. Consider the following statements regarding Sickle cell disease:

Statement I: In sickle cell disease, red blood cells become crescent-shaped and rigid, which can obstruct blood flow.

Statement II: A genetic mutation alters the structure of hemoglobin, causing it to form abnormal chains that distort the red blood cell's shape.

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

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

28. With reference to the evolution of the collegium system in India, consider the following pairs:

- 1. First Judges Case (1981): Consultation does not mean concurrence.

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2. Second Judges Case (1993): Consultation means concurrence.
3. Third Judges Case (1998): Consultation means consultation with collegium

Which of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

29. The 'VIKRAM3201' microprocessor, recently in the news, is best described by which of the following statements

- A. It is India's first 64-bit commercial-grade microprocessor designed for consumer electronics
- B. It is a 32-bit Launch Vehicle Grade microprocessor developed for spaceflight applications, capable of withstanding extreme temperatures.
- C. It is a quantum computing chip developed under the National Quantum Mission for secure communications.
- D. It is an artificial intelligence accelerator chip developed by private startups for data centers.

30. Consider the following statements regarding the new GST reforms, 2025:

1. The GST Council has reduced the number of main GST slabs to two 5% and 18%.
2. A new de-merit slab of 40% has been introduced for luxury and sin goods.
3. Life and health insurance premiums have been fully exempted from GST.

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

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

31. Recently, "Graphite" was seen in the news. It refers to:

- A. Newly discovered allotrope of carbon with applications in nanotechnology
- B. An Israeli-made spyware capable of infiltrating mobile devices and encrypted apps
- C. A cryptocurrency project launched by the Bank for International Settlements (BIS)
- D. A NASA mission to study carbon-rich asteroids in the Kuiper Belt

32. With reference to "Majorana particles", sometimes seen in the news, consider the following statements:

1. Majorana particles are theoretical entities that are their own antiparticles, first proposed by Ettore Majorana in the 1930s.
2. In recent experiments, certain quasiparticles in superconducting materials have been found to behave like Majorana modes.
3. The potential use of Majorana modes in quantum computing lies in their ability to reduce decoherence and enhance stability of qubits.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

33. With reference to the concept of Integrated Theatre Command (ITC) in India, consider the following statements:

1. An ITC is a unified structure where assets from the Army, Navy, and Air Force operate under a single commander for a designated geographical area.
2. The idea of ITCs was first formally recommended by the Shekatkar Committee (2016).
3. The proposed Indian ITCs include Northern, Western, and Maritime Commands with their headquarters at Lucknow, Jaipur, and Thiruvananthapuram respectively.
4. The Kargil Review Committee (1999) had suggested creation of ITCs along with the post of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS).

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

34. Consider the following statements about the festival of Onam:

1. It is a harvest festival of Kerala celebrated in honour of the homecoming of King Mahabali.
2. The festival is observed in the month of Chingam of the Malayalam calendar.
3. Celebrations include Vallam Kali (boat race), Pulikali (tiger dance), and the grand Onam Sadhya feast.

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4. In the legend associated with Onam, King Mahabali is remembered as a benevolent ruler, unlike the usual portrayal of Asuras.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

35. With reference to the Constitutional (103rd Amendment) Act, 2019, consider the following statements:

1. It provides 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) in government jobs and educational institutions.
2. This quota is counted within the 50% ceiling on reservations laid down by the Supreme Court.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

36. With reference to Psychobiotics, sometimes seen in news, consider the following statements:

1. They refer to probiotics and prebiotics that can provide mental health benefits.
2. A 2020 meta-analysis in *Frontiers in Psychiatry* found that probiotic supplementation was associated with reduced depressive symptoms.

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

37. With reference to the 1914 agreement, consider the following statements:

1. The agreement was a treaty signed between representatives of British India and Tibet.
2. The primary outcome of the 1914 agreement was the formal demarcation of the boundary known as the McMahon Line.

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. The term "Data Moat", often seen in news, refers to:

- A. Physical infrastructure of global data centres
- B. Exclusive access to massive user interaction data
- C. Patented algorithms of Artificial Intelligence
- D. A regulatory firewall protecting digital firms

39. With reference to the India–Nepal boundary issue, consider the following statements:

1. The areas of Lipulekh, Kalapani, and Limpiyadhura are claimed by both India and Nepal.
2. In 2020, Nepal published an official political map incorporating these areas into its territory.
3. China has formally supported Nepal's claim over Lipulekh in its official statements.

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

40. With reference to custodial torture in India, consider the following statements:

1. India has signed but not ratified the UN Convention Against Torture (UNCAT).
2. The Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 is the only dedicated anti-torture legislation in India.
3. Scheduled Castes face disproportionately higher custodial violence compared to their population share.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

41. Which Commission recommended the identification of PVTGs?

- A. Mandal Commission
- B. Dhebar Commission
- C. Bhore Commission
- D. Sachar Commission

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42. With reference to India-China relations in the 1970s and 1980s, consider the following statements:

1. Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the first senior Indian leader to visit Beijing after the 1962 war.
2. Rajiv Gandhi's 1988 visit to China marked a decisive shift by separating normalisation of ties from settlement of the boundary dispute.
3. The "LAC Plus" proposal of 1983 involved Chinese demand for Tawang in exchange for concessions in Ladakh.

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

43. With reference to the contribution of MSMEs in India's external sector, consider the following statements:

1. MSMEs contribute nearly half of India's exports.
2. Handicrafts, leather, and engineering goods are among the major export-driven MSME sectors.
3. The Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme has no linkage with MSME participation in global supply chains.

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

44. The introduction of private environmental auditors under Environment Audit Rules, 2025 is most closely analogous to the role of:

- A. Company Secretaries in corporate compliance
- B. Chartered Accountants in financial auditing
- C. Legal Advisors in contract enforcement
- D. Ombudsmen in grievance redressal

45. Recently, the region of Kayes was in the news. It is associated with which of the following?

- A. It is a gold-mining and trade corridor region in western Mali affected by armed group activity.
- B. It is a disputed border region between Ethiopia and Eritrea, known for recurrent ethnic conflicts.
- C. It is the coastal area of Mozambique, where offshore gas exploration projects have been disrupted by insurgent attacks.

D. It is the desert belt in Niger, rich in uranium deposits, facing local protests against French mining companies.

46. With reference to the role of the Governor in State Universities, consider the following statements:

1. The Governor of a state is the ex-officio Chancellor of all state universities in that state.
2. The Chancellor has the power to appoint Vice-Chancellors, approve statutes, and preside over convocations of state universities.
3. Recent amendments in some states have replaced the Governor with the Chief Minister as the Chancellor of state universities.

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

47. With reference to custodial torture in India, consider the following statements:

1. India has signed but not ratified the United Nations Convention Against Torture (UNCAT).
2. Article 21 of the Constitution of India has been interpreted by the Supreme Court to include protection against torture and cruel treatment.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

48. Which of the following urban planning measures can help mitigate urban flooding?

Statements:

1. Preservation of wetlands and floodplains.
2. Construction of storm-water harvesting systems.
3. Increasing the impervious built-up area.
4. Adoption of sponge city approach.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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49. Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine, was recently in the news due to the largest aerial attack since the war began. Consider the following statements:

1. Kyiv is situated on the banks of the Dnieper River.
2. The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine has its headquarters in Kyiv city centre.
3. Kyiv shares an international border with Poland.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

50. Match the following:

Navigation method

Basis of working

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| a. Stellar parallax | 1. Measuring angular shift of nearby stars relative to background stars |
| b. Pulsar navigation | 2. Using periodic radiation from neutron stars as timing beacons |
| c. Astrometric navigation | 3. Measuring angular separation between stars while accounting for relativistic effects |

Select the correct code:

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

51. Which of the following best describes *Parrondo's paradox*, recently discussed in the context of cancer therapy?

- A. A paradox in relativity where time appears to run differently for observers in different frames.
- B. A phenomenon where combining two individually losing strategies may result in a winning outcome.
- C. A mathematical rule that guarantees stability of Nash equilibria in repeated games.
- D. A principle of quantum physics where observation alters the outcome of a system.

52. Which of the following lie to the south of Great Nicobar Island?

1. Indira Point

2. Malacca Strait

3. Aceh (Sumatra, Indonesia)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

53. Arrange the following states in descending order of Total Fertility Rate (TFR) as per SRS 2023:

1. Bihar
2. Madhya Pradesh
3. Rajasthan
4. Delhi

Options:

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

54. Consider the following:

1. Coal mining
2. Insurance sector
3. Railway infrastructure (other than operations)
4. Defence manufacturing

Which of the above sectors in India are placed under the automatic route for 100% FDI?

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

55. The term Enteromix recently was in news is:

- A. A Russian-developed mRNA-based cancer vaccine
- B. A newly discovered antibiotic for bacterial infections
- C. A CRISPR-based gene editing tool
- D. An AI model for predicting cancer growth

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

Assertion (A): At certain levels, lowering tax rates can result in higher tax revenue for the government.

Reason (R): Lower tax rates encourage compliance and stimulate higher economic activity, thereby broadening the tax base.

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Which of the options given below is/are correct?

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

57. The Commission, set up to inquire into the excesses committed during the Emergency, was:

- A. MB Shah Commission
- B. Nanavati Commission
- C. JC Shah Commission
- D. Liberhan Commission

58. With reference to a “review petition” in India, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. The Supreme Court’s power to review its own judgments flows from Article 137 of the Constitution.
- 2. A review petition is an appeal on merits and ordinarily involves a full rehearing of the case.
- 3. Discovery of new and important evidence, error apparent on the face of the record, or any other sufficient reason are recognized grounds for review.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

59. Which of the following institutions conducted the “Comprehensive Modular Survey: Education, 2025”?

- A. Ministry of Education
- B. National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)
- C. NITI Aayog
- D. National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

60. Which of the following conditions must be fulfilled for a registered taxpayer to claim Input Tax Credit (ITC) under GST?

- A. The goods or services must be used for the purpose of making taxable supplies.
- B. The taxpayer must have paid the tax to the government on the goods or services purchased.

C. The goods or services must not be used for personal consumption.

D. All of the above

61. Match the Following (Schemes & Focus Areas)

Scheme	Focus
a. Smart Cities Mission	1. Area-based development + technology-enabled governance
b. PM SVANidhi	2. Micro-credit facility for street vendors
c. HRIDAY	3. Heritage conservation and urban renewal
d. AMRUT	4. Focuses on basic urban infrastructure

Correct matching is:

- A. a-1, b-2, c-3, d-4
- B. a-2, b-3, c-4, d-1
- C. a-3, b-4, c-2, d-1
- D. a-4, b-1, c-3, d-2

62. The “Dark Indonesia” protests were primarily triggered by:

- A. Protest against increasing gun violence
- B. Outrage over budget cuts affecting education and healthcare
- C. Fuel subsidy removal
- D. Border disputes with neighbouring countries

63. Consider the following statements:

- 1. China controls more than 90% of the world’s rare-earths processing capacity.
- 2. India has the world’s fifth-largest rare earth reserves.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None

64. Consider the following statements:

Assertion (A): Artificial Intelligence (AI) can enhance decision-making in healthcare and governance.

Reason (R): AI systems are inherently free from bias and do not require human oversight.

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

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

65. Consider the following statements regarding the Governor of an Indian state:

1. The Governor is appointed by the President of India and holds office at the President's pleasure.
2. The Governor can reserve certain bills passed by the state legislature for the President's consideration.
3. The Governor can act completely independently of the state Council of Ministers in all matters.

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

66. Which of the following states have enacted anti-conversion laws that include provisions for imprisonment and fines for forced or fraudulent religious conversions?

1. Uttarakhand
2. Uttar Pradesh
3. Madhya Pradesh
4. Haryana

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

67. With reference to anti-conversion laws in India, consider the following statements:

1. Anti-conversion laws are enacted only by the Parliament under Article 25 of the Constitution.
2. Several States such as Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Gujarat have their own anti-conversion laws.
3. The Constitution of India explicitly uses the term "forced conversion" under Fundamental Rights.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

68. Consider the following pairs of ships and their features.

Ships	Features
1. INS Tir	Offshore patrol vessel indigenously built by goa shipyard Ltd.
2. INS Shardul	First dedicated Indian Navy cadet training ship, built by Mazagon Dock Ltd.
3. ICGS Sarathi	Lead ship of an amphibious warfare class based vessel

Which of the pairs given is/are correctly matched?

- A. 1 and 2 only
 B. 1 and 3 only
 C. 2 and 3 only
 D. None of these

69. Consider the following statements regarding the India-Sri Lanka maritime boundary and related issues:

1. The International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) between India and Sri Lanka was demarcated under treaties signed in the 1970s.
2. Under the agreement, the islet of Katchatheevu was recognized as part of India's territory.
3. Sri Lanka has banned bottom trawling in its territorial waters since 2017.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

70. With reference to the election of the Vice-President of India, consider the following statements:

1. The Vice-President is elected by an electoral college consisting of members of both Houses of Parliament.
2. The election is conducted in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.
3. The nominated members of Parliament also take part in this election.

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

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71. Match the African country in news with its significance for India:

Country	Significance
a. Democratic Republic of Congo	1. Source of cobalt & copper critical for EV industry
b. Mozambique	2. LNG gas supplies for India
c. Tanzania	3. Source of natural graphite for battery production
d. Senegal	4. Location of India's Pan-African e-Network project hub

Select the correct option:

- A. a-1, b-2, c-3, d-4
 B. a-2, b-3, c-1, d-4
 C. a-3, b-1, c-4, d-2
 D. a-4, b-1, c-2, d-3
72. Which one of the following best describes a stablecoin?
- A. A cryptocurrency issued only by central banks, equivalent to legal tender.
 B. A digital token pegged to a stable asset such as a fiat currency or commodity.
 C. A blockchain that records only stable transactions approved by the IMF.
 D. A form of equity share that provides stable dividends to investors.
73. With reference to India–Nepal relations, consider the following statements:
- India and Nepal share an open border and citizens of both countries can move across without visas.
 - The Mahakali Treaty between India and Nepal is related to the sharing of waters of the Kosi River.
 - Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura are the border regions at the centre of disputes between India and Nepal.
 - India is Nepal's largest trade partner and a major source of foreign investments.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

74. With reference to infrastructure initiatives in India, consider the following statements:

- The Bharatmala Pariyojana seeks to develop economic corridors, feeder routes, border roads and expressways across the country.
- The Sagarmala Programme is primarily focused on modernization of inland waterways rather than ports.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

75. With reference to the European debate on recognition of Palestine, the term “consistency gap” refers to:

- The difference between UN resolutions and the actual situation on the ground in Palestine
- The gap between European public opinion and their governments' foreign policies
- The contradiction in Europe's defence of sovereignty in Ukraine versus inaction in Palestine
- The difference between U.S. and European positions on the Israel-Palestine issue

76. Consider the following statements:

- Vultures in India are part of the Central Asian Flyway, which connects breeding grounds in Central Asia to wintering grounds in South Asia.
- Conservation of vultures is already fully integrated into India's national One Health strategy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

77. With reference to the legal status of refugees in India, which of the following correctly explains the challenge for Sri Lankan Tamil refugees?

- They are considered “illegal migrants” under Indian law, making them ineligible for citizenship by registration or naturalisation.
- They are automatically eligible for Indian citizenship after 10 years of stay under Section 6 of the Citizenship Act, 1955.

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- C. They are granted citizenship through the Panchsheel Agreement with Sri Lanka.
- D. They enjoy constitutional rights identical to Indian citizens.

78. Regarding the Great Nicobar Project, which of the following are true?

1. It includes a greenfield international airport with both civil and military uses.
2. It involves denotification of tribal reserve land and affects indigenous communities such as the Shompen.
3. The project has been stalled because it failed to obtain environmental clearance.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

79. Which of the following are approved by global public health agencies such as WHO and CDC as effective repellents against Aedes mosquitoes?

1. DEET
 2. Picaridin
 3. Para-menthane-diol (PMD)
 4. Citronella oil
- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
 - B. 1 and 4 only
 - C. 2, 3 and 4 only
 - D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

80. Consider the following in context of India-Mauritius strategic cooperation:

1. Agaléga Island projects include development of airstrip and jetty by India.
2. India has reaffirmed support for Mauritius' claim over the Chagos Archipelago.
3. Mauritius has joined India's SAGAR initiative.

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

81. With reference to the Twin Balance Sheet (TBS) problem in the Indian economy, consider the following:

1. It refers to the simultaneous stress in the balance sheets of banks and corporates.
2. The problem emerged primarily due to over-leveraging of corporates and rising Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) in banks.
3. The Twin Balance Sheet problem was first highlighted in the Economic Survey of India.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

82. Consider the following Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Choose the correct option from the choices given below.

Assertion (A): In many Scheduled Five Area States, tribal women are systematically excluded from inheriting ancestral property, despite constitutional guarantees of equality.

Reason (R): The legal framework governing these areas often gives precedence to tribal customary laws, many of which are patrilineal, over national statutes like the Hindu Succession Act.

Options:

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

83. With reference to "median line" in the Taiwan Strait, which of the following are correct?

1. The line is an officially recognized international maritime boundary established under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
2. Originally demarcated by the United States in the 1950s, it has historically functioned as an unofficial buffer zone to prevent military escalation between China and Taiwan.
3. In recent years, China has deliberately and frequently sent military aircraft and vessels across the median line to challenge its existence and assert sovereignty over Taiwan.

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Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

84. Consider the following statements:

1. The high-level conference that endorsed the New York Declaration on protecting civilians in urban warfare was co-chaired by France and Saudi Arabia.
2. In its voting record at the UN since the beginning of 2023, India has consistently avoided abstaining on resolutions pertaining to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

85. Consider the following statements:

1. During combustion in fireworks, barium compounds are used as the primary colorant to produce a brilliant green flame.
2. "Green crackers," developed by CSIR-NEERI, are designed to significantly reduce particulate matter emissions but do not completely eliminate harmful gases like sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

86. Match the type of social engineering attack in **Column A** with its correct description in **Column B**:

Attack Type	Description
1. Phishing	a. A fraudulent attempt using voice calls to trick victims into revealing financial or personal information.
2. Smishing	b. The broad term for attempts to acquire sensitive data through deceptive electronic communications, most commonly email.
3. Vishing	c. A specific type of attack that uses fraudulent SMS text messages to target victims.

Select the correct match:

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

87. With reference to Lab-Grown Diamonds (LGDs), consider the following statements:

1. They are produced through methods such as High Pressure High Temperature (HPHT) and Chemical Vapor Deposition (CVD).
2. Lab-grown diamonds are chemically and optically identical to natural diamonds.
3. India is one of the world's largest producers of lab-grown diamonds.

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

88. Consider the following statements:

1. Microplastics have been found in Arctic snow, human blood, and placental tissue.
2. Biodegradable plastics completely degrade without leaving any toxic residue in the natural environment.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

89. With reference to DNA evidence in criminal investigations in India, consider the following statements:

1. DNA evidence is treated as substantive evidence under the Indian Evidence Act.
2. The Supreme Court has held that DNA profiles are valid and reliable.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

90. Consider the following statements:

1. Retail inflation is measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and reflects changes in the prices of a basket of goods and services consumed by households.

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2. Core inflation excludes volatile items like food and fuel to capture the underlying trend of price rise.
3. The Reserve Bank of India uses Wholesale Price Index (WPI) as the nominal anchor for its inflation targeting framework.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

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

1. They are marsupials, native to Australia.
2. The IUCN Red List classifies the Koala as Endangered.
3. Habitat loss, bushfires, and diseases such as chlamydia are major threats to their survival.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

92. With reference to Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme in India, consider the following statements:

1. The government has advanced the target of achieving 20% ethanol blending in petrol (E20) to 2025.
2. Ethanol can be produced only from sugarcane and maize.
3. Use of ethanol blending reduces India's crude oil import dependence and greenhouse gas emissions.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

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

1. The NFSA guarantees a uniform entitlement of 35 kg of foodgrains per month to every eligible household.
2. It creates a legal entitlement to receive subsidized foodgrains for up to 75% of the rural and 50% of the urban population.

3. Under this framework, the Central Government handles the procurement and pricing, while State Governments manage the identification of beneficiaries and final distribution.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

94. With reference to the multifaceted relationship between India and the United States, consider the following statements:

1. They hold a "2+2 Ministerial Dialogue" involving Defence and External Affairs Ministers of both countries.
2. Both nations are key members of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD), a strategic forum that also includes Japan and Australia.
3. They have established a Strategic Energy Partnership for cooperation in renewable energy, oil & gas, and emerging technologies.

How many of the above are correct?

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

95. With reference to women's contribution in India's economy, consider the following statements:

1. Women contribute about 18% of India's GDP despite being nearly half its population.
2. Female Labour Force Participation Rate (FLFPR) in India has dropped to below 24% recently.
3. The worker population ratio (WPR) for women in India is more than 50%.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

96. Consider the following statements:

Assertion (A): Migratory birds are vulnerable to collisions with skyscrapers, wind turbines, and communication towers in urban landscapes.

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Reason (R): Many migratory birds navigate at night using celestial cues, and artificial lights interfere with this orientation.

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

97. With reference to the jurisprudence on bail in India, consider the following statements:

- 1. The Supreme Court has observed that the principle "bail is the rule and jail is the exception" flows from the right to life and personal liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution.
- 2. Bail is available to an accused as an unconditional right, regardless of the nature of the offence.

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

98. With reference to the interpretation of Article 21 of the Constitution by the Supreme Court of India, which of the following have been held to be part of the "right to life"?

- 1. Right to a clean and healthy environment
- 2. Right to privacy and protection of personal data
- 3. Right to speedy trial in criminal cases
- 4. Right to shelter

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

99. With reference to "Aquamonitrix", sometimes seen in news, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a portable, low-pressure ion chromatograph that can separate anions along a short column.
- 2. The eluent used in the instrument contains sodium chloride.
- 3. It is primarily designed for the detection of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

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

100. With reference to the discretionary powers of the Governor, consider the following statements:

- 1. The Governor may reserve a Bill passed by the State Legislature for the consideration of the President.
- 2. In certain States, the Governor has special responsibility with respect to the administration of tribal areas under the Sixth Schedule.
- 3. The Governor may dismiss a Council of Ministers that has lost the confidence of the House, even before a formal no-confidence motion is passed.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

101. With reference to octopuses, consider the following statements:

- 1. Their blood appears blue because it contains copper-based hemocyanin.
- 2. They can regenerate their lost arms.
- 3. They use the ink sac primarily for hunting prey.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

102. With reference to tariffs in international trade, consider the following statements:

- 1. Tariffs are used not only for raising revenue but also for protecting domestic industries.
- 2. Under WTO agreements, bound tariffs represent the maximum levels of tariffs a country commits not to cross.
- 3. Applied tariffs of a country are always the same as its bound tariffs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

103. With reference to cloudbursts, consider the following statements:

1. It refers to sudden, extremely heavy rainfall concentrated over a small geographical area.
2. Orographic uplift of moisture-laden winds along steep Himalayan slopes is one of the reasons for cloudbursts in Uttarakhand.
3. Cloudbursts can always be predicted with accuracy using Doppler weather radars.

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

104. With reference to healthcare in India, consider the following statements:

1. Public expenditure accounts for the largest share of total health spending in India.
2. The National Health Policy, 2017 proposes raising public health expenditure to 2.5% of GDP by the year 2025.
3. The Ayushman Bharat programme consists of health insurance for hospitalisation as well as primary healthcare through Health and Wellness Centres.

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

105. With reference to Japanese Encephalitis (JE), consider the following statements:

1. It is a viral disease primarily transmitted by mosquitoes of the Aedes genus.
2. In India, its vaccine is selectively administered under the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) in endemic regions.
3. While pigs serve as amplifying hosts for the virus, humans are considered terminal or dead-end hosts.

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

106. Consider the following pairs:

City/Region	Major factor contributing to recent urban floods
1. Chennai	Loss of wetlands and encroachment of Pallikaranai marsh
2. Mumbai	Narrow Mithi river and tidal influence from the Arabian Sea
3. Punjab towns (Ludhiana, Patiala)	Excess water release from upstream dams and inadequate drainage

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

107. Consider the following statements:

1. Waqf property ownership cannot be sold or transferred as it is considered to vest in God.
2. The Central Waqf Council functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

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. Consider the following statements regarding the geography of the Palestinian territories:

1. While the Gaza Strip has a coastline on the Mediterranean Sea, the West Bank is entirely landlocked.
2. Both the Gaza Strip and the West Bank share a land border with Israel and Egypt.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

109. Consider the following pairs of Revolts and their Leaders:

1. Malabar Rebellion (1921) – Sidhu and Kanhu
2. Santhal Rebellion (1855–56) – Ali Musliyar, Kunhamed Haji

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3. Indigo Revolt (1859–60) – Digambar Biswas, Bishnu Biswas

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

110. Arrange the following electoral reforms/initiatives in India in chronological order of their introduction:

1. EPIC (Electors Photo Identity Card) Scheme
2. Nationwide use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) in Parliamentary elections
3. Pilot introduction of Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

111. Which of the following best describes the fundamental principle of Reinforcement Learning (RL)?

- A. The model learns to map input data to known output labels provided in a training set.
B. The model learns to identify hidden patterns and structures within unlabeled data.
C. An agent learns to make sequential decisions by performing actions in an environment to maximize a cumulative reward signal.
D. The model's parameters are adjusted to minimize the difference between its predictions and a predefined objective function.

112. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: Sin taxes are typically designed as Pigovian excise levies to discourage consumption of goods with negative health and social externalities.

Statement II: In India, goods commonly treated as “sin goods” in policy (such as tobacco, alcohol, sugar-sweetened beverages, and gambling/online gaming) often face higher indirect tax rates and/or additional cesses to both curb consumption and raise revenue for public welfare. Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

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

113. Consider the following statements regarding India–China relations:

1. The Line of Actual Control (LAC) separates India and China along their entire border.
2. The Doklam plateau is located at the tri-junction of India, China, and Bhutan.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

114. Consider the following statements:

1. The EU is India's top trading partner in services.
2. India is formally part of the EU's Global Gateway initiative.
3. India–EU summits include discussions on counter-terrorism cooperation.

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

115. Consider the following statements:

Assertion (A): India has successfully achieved the SDG 3 target of ending epidemics of major communicable diseases.

Reason (R): India has eliminated polio, reduced HIV/AIDS incidence, and made substantial progress against TB and malaria.

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

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116. With reference to stubble burning in India, consider the following pollutants:

1. Particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10)
2. Carbon monoxide (CO)
3. Nitrogen oxides (NOx)
4. Methane (CH₄)
5. Sulphur dioxide (SO₂)

Which of the above are major pollutants released during stubble burning?

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

117. With reference to the Election Commission of India, consider the following functions:

1. Preparing and periodically revising the electoral rolls.
2. Recognising political parties and allotting election symbols.
3. Advising the President on matters of disqualification of Members of Parliament under Article 103.
4. Appointing election tribunals to decide disputes relating to elections.

Which of the above functions are actually performed by the Election Commission of India?

Options:

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

118. With reference to India's relations with West Asia, consider the following statements:

1. India is one of the largest importers of crude oil from the Gulf region.
2. The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) includes both Saudi Arabia and Iran.
3. The largest share of India's overseas remittances comes from Indian workers in West Asia.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

Options:

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

119. Which of the following are identified single-use plastic items banned in India under the Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2021?

1. Plastic carry bags less than 120 microns in thickness
2. Plastic plates and cups
3. Plastic water bottles
4. Polystyrene [Thermocol] for decoration

Select the correct answer:

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

120. Consider the following statements regarding exchange rate regimes:

1. In a fixed exchange rate system, the central bank actively intervenes to maintain the currency value.
2. In a floating exchange rate system, market forces alone determine the currency value, with no central bank intervention.
3. India follows a managed float system where the RBI occasionally intervenes in the foreign exchange market.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

Options:

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

121. Consider the following statements regarding types of sanctions:

1. Trade sanctions restrict the import or export of specific goods.
2. Financial sanctions block access to international banking or capital markets.
3. Diplomatic sanctions involve cutting off formal diplomatic relations and embassy closures.
4. Sanctions are legally binding under the UN Charter.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

Options:

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

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122. Consider the following statements regarding the Preamble of the Indian Constitution:

1. It identifies the source of the Constitution's authority as the Constituent Assembly of India.
2. The terms 'Socialist' and 'Secular' were added by the 42nd Amendment and were not in the original Preamble.
3. It lays out the objectives of securing Justice, Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity for all citizens.
4. The Preamble is legally enforceable in a court of law, just like the Fundamental Rights.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

123. Consider the following statements regarding Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) in India:

1. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has reclassified REITs as equity instruments, allowing mutual funds to count them as part of their equity investments.
2. REITs are generally less risky than stocks because they invest in income-generating commercial assets and distribute a large portion of earnings to investors.
3. Even after being classified as equity, REITs cannot absorb substantial inflows from equity mutual funds due to the limited number of listed REITs and low market liquidity.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

124. Match the following transient astronomical events with their observational features:

Column I

1. Extreme Nuclear Transients (ENTs)
2. Fast X-ray Transients (FXTs)

Column II

- a. Lower luminosity, very rapid rise/decay, often unrelated to black hole disruption
- b. Very high luminosity, slow rise/decay, found in centers of host galaxies around supermassive black holes

3. Gamma-Ray Bursts (GRBs)

- c. Extremely luminous, very rapid, often associated with supernovae or neutron star mergers

Options:

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

125. Consider the following statements regarding Uranium reserves in India:

1. The Singhbhum district of Jharkhand has the largest uranium reserves in India.
2. Uranium deposits are found only in coastal regions of India.
3. Sandstone-type deposits of uranium are found in Rajasthan.

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

126. Consider the following statements regarding international relations and trade:

1. Pakistan is a member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).
2. Saudi Arabia is the largest oil exporter in the world and a leading member of Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).
3. Both Pakistan and Saudi Arabia share a border with Iran.

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

127. With reference to India-Morocco bilateral cooperation, consider the following statements:

1. Morocco is a member of India's International Solar Alliance initiative.
2. India and Morocco have signed a formal defence and strategic partnership treaty.
3. Both countries have established cultural exchange programs to promote Hindi and Arabic language studies.

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Select the correct answer:

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

128. With reference to India-Sri Lanka economic cooperation, consider the following statements:

1. India is one of the major trade partners and investors in Sri Lanka, contributing to multiple sectors of its economy.
2. Bilateral collaboration includes development of infrastructure such as ports, highways, and renewable energy projects.
3. India only provides financial aid to Sri Lanka and does not participate in investments in its energy sector.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only 1 and 2 are correct
- B. Only 2 and 3 are correct
- C. Only 1 and 3 are correct
- D. All three are correct

129. With reference to the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, consider the following statements:

1. It is conferred annually by the Ministry of Culture for outstanding contribution to Indian cinema.
2. The award carries a Swarna Kamal (Golden Lotus), a cash prize, and a shawl.
3. It was instituted in 1969 to honour the contributions of the "father of Indian cinema."

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

130. With reference to India's agricultural trade, consider the following statements:

1. India maintains a dominant position as a global rice exporter while also being one of the world's largest importers of edible oils to meet domestic demand.
2. India exports significant quantities of maize (corn), especially to countries in South and Southeast Asia.
3. Spices and marine products together account for the largest share of India's agri-export basket.

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

131. With reference to the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, consider the following statements:

1. The Act provides a legal framework to prohibit discrimination against transgender persons in key areas like education, employment, and healthcare.
2. It allows for the official recognition of a person's self-perceived gender identity based solely on a self-declaration, without requiring any external certification.
3. The Act mandates the formation of a National Council for Transgender Persons to advise the government and monitor the law's implementation.

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

132. With reference to the traditional and alternative systems of medicine, consider the following pairs:

1. Ayurveda – Originated in Greece and developed further in the Arab world
2. Unani – Charaka Samhita and Sushruta Samhita
3. Siddha – Traditional system with roots in Tamil culture
4. Homoeopathy – Based on the principle of "like cures like," founded by Samuel Hahnemann

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

133. With reference to macroeconomic growth drivers, consider the following statements:

1. The aggregate demand in an open economy is composed of four core components: private consumption, gross investment, government expenditure, and net exports.

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2. A new cycle of private investment is typically triggered only after rising consumer demand absorbs most of the existing slack in industrial capacity.
3. A sustained increase in public capital expenditure is a viable long-term strategy to substitute for a weak private investment cycle and drive high economic growth.

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

134. Consider the following statements regarding secularism as a feature of the Indian Constitution:

1. The term 'Secular' was explicitly part of the Preamble in the Constitution of India as originally adopted in 1949.
2. The Supreme Court has affirmed that the secular character of the Constitution is a 'basic feature' and thus cannot be abrogated by parliamentary amendment.
3. The Constitution prohibits the State from discriminating against any citizen solely on the grounds of religion.

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

135. This forest is dominated by coniferous trees that are typically evergreen. These trees have characteristic needle-like or scale-like leaves and produce cones. While most commonly found in the temperate and boreal regions of the Northern Hemisphere, often in mountainous areas, this forest type also exists globally in specific locations, from the Nilgiris in India to the Sky Islands of the US. The soil here is generally acidic due to the decomposition of fallen needles on the forest floor. Which type of forest is described above?

- A. Tropical Rainforest
- B. Temperate Deciduous Forest
- C. Pine Forest
- D. Mangrove Forest

136. Which of the following statements about the National Pension System (NPS) is/are correct?

1. NPS is regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
2. NPS is open to all Indian citizens between the ages of 18 and 70.
3. It is a voluntary scheme for employees of the Government of India but mandatory for state government employees.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

137. Consider the following statements regarding monetary policy reforms in India:

1. The Narasimham Committee recommended the establishment of a statutory Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to control inflation.
2. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), as constituted by the 2016 RBI Act amendments, has an equal number of members from the RBI and the government.
3. The legally mandated inflation target for the RBI is 4% Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation, with a permissible deviation of plus or minus 2%.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

138. The GST Council implements a rate cut on essential food items like salt and basic flour. What is the most likely impact on the quantity demanded and the government's tax revenue from these items?

- A. A massive increase in quantity demanded and a sharp rise in tax revenue.
- B. A small increase in quantity demanded and a significant fall in tax revenue.
- C. No change in quantity demanded and no change in tax revenue.
- D. A proportional increase in quantity demanded, leaving tax revenue unchanged.

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139. Which of the following is not one of the six principal organs of the United Nations?
- General Assembly
 - Security Council
 - International Court of Justice
 - World Health Organization

140. Which of the following statements most accurately describes a key feature of the H-1B visa program in the United States?

- It is primarily granted to individuals for tourism and short-term business meetings.
- It is reserved for investors who invest a significant amount of capital into a U.S. business.
- Applicants are selected through a lottery system when the number of petitions exceeds the annual cap.
- It provides a direct and immediate path to permanent residency (Green Card) for all holders.

141. With reference to the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:

- The Schedule provides for the administration of tribal areas in the four states of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Manipur.
- An Autonomous District Council (ADC) has legislative power over matters like land, forest management, and social customs, but all such laws require the assent of the Governor.
- The laws passed by the Parliament or the State Legislature automatically apply to the Autonomous Districts.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

142. The landmark judicial interpretation that significantly expanded the 'Right to Life' under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution to implicitly include the 'Right to a Healthy Environment' and simultaneously introduced the strict 'Absolute Liability' rule for hazardous industries, was delivered in which of the following cases?

- Keshavanada Bharati v Union of India
- M.C. Mehta v. Union of India

- Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India
- Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum v. Union of India

143. Consider the following pairs of Indian States and the international borders they share:

State	International Border with:
1. Sikkim	China, Nepal, and Bhutan
2. West Bengal	Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh
3. Arunachal Pradesh	China, Bhutan, and Myanmar

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

144. Which chemical process is predominantly used to convert vegetable oils or animal fats into biodiesel?

- Gasification
- Transesterification
- Fermentation
- Hydrocracking

145. Which ancient Indian mathematical text, written on birch bark, is considered the earliest recorded example of the use of 'zero' as a numeral (placeholder and value)?

- Brahmasphutasiddhanta
- Surya Siddhanta
- Bakhshali Manuscript
- Ganita Sara Samgraha

146. With reference to the Defence Procurement in India, consider the following statements:

- Defence Acquisition Council, chaired by the Defence Minister, is the highest decision-making body in the Ministry of Defence for all capital acquisitions.
- The Defence Acquisition Procedure is the definitive document for Capital Acquisitions by the Armed Forces, but Defence Public Sector Undertakings are governed by their own specific procurement procedures.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Answers

1. (B)	2. (C)	3. (C)	4. (D)	5. (C)	6. (B)	7. (A)	8. (C)	9. (D)	10. (B)
11. (B)	12. (A)	13. (B)	14. (D)	15. (B)	16. (B)	17. (C)	18. (B)	19. (C)	20. (A)
21. (C)	22. (A)	23. (B)	24. (A)	25. (A)	26. (A)	27. (A)	28. (D)	29. (B)	30. (C)
31. (C)	32. (C)	33. (C)	34. (D)	35. (A)	36. (C)	37. (C)	38. (B)	39. (A)	40. (A)
41. (B)	42. (A)	43. (A)	44. (B)	45. (A)	46. (D)	47. (C)	48. (B)	49. (A)	50. (A)
51. (B)	52. (C)	53. (B)	54. (A)	55. (A)	56. (A)	57. (C)	58. (B)	59. (D)	60. (D)
61. (A)	62. (B)	63. (C)	64. (C)	65. (A)	66. (D)	67. (B)	68. (D)	69. (B)	70. (D)
71. (A)	72. (B)	73. (A)	74. (A)	75. (C)	76. (A)	77. (A)	78. (A)	79. (A)	80. (D)
81. (C)	82. (A)	83. (C)	84. (A)	85. (C)	86. (B)	87. (D)	88. (A)	89. (B)	90. (A)
91. (D)	92. (B)	93. (B)	94. (C)	95. (A)	96. (A)	97. (B)	98. (D)	99. (A)	100. (B)
101. (B)	102. (A)	103. (A)	104. (B)	105. (B)	106. (C)	107. (A)	108. (A)	109. (A)	110. (A)
111. (C)	112. (A)	113. (B)	114. (B)	115. (D)	116. (A)	117. (B)	118. (B)	119. (C)	120. (A)
121. (A)	122. (A)	123. (C)	124. (D)	125. (B)	126. (D)	127. (C)	128. (A)	129. (B)	130. (A)
131. (C)	132. (B)	133. (A)	134. (B)	135. (C)	136. (D)	137. (B)	138. (B)	139. (D)	140. (C)
141. (A)	142. (B)	143. (C)	144. (B)	145. (C)	146. (C)				



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Practice Explanation

1.

Ans: B

Exp:

Gross Domestic Product:

- GDP is the sum of the market value of all the final goods and services produced within the geographical boundaries of a country each year.
- GDP includes only **newly produced goods and services** during the year of estimation. Old goods are excluded. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **resale of a house** is not counted in GDP, but the **service income of the real estate agent** is included, as it represents new value addition in the year. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Transactions involving the **purchase and sale of stocks and bonds** are not counted in GDP since they are merely exchanges of financial assets, not production of goods or services. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

2.

Ans: C

Exp:

TRUST, INDUS Innovation, and COMPACT initiatives:

- All three initiatives are part of the **India–U.S. cooperation framework** to deepen **strategic, defense, and technology ties**.
- **TRUST (Transforming the Relationship Utilizing Strategic Technology) Initiative:** This initiative aims to **catalyze collaboration** between governments, academia, and the private sector of India and the US. It focuses on the **application of critical and emerging technologies**, including defense-related technologies.
- **INDUS Innovation:** This program is designed to **advance industry and academic partnerships** between India and the U.S., encouraging **investments in space, energy, and other emerging technologies**.
- **COMPACT (Catalyzing Opportunities for Military Partnership, Accelerated Commerce & Technology):** This seeks to promote a **results-driven agenda** in the India-

U.S. partnership, showcasing mutual **trust in military, commerce, and technological cooperation**.

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

3.

Ans: C

Exp:

Press Note 3:

- To prevent opportunistic takeovers and acquisitions of Indian companies during the Covid-19 pandemic, the Government amended the **FDI Policy, 2017** through **Press Note 3 (2020)**.
- Under this provision, any entity from countries sharing a land border with India, or whose **beneficial owner** belongs to such countries, can invest in India **only through the Government approval route**.
- For the purpose of Press Note 3, India identifies the following as **bordering countries: Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal, Bhutan, China (including Hong Kong), Bangladesh, and Myanmar**.
- The government is considering easing the restrictions imposed under the **FDI policy in 2020 via Press Note 3**, introduced during the Covid-19 period, which limits **Chinese foreign direct investment (FDI)** in India.

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

4.

Ans: D

Exp:

Iberian Peninsula:

- The **Iberian Peninsula** is located on **Europe's southwestern tip**. It is part of the **Southern Europe peninsula**, which comprises three peninsulas: **Iberian, Balkan, and Italian** peninsulas. The **Iberian Peninsula** is separated from the rest of Europe by the **Pyrenees mountain range** located between **France and Spain**.
- The peninsula is mainly occupied by **Spain and Portugal**. However, it also comprises **Andorra**, part of **Southern France** (French department of **Pyrénées-Orientales**), and **Gibraltar** (British overseas territory).
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

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5.

Ans: C

Exp:

Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises Sector:

- **Union Budget 2025-26** has announced major measures to strengthen the **Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector**, acknowledging its crucial contribution to India's economic growth.
- The **investment ceiling** has been raised by **2.5 times** and the **turnover threshold** doubled, enabling **MSMEs** to **expand operations** and **adopt advanced technologies**.

Rs. in Crore	Investment		Turnover	
	Current	Revised	Current	Revised
Micro Enterprises	1	2.5	5	10
Small Enterprises	10	25	50	100
Medium Enterprises	50	125	250	500

6.

Ans: B

Exp:

Dragon-Elephant Tango:

- The phrase **"Dragon-Elephant Tango"** is a metaphor that signifies the idea of **peaceful and cooperative relations between India and China**.
- In this imagery, the **Dragon** represents **China**, drawing from its deep roots in Chinese mythology, while the **Elephant** symbolizes **India**, reflecting strength and cultural significance in Indian heritage.
- The word **"Tango"**, a dance form, conveys the spirit of **coordination, harmony, and mutual understanding** between the two nations.
- Hence, option B is correct.

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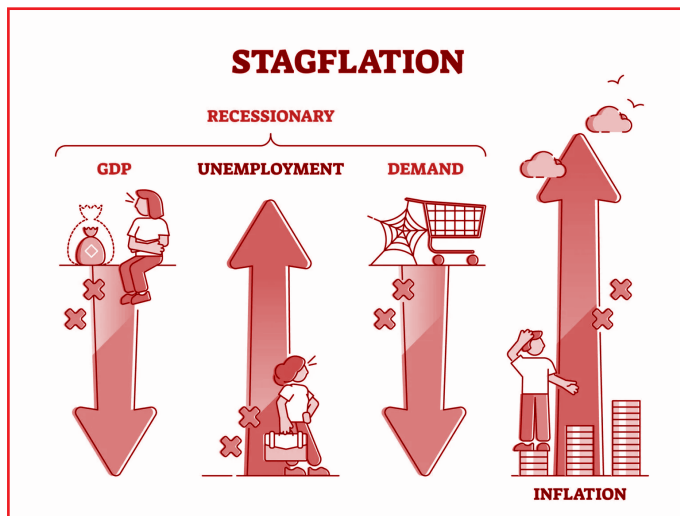
7.

Ans: A

Exp:

Stagflation:

- **Stagflation**, a mix of **stagnation** and **inflation**, refers to a rare and challenging **economic condition** where an economy faces:
 - ◆ **Stagnation: Low or negative growth**, often accompanied by **high unemployment**.
 - ◆ **Inflation: A phase of rapidly rising prices** across sectors.
- This situation is difficult for **policymakers** since remedies for one issue usually **aggravate** the other. For instance, **raising interest rates** to control **inflation** may worsen **unemployment**, while **lowering rates** or **increasing spending** to spur **growth** can further **fuel inflation**.
- Hence, option A is correct.



8.

Ans: C

Exp:

Cotton:

- **Cotton** is a **soft, fluffy staple fibre** that forms within a **boll (protective case)** around its seeds. It is a **semi-xerophytic shrub**, naturally found in **tropical and subtropical regions** including the **Americas, Africa, Egypt, and India**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- In India, **cotton** is cultivated on **diverse soils** such as **well-drained deep alluvial soils** in the **north**, **black clayey soils** of varying depths in the **central region**, and **black** as well as **mixed black and red soils** in the **southern zone**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- **Cotton**, like most other **plant fibres**, is composed of the carbohydrate **cellulose**, whereas most **animal fibres**,

such as **silk**, are made of **proteins**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

- At the **germination stage**, cotton requires a **minimum temperature of 15°C**, while during **vegetative growth** the **optimum temperature ranges between 21–27°C**.
 - ◆ The crop can withstand temperatures up to **43°C**, but conditions **below 21°C** are harmful.
 - ◆ It also needs about **210 frost-free days** and **50–100 cm of rainfall** for proper growth.
 - ◆ **Warm days of cool nights** with **large diurnal variations** during the period of fruiting are **conducive to good boll & fibre development**. Hence, **statement 4 is correct**.

9.

Ans: D

Exp:

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation:

- The **25th SCO Summit 2025** was held under the chairmanship of **China in Tianjin**, a key port city in northern China. At the conclusion of the summit, the **Kyrgyz Republic** took over the **rotating presidency of the SCO for 2025–2026**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- **Iran** was granted **full membership** of the SCO at the summit hosted **virtually by India**, while **Belarus** became a **new member** at the SCO Summit held in **Astana, Kazakhstan** in 2024. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- The theme of the **25th SCO Summit** was **Upholding the Shanghai Spirit: SCO on the Move**, highlighting the organisation's **solidarity and collective strength** in response to **US tariffs widely perceived as unfair across Asia**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

10.

Ans: B

Exp:

Autism Spectrum Disorder:

- **Autism spectrum disorder (ASD)** is a **neurodevelopmental condition** that impacts social interaction, communication, learning, and behaviour, **marked by difficulties in social communication and the presence of restricted, repetitive behaviours**.
- The term "spectrum" in autism spectrum disorders (ASD) refers to the **wide range and severity of symptoms**, not geography like atypical behaviours, restricted interests, and unusual sensory responses.
- It is estimated that **worldwide about 1 in 100 children has autism**.
- Hence, option B is correct.

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11.

Ans: B

Exp:

Two-state Solution:

- The “**Two-State Solution**” is a long-standing political framework aimed at resolving the core conflict between **Israelis and Palestinians**. It proposes the establishment of **two separate, independent states coexisting peacefully**:
 - ◆ **The State of Israel**: Continuing within secure and recognized borders.
 - ◆ **The State of Palestine**: Established in the territories occupied by Israel since the 1967 Six-Day War—namely, the **West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip**.
- The conflict arises from **competing national aspirations** for the same land, with **Israelis (Jewish identity)** and **Palestinians (Arab identity)** both claiming **historical and religious rights**. The solution seeks to ensure **self-determination for both peoples**.
- Hence, option B is correct.

12.

Ans: A

Exp:

Japan:

- The **Japanese archipelago** consists of thousands of islands, extending **from the Sea of Okhotsk in the north to the East China Sea in the south**.
- **The five main islands of Japan, from north to south, are:**
 - ◆ Hokkaido (northernmost island)
 - ◆ Honshu (the largest and most populous, home to Tokyo, Kyoto, and Osaka)
 - ◆ Shikoku (the smallest of the four main islands)
 - ◆ Kyushu (southwesternmost of the four main islands)
 - ◆ Okinawa Island (part of the Ryukyu Islands chain, and the fifth largest in Japan).
- Hence, option A is correct.

13.

Ans: B

Exp:

Ukraine's Minerals:

- Ukraine possesses **22 of the 34 minerals classified as critical by the EU**, along with **reserves of rare earth elements (REEs)** such as lanthanum, cerium, and neodymium.
- Its critical minerals include **precious and non-ferrous metals, ferroalloys, and minerals** like titanium, zirconium, graphite, and lithium.
- The country also has some of the **world's largest recoverable reserves** of coal, gas, iron, manganese, nickel, titanium, and uranium.
- These mineral resources are primarily concentrated in **Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, Dnipropetrovsk, Kirovohrad, Poltava, and Kharkiv**.
- Hence, option B is correct.

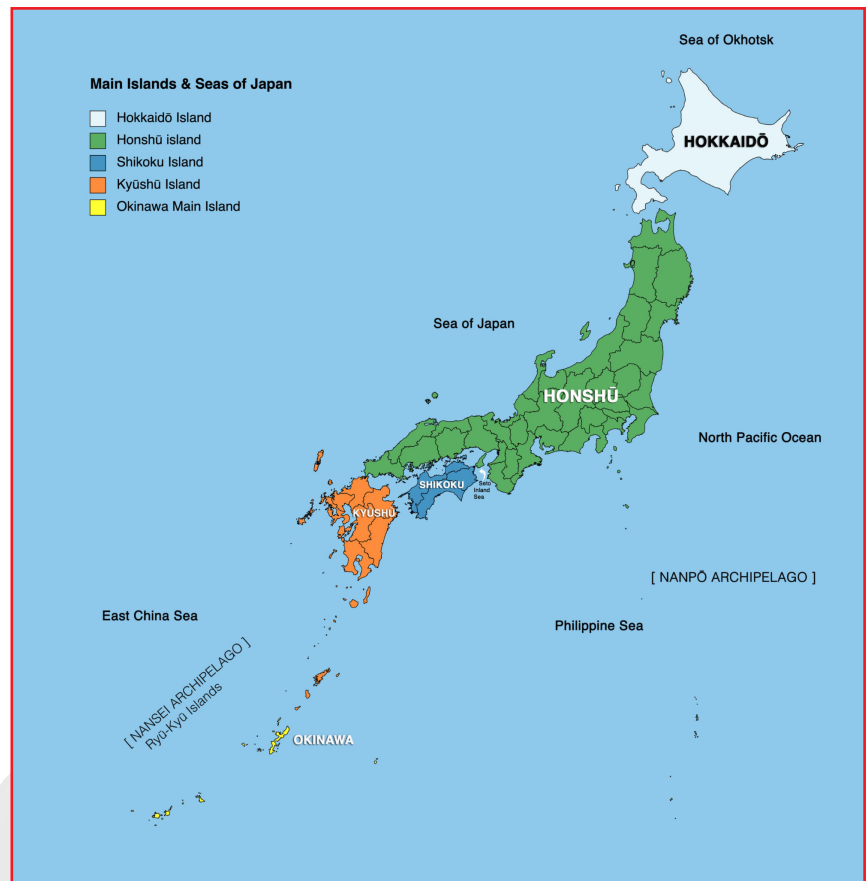
14.

Ans: D

Exp:

Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana:

- **Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana** aims to **support employment generation, enhance employability and social security**, across all sectors, with **special focus on the manufacturing sector**. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.



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- The benefits of the scheme would be applicable to **jobs created between 1st August 2025 and 31st July, 2027**.
- The scheme will provide an **incentive of up to ₹15,000 in two instalments to newly employed youth and up to 3000 per month per new employee to employers for creation of new job opportunities**. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

15.

Ans: B

Exp:

Aadhaar:

- **Aadhaar** is a **12-digit individual identification number** issued by the **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** that serves as a **proof of identity and address**, anywhere in **India**.
- The **Aadhaar card** contains an individual's **biometric and demographic information**, which is stored in the **Central Identities Data Repository (CIDR)** maintained by **UIDAI**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- **Foreign nationals** who have resided in **India for 182 days or more** in the **12 months immediately preceding the enrolment application date** are **eligible for Aadhaar enrolment**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- **Section 9 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016** states that "The **Aadhaar number** or its **authentication shall not**, by itself, confer any **right of citizenship** or serve as **proof of domicile** for an Aadhaar number holder." Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

16.

Ans: B

Exp:

Fiscal Drag and Fiscal Glide:

- **Fiscal Drag:**
 - ◆ **Meaning:** Fiscal drag occurs when **inflation or income growth** pushes individuals into **higher tax brackets**, even though their real income (purchasing power) has not increased significantly.
 - ◆ **Impact:** It **reduces disposable income**, slows down **demand and consumption**, and can act as a **brake on economic growth**.
 - ◆ **Example:** A salaried person moves into a higher tax slab due to nominal income rise, but after adjusting for inflation, their real income has hardly increased.
- **Fiscal Glide:**
 - ◆ **Meaning:** Fiscal glide refers to a **gradual reduction** of fiscal deficits and public debt over time, ensuring **macroeconomic stability** without disrupting growth.

- ◆ **Impact:** It provides a **smooth transition** towards fiscal consolidation by avoiding sudden austerity measures.
- ◆ **Example:** The **FRBM Act amendments** allowing a **phased deficit reduction** instead of abrupt cuts is a case of fiscal glide.

- Hence, option B is correct.

17.

Ans: C

Exp:

Bhore Committee:

- The **Bhore Committee**, officially known as the **Health Survey and Development Committee**, was set up in **1943** by the **Government of India under British rule**, with **Sir Joseph Bhore** as its chairman.
- It emphasized the establishment of **Primary Health Centres (PHCs)** in rural areas and the **integration of preventive, promotive, and curative services**.
- The committee also highlighted the need to **prioritize women's and children's health** to reduce disease and mortality.
- Hence, option C is correct.

18.

Ans: B

Exp:

National Ambient Noise Monitoring Network Programme:

- According to the **National Environment Policy (NEP), 2006**, **ambient noise** was recognized as an **environmental quality parameter** to be regularly monitored in designated urban areas.
- To implement this, the **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** launched the **National Ambient Noise Monitoring Network Programme**, involving the installation of **Noise Monitoring Stations** across India to generate essential data for policymakers.
- Furthermore, under **Section 2(a) of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981**, noise is included in the definition of 'air pollutant'.
- Hence, option B is correct.

19.

Ans: C

Exp:

European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism:

- The **EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)** is an **environmental measure** that **prices the carbon in imported goods**, not a protective tariff to shield industries from competition. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

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- A core objective of **CBAM** is to prevent **carbon leakage**, which happens when companies shift **carbon-intensive production** to countries with weaker climate policies, or when **EU products are substituted by more carbon-intensive imports**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- **CBAM** works by requiring **importers to declare the quantity of goods** and their **embedded greenhouse gas emissions**. They must then **surrender CBAM certificates**, priced in line with the **EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) carbon price**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
- **CBAM** will apply in its **definitive regime from 2026**, with a **transitional phase from 2023 to 2025**. Hence, **statement 4 is correct**.

20.

Ans: A

Exp:

Panchsheel Agreement:

- **Panchsheel**, or the **Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence**, were first formally articulated in the **Agreement on Trade and Intercourse between India and the Tibet region of China**, signed on **29th April, 1954**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- In its preamble, **Panchsheel** declared that the two Governments agreed to base their relations on the following principles:
 - ◆ **Mutual respect** for each other's **territorial integrity and sovereignty**,
 - ◆ **Mutual non-aggression**,
 - ◆ **Mutual non-interference**,
 - ◆ **Equality and mutual benefit**, and
 - ◆ **Peaceful co-existence**.
- It does **not** include **collective security under military alliances** that was central to **Cold War military blocs** like **NATO and SEATO**, which India opposed. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

21.

Ans: C

Exp:

Ravi River:

- The **Ravi River**, known to ancient Indians as **Irawati**, originates from the **northern face of Rohtang Pass in Himachal Pradesh** as two channels namely, **Budhil and Tantgari**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The river enters **Punjab** near **Shahpur town (Pathankot)**, forms the **India-Pakistan boundary** while flowing through **Gurdaspur and Amritsar districts**, and exits India at **Goina/**

Kakarmani village, about **80 km from Lahore**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

- Under the **Indus Water Treaty**, the **eastern rivers—Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej—were allocated to India for exclusive use** before they flow into **Pakistan**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

22.

Ans: A

Exp:

Ramon Magsaysay Award:

- The **Ramon Magsaysay Award**, established in **1957**, was created to honor former Philippine President **Ramon Magsaysay's** ideals of **integrity in governance** and **commitment to democracy**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- It was **funded by the Rockefeller Brothers trustees** in agreement with the **Philippine government**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- The award honours **both individuals and organisations** in Asia. Hence, **statement 3 not is correct**.
 - ◆ For example, the Indian NGO **Foundation to Educate Girls Globally**, working for girls' education in rural and disadvantaged areas, is a **2025 Ramon Magsaysay Awardee**.
 - ◆ Other 2025 awardees include **Shaahina Ali (Maldives)** for environmental work and **Flaviano Antonio L. Villanueva (Philippines)** for supporting the poor and marginalized.

23.

Ans: B

Exp:

RIC:

- The **RIC (Russia-India-China) grouping** is **currently dormant as a strategic forum** due to rising mistrust, conflicting interests, and evolving geopolitical dynamics. Hence, **statement I is correct**.
- The **RIC format** was originally conceived to act as a **counterweight to Western dominance in global affairs**, with **Moscow** promoting it in **2018** as a **platform** to shape **Eurasian cooperation** and push for **reforms in global governance**. Hence, **statement II is correct**.
- The **RIC format** has remained **dormant** since the **Galwan Valley clashes** between **India and China** in **May–June 2020**. Hence, **statement III is correct**.
- **Statement III** identifies the **immediate cause** of the grouping's **dormancy**: the **2020 Galwan Valley clashes** between **India and China**, where a **military confrontation** between two **member states** directly disrupted its **diplomatic momentum**.

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- **Statement II** explains why the group was **formed** (to **counter the West**), but it does not explain why it is currently **dormant**. In fact, the need to **counter Western dominance** could be a reason to **revive** the group, despite the **India-China tensions**.

➤ Hence, option B is correct.

24.

Ans: A

Exp:

Earthquake:

- The **region** encompassing **Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Northern India** is highly **vulnerable to intense and frequent earthquakes**, as highlighted by the recent **6.0-magnitude quake in Afghanistan** that killed thousands. Hence, **statement I is correct**.
- The **earthquakes in India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan** primarily result from the **collision between the Indian Plate and the Eurasian Plate**.
 - ◆ The **Himalayan crust** remains **unstable**, as the **Indian Plate** continues its **northward movement** at nearly **5 cm per year**, generating **active fault lines**. Hence, **statement II is correct**.
- **Rising global temperatures** are speeding up **glacier melt** in the **Himalayas**. As **ice mass** decreases, the Earth's **lithosphere rebounds**, while **meltwater** seeps into the ground, lowering **friction** between **tectonic plates** and increasing the risk of **earthquakes**. Though **tectonic movements** remain the **primary cause**, **climate change** is making them more **frequent and severe**. Hence, **statement III is correct**.
- **Statement II** highlights the **root cause** i.e., the region's location along one of the world's most **active and complex tectonic boundaries** makes it highly **vulnerable** while **Statement III** points to an **exacerbating factor**: **climate change** is intensifying this vulnerability by adding **new stresses** and **lubricating existing faults**.
- Therefore, both **Statements II and III** provide valid and **complementary explanations** for the high **seismic vulnerability** outlined in **Statement I**.
- Hence, option A is correct.

25.

Ans: A

Exp:

Delamination:

- **Delamination** refers to the **separation of layers** within the **lithosphere** (crust + upper mantle) due to **density and**

mechanical differences. In this process, the **denser lower portion** detaches and sinks into the **deeper mantle**, while the **lighter upper portion** continues to move.

- This causes **stress concentration, deformation, and geological instability** in the region. A study suggests that the **Indian Plate** is not sliding smoothly beneath the **Eurasian Plate** but is instead **splitting and peeling** into the Earth's mantle—a process known as **delamination**.

➤ Hence, option A is correct.

26.

Ans: A

Exp:

Regional Groupings:

- **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)** is a major trade bloc led by **ASEAN** with key partners, but **India opted out in 2019** over concerns of **trade imbalance** and **domestic industry protection**.
- **India** became a **full member** of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)** in **2017**.
- **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** is a bloc of **10 Southeast Asian nations**, where **India** is a **Dialogue Partner** but not a member.
- **India** has been a **founding member** of the **Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)** since its **establishment in 1997**.
- **AUKUS** is a **trilateral security pact** formed in **2021** between **Australia, the UK, and the US**, and **India is not a member**.
- Hence, option A is correct.

27.

Ans: A

Exp:

Sickle Cell Disease:

- **Sickle cell disease (or sickle cell anemia)** is an **inherited blood disorder** that affects **hemoglobin**, the protein in **red blood cells** responsible for carrying **oxygen**.
- Normally, red blood cells are **round and flexible**, allowing them to move smoothly through blood vessels. In this disease, red blood cells become **crescent- or "sickle"-shaped** which can obstruct blood flow. Hence, **Statement I is correct**.
- A mutation in the **HBB gene** produces an abnormal form of hemoglobin known as **hemoglobin S**. This **abnormal hemoglobin** tends to **polymerize**—forming **long, rigid chains**—especially under **low oxygen conditions**. This **polymerization** inside the **red blood cells** forces them into the **distinct sickle shape**. Hence, **Statement II is correct**.

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- Hence, option A is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement I.

28.

Ans: D

Exp:

Collegium System:

- In the **First Judges Case (1981)**, the Court held that **consultation does not mean concurrence** but only an **exchange of views**. Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.
- In the **Second Judges Case (1993)**, the Court ruled that **consultation means concurrence**, making the **CJI's advice binding on the President**, with the **CJI consulting the two seniormost judges**. Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.
- In the **Third Judges Case (1998)**, **consultation involves the collegium**, and the **CJI's sole opinion does not count**. The **CJI must consult a collegium of the four seniormost Supreme Court judges**, and if even two judges disagree, the **recommendation should not be sent to the government**. Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.
- Hence, option D is correct.

29.

Ans: B

Exp:

VIKRAM3201 Microprocessor:

- **VIKRAM3201** is a **32-bit Launch Vehicle Grade microprocessor**.
- The **VIKRAM3201**, developed by **ISRO's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre and Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL), Chandigarh**, is an **advanced version** of the **16-bit VIKRAM1601**, which has been used in **ISRO launch vehicle avionics** since 2009.
- Designed for **spaceflight applications**, it can operate under **extreme temperatures** ranging from **-55°C to 125°C**.
- Its **initial space validation** was achieved during the **SpaDeX Mission (PSLV-C60)**, demonstrating its **reliability** for **future space missions**.
- Hence, option B is correct.

30.

Ans: C

Exp.

- Before the reforms, GST had multiple slabs: 0%, 5%, 12%, 18%, and 28% (with cess on luxury/sin goods). In September 2025, the GST Council rationalized it to two core slabs **5% (merit goods)** and **18% (standard goods)**. Hence, statement 1 is correct

- Along with the 5% and 18% slabs, the Council created a new **"de-merit slab" of 40%**. This is applicable to luxury and sin goods such as tobacco, aerated drinks, high-end luxury vehicles. This slab effectively replaces the earlier 28% + cess structure. Hence, statement 2 is correct
- Life and health insurance premiums earlier attracted 18% GST. To reduce financial burden on households, the 2025 reforms fully exempted these services from **GST (0%)**. Hence, statement 3 is correct

31.

Ans: C

Exp.

- **Graphite** is a sophisticated spyware developed by **Paragon Solutions**, an Israeli cyber intelligence company.
- It can be delivered through **"zero-click" exploits**, meaning the target does not need to click a link or download a file for the malware to install.
- Once installed, it can access **encrypted apps** like WhatsApp, Signal, and Telegram, extract information from **cloud backups**, remotely **activate microphones and cameras**, allowing live surveillance
- It is in the news as the **U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)** agency obtained access to Graphite spyware, sparking concerns over **privacy, civil liberties, and human rights misuse**.

32.

Ans: C

Exp.

Majorana particles

- Ettore Majorana (1937) proposed particles that are indistinguishable from their antiparticles, unlike electrons or protons. Hence, statement 1 is correct
- While fundamental Majorana particles haven't been conclusively detected in high-energy physics, *quasiparticles* in certain superconductors at near absolute zero show behavior consistent with Majorana modes. Hence, statement 2 is correct
- Majorana modes are promising for **fault-tolerant quantum computing** because they allow information to be stored in spatially separated states, making qubits more resistant to **decoherence** (the collapse of quantum superposition). Hence, statement 3 is correct

33.

Ans: C

Exp.

- An Integrated Theatre Command unifies **Army, Navy, and Air Force assets** under a single commander for a theatre

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(region) ensures faster decision-making, synergy, and avoids duplication. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The idea of joint theatre commands was **first highlighted by the Kargil Review Committee (1999)**. The Shekatkar Committee (2016) later provided a detailed proposal (three ITCs). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Proposed ITCs in India: **Northern Theatre Command (Lucknow)**: countering China, **Western Theatre Command (Jaipur)**: countering Pakistan, **Maritime Theatre Command (Thiruvananthapuram)**: overseeing Indian Ocean operations. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- The **Kargil Review Committee** stressed the need for **CDS and ITCs** to fix inter-service coordination gaps noticed during the 1999 war. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**

34.

Ans. D

Exp.

- Onam is the **major harvest festival of Kerala**, celebrated to honour the annual homecoming of the Asura King **Mahabali**, who is remembered for peace and prosperity in Kerala. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Onam is celebrated in the Malayalam month of **Chingam** (the first month of Kollavarsham calendar). It lasts **10 days**, beginning on *Atham* and ending on *Thiruvonam*. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The festival is marked by **Pookkalam (flower rangoli)** and major cultural activities like **Vallam Kali (boat race)**, **Pulikali (tiger dance)**, **Kummattikali (mask dance)**, **Onathallu (martial arts)**, along with the traditional **Onam Sadhya** feast. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- The legend of Onam is unique because King **Mahabali**, though an Asura, is remembered as a **benevolent and just ruler**, unlike the usual portrayal of demons as evil in Indian mythology. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**

35.

Ans. A

Exp.

- The **103rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2019** inserted **Articles 15(6) and 16(6)** in the Constitution, enabling **10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)** of citizens in **government jobs and educational institutions**, including private unaided institutions (except minority institutions). **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- The **EWS quota is over and above the 50% ceiling** on reservations set by the Supreme Court in the **Indra Sawhney case (1992)**. With this, the total reservation in India now

exceeds 50% in many states. The Supreme Court in **Janhit Abhiyan v. Union of India (2022)** upheld the constitutional validity of the 103rd Amendment, allowing this exception. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct**

36.

Ans. C

Exp.

- The term **Psychobiotics** denotes probiotics and prebiotics that benefit **mental health** via gut-brain axis regulation. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- A **2020 meta-analysis in *Frontiers in Psychiatry*** indeed showed probiotic supplementation reduced depressive symptoms, especially in mild-to-moderate depression. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

37.

Ans. C

Exp.

- The 1914 agreement refers to the **Simla Accord**, a treaty concerning the status of Tibet and the frontiers between Tibet, China, and British India.
- The agreement was signed by the plenipotentiaries of **British India** (Sir Henry McMahon) and **Tibet** (Lonchen Shatra). Although representatives from the Republic of China also participated in the negotiations, they ultimately refused to ratify the agreement. Consequently, the British and Tibetan representatives signed it as a bilateral accord, making this statement correct. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- A principal objective and the most lasting legacy of the Simla Accord was the demarcation of the frontier between Tibet and British India. This boundary, which runs for approximately 890 kilometers along the crest of the Himalayas, came to be known as the **McMahon Line**, named after the chief British negotiator. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

38.

Ans. B

Exp.

- A **data moat** is a competitive advantage built on the **exclusive ownership of vast amounts of user data** that competitors cannot easily replicate.
- In Google's case, every search query, click, dwell time on a page, and prompt refinement creates a **feedback loop** that improves its algorithms.
- Experts argue that while this might help rivals build traditional search engines, Google's new **AI-driven answer engines** rely on **real-time user interaction data**, keeping its data moat strong in the era of Generative AI.

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39.

Ans. A

Exp.

- The **Lipulekh–Kalapani–Limpiyadhura** tri-junction region is disputed between India and Nepal. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- In **2020**, Nepal published a **new map** including these territories in its claim, even incorporating it into its constitution. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**
- China has said Lipulekh is a **traditional border pass** and has left the dispute to be resolved **bilaterally between India and Nepal**, avoiding direct support for Nepal's claim. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct**

40.

Ans. A

Exp.

- India signed UNCAT in 1997 but has not ratified it yet. This is a major criticism against India at the international level. Ratification would require passing a specific anti-torture law, which has not happened so far. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- The Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 mainly established the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and State Commissions. It is not a dedicated anti-torture law. At present, India has no standalone anti-torture legislation, though torture is indirectly addressed in BNS (2023), BNSS (2023), and BSA (2023). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct**
- Data shows Scheduled Castes (SCs) are overrepresented among victims of custodial violence. For example, in Tamil Nadu, they account for 38.5% of detainees while their population share is only about 20%. This highlights systemic caste-based discrimination **Hence, statement 3 is correct**

41.

Ans. B

Exp.

- The Dhebar Commission (1960-61), headed by U. N. Dhebar, was appointed to study the problems of Scheduled Tribes (STs) in India.
- The Commission observed that some tribal groups were more vulnerable than others due to declining or stagnant population, geographical isolation, low literacy, economic backwardness, and use of pre-agrarian practices.
- Based on its recommendations, the concept of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) was introduced to identify tribes that needed special attention and targeted development programs.

- Mandal Commission – Focused on backward classes and reservation policy (1979).
- Bhore Commission – Focused on health care in India (1946).
- Sachar Committee – Focused on the socio-economic status of Muslims in India (2006).

42.

Ans. A

Exp.

- **Vajpayee visited Beijing in 1979** as Foreign Minister → first high-level visit after 1962 war. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- **Rajiv Gandhi's 1988 visit** broke the past linkage → ties improved despite border not being settled. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**
- **"LAC Plus"** (1983) was about India conceding **Ladakh areas**, not Tawang. Tawang demand came later (mid-1980s). **Hence, statement 3 is not correct**

43.

Ans. A

Exp.

- According to SIDBI, MSMEs contribution to India's total exports has steadily grown, reaching 43.59% in FY2022-23, 45.73% in FY2023-24, and **45.79% in FY2024-25**, which is nearly half. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- Labour-intensive MSME sectors like handicrafts, leather, textiles, and engineering goods are major contributors to exports and foreign exchange earnings. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- The Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme is designed to integrate domestic firms, including MSMEs, into global supply chains. Therefore, it does have a clear linkage with MSME participation. **Hence, Statement 3 is not correct.**

44.

Ans. B

Exp.

The role of a private environmental auditor, as described, is most analogous to that of a Chartered Accountant (CA) conducting a financial audit.

- The Rules create independent, certified private "environment auditors" who are licensed to verify compliance, structurally analogous to how Chartered Accountants are certified professionals who conduct independent financial audits.
- These auditors are accredited by a designated agency, assigned independently, and supplement regulators—mirroring the third-party assurance role CAs play for companies' accounts.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

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45.

Ans. A

Exp.

- **Kayes Region** in western **Mali** produces nearly 80% of the country's gold and is also rich in lithium.
- It was recently targeted by **terror group JNIM** (Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin) through raids on foreign-run mining projects, particularly Chinese companies.
- Its strategic location as a **trade corridor to Senegal** makes it economically vital, which is why attacks undermine Mali's government and foreign investments.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

46.

Ans. D

Exp.

- Traditionally, the Governor is ex-officio Chancellor of all state universities in their state, which includes powers like appointing Vice-Chancellors and approving statutes. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Chancellor's role is mostly ceremonial but also involves oversight and final approval on key university decisions. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- States like West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala have passed legislation replacing the Governor with the Chief Minister or other authorities as Chancellor, citing university autonomy. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

47.

Ans. C

Exp.

- India signed the UN Convention Against Torture (UNCAT) in 1997 but has not ratified it to date. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Though the Constitution does not explicitly prohibit torture, the Supreme Court has interpreted Article 21 (Right to Life and Personal Liberty) to include protection against torture, inhuman and cruel treatment. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

48.

Ans. B

Exp.

- **Preservation of wetlands and floodplains:** Wetlands and floodplains act as natural sponges, absorbing excess rainwater and reducing surface runoff. Protecting them prevents urban flooding by storing water during heavy rains. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- **Construction of storm-water harvesting systems:** Storm-water harvesting involves collecting and storing rainwater

from roofs, roads, and open areas. This reduces the volume of runoff entering drainage systems, mitigating urban flooding. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

- **Increasing the impervious built-up area:** Impervious surfaces like concrete and asphalt prevent water infiltration, increasing runoff and the likelihood of urban flooding. Therefore, this measure **exacerbates flooding** rather than mitigating it. **Hence statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Adoption of sponge city approach:** The sponge city concept focuses on creating permeable surfaces, green infrastructure, rain gardens, and water-retention systems to absorb and reuse rainwater, thereby reducing flooding. **Hence statement 4 is correct.**

49.

Ans. A

Exp.

- The Dnieper River flows through Kyiv, dividing it into the Right Bank and Left Bank. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The headquarters of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine is indeed located in central Kyiv. It was also mentioned as damaged in the latest attack. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Kyiv is located in north-central Ukraine, far from the western border with Poland. Cities like Lviv are closer to the Polish border, not Kyiv. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

50.

Ans. A

Exp.

- **Stellar parallax:** measures angular shift of nearby stars against distant background.
- **Pulsar navigation:** uses periodic radiation from neutron stars as precise timing beacons.
- **Astrometric navigation:** measures angular separation of stars, factoring in relativistic effects.
- **Hence, the correct answer is (a) a-1, b-2, c-3**

51.

Ans. B

Exp.

- **Parrondo's paradox** comes from physics and **game theory**, it shows that two strategies, each losing on their own, can produce a winning outcome if alternated in the right sequence.
- **Application in cancer therapy:** Recent simulations (2025) demonstrated that alternating between Maximum Tolerated Dose (MTD) and Low-Dose Metronomic (LDM) chemotherapy schedules, though weak individually, can together delay resistance and preserve healthy cells longer.

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52.

Ans. C

Exp.

- Indira Point is the **southernmost tip of Great Nicobar Island**, hence it lies to the south of the island itself.
- Malacca Strait lies to the east of Great Nicobar, between Sumatra and the Malay Peninsula, not to its south.
- Aceh (Sumatra, Indonesia) is situated south-southwest of Great Nicobar, across the Indian Ocean.
- **Hence, the correct answer is C.**

53.

Ans. B

Exp.

As per SRS Statistical Report 2023, Bihar has the highest TFR at about 2.8, while Delhi has the lowest at about 1.2; Madhya Pradesh (2.3) and Rajasthan (2.2) are above replacement but below Bihar.

- Bihar (2.8) > Madhya Pradesh (2.3) > Rajasthan (2.2) > Delhi (1.2).
- **Hence, the correct answer is B.**

54.

Ans. A

Exp.

- **Coal mining:** 100% automatic.
- **Insurance:** 74% automatic, beyond that govt route.
- **Railway infrastructure** (construction, maintenance, etc.): 100% automatic.
- **Defence:** 74% automatic, beyond that govt approval.
- **Hence, the correct answer is A.**

55.

Ans. A

Exp.

Enteromix:

- Enteromix recently made headlines after Russian scientists announced it as an mRNA-based cancer vaccine. **Hence, the correct answer is A.**
- The vaccine reportedly demonstrated 100% efficacy in early clinical trials, showing promise in shrinking tumors and slowing their growth.
- It is designed for colorectal cancer initially, one of the most common malignancies, and can be tailored for personalised treatment based on individual immune responses.

56.

Ans. A

Exp.

- According to the Laffer Curve, at certain levels of taxation, reducing tax rates can actually increase tax revenue by

encouraging more economic activity and compliance. **Hence, Assertion (A) is correct.**

- Lower tax rates can indeed encourage businesses and individuals to engage in legal economic activities more openly, reducing tax evasion, increasing productivity, and ultimately expanding the tax base. **Hence, Reason (R) is correct.**
- Since both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are correct and the reason explains why lowering tax rates could lead to higher revenue (through enhanced compliance and economic activity), **Thus, option A is the correct answer.**

57.

Ans. C

Exp.

- **MB Shah Commission:** Set up in 2010 to investigate the 2G spectrum scam, not related to the Emergency period.
- **Nanavati Commission:** Established in 2000 to inquire into the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, following the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.
- **JC Shah Commission:** Established by the Government of India in 1977 to inquire into the excesses committed during the Emergency (1975-77) in India.
 - ◆ **Hence, option C is the correct answer.**
- **Liberhan Commission:** Set up to investigate the 1992 Babri Masjid demolition and the events surrounding it.

58.

Ans. B

Exp.

- The Supreme Court's power to review its own judgments flows from Article 137 of the Constitution.
 - ◆ Article 137 of the Indian Constitution gives the Supreme Court the power to review its own judgments or orders. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- A review petition is an appeal on merits and ordinarily involves a full rehearing of the case. A review petition is not an appeal on merits and does not involve a full rehearing of the case.
 - ◆ It is typically considered only on the grounds of an error apparent on the face of the record or other recognized limited grounds, not on the merits of the case. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Discovery of new and important evidence, error apparent on the face of the record, or any other sufficient reason are recognized grounds for review. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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59.

Ans. D

Exp.

The Comprehensive Modular Survey: Education, 2025 was carried out by the National Statistical Office under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation as part of the National Sample Survey programme.

60.

Ans. D

Exp.

Input Tax Credit (ITC) refers to the amount of GST a registered business can claim back on the goods or services it purchases for business purposes.

To claim Input Tax Credit (ITC), the following conditions must be satisfied:

- The goods or services must be used for the purpose of making taxable supplies.
- The taxpayer must have paid the tax to the government on the goods or services purchased.
- The goods or services must not be for personal use.
- **Hence, the correct answer is D (All of the above).**

61.

Ans. A

Exp.

- **Smart Cities Mission**- Area-based development + technology-enabled governance. Focuses on retrofitting, redevelopment, and greenfield projects with ICT-enabled smart solutions (e-governance, smart mobility, energy efficiency).
- **PM SVANidhi**- Micro-credit facility for street vendors. Provides collateral-free working capital loans to street vendors affected by Covid-19, promoting financial inclusion and livelihood security.
- **HRIDAY** (Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana) - Aims to preserve and revitalize the cultural and heritage character of cities such as Varanasi, Amritsar, Ajmer, etc., through infrastructure and amenities.
- **AMRUT** (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) - Focuses on basic urban infrastructure: tap water to all households, sewerage, storm water drainage, green spaces, and urban transport.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

62.

Ans. B

Exp.

- The “Dark Indonesia” movement was led by students, opposing Prabowo Subianto government’s austerity

measures, especially budget cuts in education, public services, concerns over military entering civilian roles, etc. **Hence, Option B is correct.**

63.

Ans. C

Exp.

- **China** controls more than 90% of the world’s rare-earths processing capacity, giving it diplomatic clout and dominance over the supply chain, as the global pivot to EVs intensifies demand for the group of 17 elements vital to consumer electronics, EV batteries, and motor magnets. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **India** has the world’s fifth-largest rare earth reserves, but lacks the ability to process them into magnets. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

64.

Ans. C

Exp.

- AI improves efficiency by analyzing data and supporting decisions in healthcare, governance, etc.
- AI can inherit biases from data and is not completely neutral.
- Human oversight is needed to ensure ethical and accurate outcomes.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

65.

Ans: A

Exp.

- The Governor is appointed by the President and holds office at their pleasure. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Governor can reserve certain bills for the President’s consideration. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Governor acts on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers in most matters; independent action is limited to discretionary powers. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

66.

Ans. D

Exp.

- **Uttarakhand:** The Uttarakhand Freedom of Religion Act, 2018 provide freedom of religion by prohibition of conversion from one religion to another by misrepresentation, force, undue influence, coercion, allurement or by any fraudulent means or by marriage and for the matters incidental thereto. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Uttar Pradesh:** The 2021 Act prescribes imprisonment and fines for conversions through force, misrepresentation, coercion, or marriage without prior notice. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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- Madhya Pradesh: The 2021 Act imposes penalties for forced or fraudulent conversions, with provisions for imprisonment and fines. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Haryana: The 2022 Act provides penalties for forced or fraudulent conversions, including imprisonment and fines. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**

67.

Ans. B

Exp.

- Anti-conversion laws are enacted by states, not the Union Parliament. The Constitution guarantees freedom of religion but does not explicitly mention "forced conversion".
- States like MP, UP, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, etc., have passed anti-conversion legislations.

68.

Ans. D

Exp:

- **INS Tie-** It is the first dedicated Indian Navy cadet training ship, designed by the Navy and built by Mazagon Dock Ltd., Mumbai.
 - ◆ It is based at Kochi and equipped with a Decca collision avoidance plot and a SATNAV (Satellite Navigation) system. **Hence, pair 1 is incorrect.**
- **INS Shardul-** It is the lead ship of its amphibious warfare class, and is based at Kochi.
 - ◆ It has conducted cadet training, Indian Ocean surveillance, and humanitarian missions, including relief to Madagascar in 2020, the largest relief load by an Indian warship. **Hence, pair 2 is incorrect.**
- **ICGS Sarathi-** It is the third indigenously built offshore patrol vessel (OPV) by Goa Shipyard Ltd.
 - ◆ it enhances the Coast Guard's operational capability along India's western coastline and island territories. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**

69.

Ans. B

Exp.

- Treaties in 1974 and 1976 demarcated the International Maritime Boundaryline (IMBL). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Katchatheevu was recognized as part of Sri Lanka under the 1974 agreement. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Sri Lanka banned bottom trawling in 2017. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

70.

Ans. D

Exp.

- **Article 66** of the Constitution provides that the Vice-President is elected by an electoral college consisting of members of both Houses of Parliament (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha). Unlike the President's election, MLAs of States/UTs do not participate. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- The election is held in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote and voting is by secret ballot. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- Nominated members of both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha participate in the election of the Vice-President. This is a key difference from the Presidential election (where nominated members cannot vote). **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**

71.

Ans. A

Exp.

- **Democratic Republic of Congo-** Cobalt & copper hub Holds around 70% of global cobalt reserves, critical for EV batteries and electronics, sectors where India seeks supply diversification.
- **Mozambique-** LNG supplier: India's ONGC Videsh invests in the Rovuma Basin; LNG from Mozambique helps diversify India's energy basket.
- **Tanzania:** Natural graphite reserves, Among the largest in Africa, graphite is crucial for lithium-ion batteries; India is exploring secure supply chains here.
- **Senegal -** Pan-African e-Network hub India's ICT and tele-education/tele-medicine projects use Senegal as a key base, strengthening digital diplomacy.
- **Hence, Option A is correct.**

72.

Ans. B

Exp.

- Stablecoins are digital tokens designed to minimize price volatility by pegging their value to assets such as the US dollar, Euro, gold, or a basket of assets.
- They are not issued by central banks — that role belongs to CBDCs.
- Their main purpose is to combine the efficiency of cryptocurrencies with the stability of traditional money.
- They are widely used in crypto trading, cross-border remittances, and DeFi (Decentralised Finance).
- **Hence Option B is correct.**

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73.

Ans. A

Exp.

- India and Nepal share an open border of ~1,770 km, with free movement of people and goods. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Mahakali Treaty (1996) is related to sharing of the waters of the Mahakali River, not the Kosi. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Dispute over Kalapani–Lipulekh–Limpiyadhura escalated after Nepal's new political map in 2020. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- India is Nepal's largest trade partner, transit route for third-country trade, and a key investor. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**

74.

Ans: A

Exp.

- Bharatmala focuses on highways, expressways, border and coastal roads, economic corridors and feeder routes. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Sagarmala is mainly about port modernization, connectivity and port-led industrialization, not inland waterways (that is the domain of Jal Marg Vikas Project). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

75.

Ans. C

Exp.

- The contradiction in Europe's defence of sovereignty in Ukraine versus inaction in Palestine is the **Consistency Gap**.
- The foreign policy shift is also a direct response to roiling domestic politics. Across Europe, public opinion has shifted palpably. The European Parliament's own **Eurobarometer survey (2023)** showed that **72%** of Europeans support upholding international law in all conflicts, a principle increasingly seen as applying to Palestine as well.

76.

Ans. A

Exp.

- India's vulture populations lie along the **Central Asian Flyway (CAF)**, a migratory corridor spanning 30+ countries from Central Asia to South Asia. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct**
- Current vulture conservation efforts are fragmented and underfunded, and are not yet fully integrated into India's national **One Health strategies** (the article stresses this gap). **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct**

77.

Ans. A

Exp.

- **Illegal migrant status:** Under the Citizenship Act, 1955, anyone entering India without valid travel documents (or overstaying) is treated as an "illegal migrant." Sri Lankan Tamil refugees fall into this category.
- **Bar on citizenship routes:** Being classified as "illegal migrants" disqualifies them from applying for Indian citizenship either by registration (Section 5) or naturalisation (Section 6), even if they have stayed for decades.
- **Exclusion from CAA, 2019:** Unlike six specified religious minorities from Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, Sri Lankan Tamils were not included in the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, leaving them in a legal limbo despite humanitarian considerations.

78.

Ans. A

Exp.

- The plan includes a greenfield international airport (dual use) among its infrastructure. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct**
- Areas of tribal reserve are impacted; indigenous communities like Shompen and Nicobarese are to be affected. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct**
- The project has obtained environmental and forest clearances (in-principle) and is moving forward, though with legal/environmental challenges. **Hence, Statement 3 is not correct.**

79.

Ans. A

Exp.

- **DEET (20%), picaridin, PMD, IR3535, and 2-undecanone** are globally approved. **Hence, 1, 2 and 3 are correct**
- **Citronella oil** is unreliable (evaporates in 1–2 hours, causes irritation). **Hence, 4 is not correct.**
- The **Aedes mosquito** adapts well to human settings. It feeds indoors during the day, and at night under artificial light. Methods like outdoor fumigation, vaporizers, and bed nets are thus ineffective against it.

80.

Ans. D

Exp.

- True. Projects on Agaléga (airstrip & jetty) are part of India-Mauritius cooperation. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct**
- True. India supports Mauritius' sovereignty claim over Chagos Archipelago. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct**

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- True. Mauritius has joined SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in Region) initiative. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct**

81.

Ans. C

Exp.

- Twin Balance Sheet (TBS) problem - corporates burdened with excessive debt, and banks with rising NPAs. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct**
- Corporates borrowed heavily during the mid-2000s boom, but projects stalled, revenues fell, and banks were left with NPAs. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct**
- The **Economic Survey 2016-17 (Vol. I, Ch. 1)** formally highlighted the TBS problem as a structural challenge for the Indian economy. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct**

82.

Ans. A

Exp.

- **Assertion (A)** is true because, in many Scheduled Five Area States (in India), tribal women are indeed excluded from inheriting ancestral property. This happens despite constitutional guarantees of equality, such as those under Articles 14 and 15, which protect against discrimination on the basis of gender.
- **Reason (R)** is also true. Tribal customary laws, which are often patrilineal, take precedence over national laws like the Hindu Succession Act in many tribal areas. This means that tribal laws, which may restrict women from inheriting property, continue to be enforced in such areas, even though national laws may guarantee equal rights to inheritance for women.
- Therefore, both the assertion and reason are correct, and the reason correctly explains the assertion.

83.

Ans. C

Exp.

- The Taiwan Strait median line is not an officially recognized boundary under international law or UNCLOS. It was a unilaterally drawn line and has never been formally agreed upon by the People's Republic of China (PRC). Beijing explicitly rejects its legal standing. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The line was first created in 1955 by a US Air Force general to serve as a line of control. For decades, it functioned as an unofficial, or **de facto**, buffer zone. Both China and Taiwan generally respected it, which helped prevent accidental military clashes and manage tensions. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- Since around 2020, and especially following high-profile visits to Taiwan by US officials, China has abandoned its tacit respect for the line. It now deliberately and frequently sends military jets, drones, and warships across the median line.

- ◆ This is done to signal its rejection of the line's existence and to assert its claim that the entire Taiwan Strait is part of its sovereign territory. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

84.

Ans. A

Exp.

- The New York Declaration was introduced (or co-led) by France and Saudi Arabia via a high-level conference. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- India has abstained on several Palestine-related votes since 2023. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

85.

Ans. C

Exp.

- Barium salts (like barium nitrate) produce green flame and are traditionally used in firecrackers. However, barium compounds are toxic and restricted by the Supreme Court/NGT. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Green crackers reduce emissions (by 30–35%) but do not eliminate SO₂ and NO_x completely. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

86.

Ans. B

Exp.

1. Phishing → b. Electronic Communications (Email)

- **Phishing** is the original and broadest term. It refers to scams conducted through electronic communications, most commonly fraudulent **emails** that are designed to look like they're from a legitimate source (like a bank or a well-known company).

2. Smishing → c. SMS Text Messages

- **Smishing** is a combination of "SMS + Phishing." It's a specific type of phishing attack that uses **SMS text messages** instead of emails. The goal is the same: to trick you into clicking a malicious link or revealing personal information.

3. Vishing → a. Voice Calls

- **Vishing** is a combination of "Voice + Phishing." This attack happens over the phone, using fraudulent **voice calls**. The scammer might use a fake caller ID or an urgent tone to pressure you into giving them sensitive data, like your account password or financial details.
- **Hence, the correct match is 1-b, 2-c, 3-a**

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87.

Ans. D

Exp.

- **Lab-grown diamonds (LGDs)** are produced using **HPHT** (High Pressure High Temperature) and **CVD** (Chemical Vapor Deposition) methods. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct**
- They are **chemically, optically and physically identical to natural diamonds** (both are made of pure carbon). **Hence, Statement 2 is correct**
- **India (mainly Surat)** has emerged as a global leader in cutting, polishing and production of LGDs. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct**

88.

Ans. A

Exp.

- Multiple studies have confirmed the presence of microplastics in **Arctic snow, human blood, and even placental tissue**. This highlights the pervasive nature of plastic pollution. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct**
- Most so-called "**biodegradable plastics**" degrade only under specific industrial composting conditions (**high temperature, controlled microbes**).
 - ◆ In natural environments (soil, oceans), they often fragment into microplastics instead of fully degrading, and may still release toxic chemicals. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct**

89.

Ans: B

Exp.

- **DNA evidence is not substantive evidence**; it is opinion evidence under Section 45 of the Evidence Act (now Section 39 of Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam, 2023). **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The **Supreme Court in Anil v. State of Maharashtra (2014)** upheld reliability of DNA profiles but stressed quality control. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct**

90.

Ans: A

Exp.

- **Retail inflation is measured through CPI**, which reflects household consumption patterns. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- **Core inflation excludes food and fuel**, which are highly volatile, giving a stable measure of inflationary pressures. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**
- Since 2016, India's inflation targeting framework is based on **CPI (4% ± 2%), not WPI**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct**

91.

Ans. D

Exp.

- Koalas are marsupials **and endemic to Australia**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- Australia's wild koala populations have declined steeply in the past two decades and they are listed in the **Endangered category of IUCN Red List** (uplisted in 2021). **Hence, statement 2 is correct**
- Habitat fragmentation, bushfires (2019–20 fires killed tens of thousands), and chlamydia are key threats to Koalas. **Hence, statement 3 is correct**
 - ◆ Facing compounded threats from disease, habitat loss, climate change and road collisions, koalas could become extinct by 2050, according to a 2020 assessment from the New South Wales government.

92.

Ans. B

Exp.

- The **original target of 20% blending (E20) by 2030 was advanced to 2025** and has already been achieved in the current Ethanol Supply Year (ESY). **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- Feedstocks for Ethanol production include **sugarcane, maize, rice, damaged grains, bamboo, agricultural residues**, etc. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**
- Ethanol blending lowers **India's reliance on crude oil imports** while **reducing CO₂ emissions**. It supports both energy security and environmental sustainability. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**

93.

Ans. B

Exp.

- The **NFSA has two categories of beneficiaries**:
 - ◆ **Priority Households (PHH)**: Entitled to **5 kg of foodgrains per person per month**.
 - ◆ **Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)**: These poorest-of-the-poor households retain their entitlement of **35 kg of foodgrains per household per month**.
 - ◆ Since the entitlement is not uniform for *every* eligible household, **the statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ Public Distribution system (PDS) under National Food Security Act (NFSA) covers ~67% of the population legally entitled to subsidised foodgrains. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct**
 - ◆ The Union Government decides central issue prices of foodgrains; while State Governments handle last-mile distribution. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct**

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94.

Ans. C

Exp.

- India has “2+2” dialogues with the **US, Japan, Australia, and Russia** held at **Defence + External Affairs Minister level**. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct**
- **India and the US**, along with **Japan and Australia**, are members of **QUAD**, a strategic grouping for Indo-Pacific maritime security, resilient supply chains, tech, and vaccine diplomacy. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct**
- **India-US Strategic Energy Partnership (SEP)**: Established in 2018, upgraded in 2021. Covers oil, gas, clean energy, renewables, and emerging technologies like hydrogen, battery storage, and CCUS (carbon capture, utilisation & storage). **Hence, Statement 3 is correct**

95.

Ans. A

Exp.

- Women contribute about 18% to India's GDP while accounting for nearly half the population. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct**
- India's Female Labour Force Participation Rate (FLFPR) at 41.7% (PLFS 2023-24), **Hence, statement 2 is not correct**
- The Worker Population Ratio (WPR) for women aged 15 years and above has risen from 22.0% in 2017-18 to **40.3% in 2023-24**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct**

96.

Ans. A

Exp.

- Migratory birds are vulnerable to collisions with skyscrapers, wind turbines, and communication towers in urban landscapes. **Hence, Assertion (A) is correct**
- Migratory birds use stars, moonlight, and Earth's magnetic fields for navigation. Bright artificial lights from skyscrapers and towers cause disorientation circling behaviour, exhaustion or direct collisions. **Hence, Reason (R) is correct**
- Studies in New York, Chicago, and Indian cities like Gurugram and Mumbai have documented mass bird deaths due to illuminated structures during migration seasons. **Hence, R is correct explanation of A**

97.

Ans. B

Exp.

- The **Supreme Court**, in many judgments (State of Rajasthan v. Balchand, 1977; Gudikanti Narasimhulu v. Public Prosecutor, 1978; Satender Kumar Antil v. CBI, 2022), has reiterated

that bail is the rule and jail is the exception. This principle directly emanates from **Article 21**, which guarantees personal liberty. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**

- Bail is not an absolute right in all cases. For heinous crimes (terrorism, NDPS offences, POCSO, etc.), bail provisions are more restrictive, sometimes requiring courts to record special reasons. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct**

98.

Ans. D

Exp.

- **Right to a clean and healthy environment** - Recognized in Subhash Kumar v. State of Bihar (1991) and expanded in M.C. Mehta cases; Article 21 includes pollution-free air and water.
- **Right to privacy & protection of personal data** - K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017) (9-judge Bench) declared privacy as a fundamental right intrinsic to dignity and liberty.
- **Right to speedy trial** - Hussainara Khatoon v. State of Bihar (1979) held that delayed justice violates Article 21; led to focus on undertrial prisoners.
- **Right to shelter** - Shantistar Builders v. Narayan Khimalal Totame (1990); adequate housing is part of dignified life under Article 21.
- **Hence, Option D is correct**

99.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Aquamoniatrix** is designed as a portable, low-pressure ion chromatograph suitable for classroom and field use. It uses a relatively short column for anion separation. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct**
- The device uses **sodium chloride solution as eluent**, which avoids corrosive chemicals and makes it more eco-friendly and safer for teaching. **Hence Statement 2 is correct**
- It is used mainly for **nutrient anions (nitrate, nitrite) in water quality studies**, not for greenhouse gases. **Hence, Statement 3 is not correct**

100.

Ans: B

Exp.

- **Article 200** empowers the Governor to reserve certain Bills for the consideration of the President. This is an explicit discretionary power. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- Under the **Sixth Schedule (Articles 244(2) and 275(1))**, the Governor has discretionary powers regarding the

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administration of tribal areas, including modifying or annulling acts of State Legislature in these regions. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**

- Supreme Court in the **S.R. Bommai v. Union of India (1994) case** established that the **floor of the House is the only place to test the majority of a government**.

- ◆ If a Governor has objective evidence that the ruling government has lost its majority, they cannot dismiss the ministry outright.
- ◆ Instead, **their correct constitutional step is to ask the Chief Minister to prove their majority in a floor test**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct**

101.

Ans: B

Exp.

- **Hemocyanin** gives octopus blood a blue colour, helping oxygen transport in cold, low-oxygen waters. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct**
- Octopuses can regrow lost arms, an adaptive survival feature. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct**
- The ink sac is a defense mechanism against predators, not a tool for hunting. **Hence, Statement 3 is not correct**

102.

Ans: A

Exp.

- **Tariff** is a tax imposed on imports (**sometimes exports**). It is used both for **revenue generation** (government income, important for developing countries) and **protectionism** (making imports costlier to safeguard domestic industries). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Bound tariff** is the **maximum tariff ceiling** a country commits to at the WTO in its schedule of concessions. A member can **levy lower tariffs (applied tariffs)** but cannot exceed the bound rate without renegotiation. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Applied tariff** is the actual tariff a country levies at any given time. It is often **lower than the bound rate** to allow flexibility, and is not always equal to it. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

103.

Ans: A

Exp.

- A cloudburst is defined as highly localised rainfall of more than 100 mm per hour over a limited area. **Hence Statement 1 is correct.**

- Orographic uplift of monsoon winds along steep mountain slopes contributes to cloudbursts in Uttarakhand. **Hence Statement 2 is correct.**
- Even with Doppler weather radars, cloudbursts cannot be predicted with exact timing and location, only general warnings can be issued. **Hence Statement 3 is not correct.**

104.

Ans: B

Exp:

- India's health system is still dominated by out-of-pocket expenditure by households rather than public spending **out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE)** as a percentage of total health expenditure (THE) in India was still **39.4% in 2021-22**, according to National Health Accounts (NHA) data. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The **National Health Policy, 2017** sets the target of **2.5% of GDP public health spending by 2025**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Ayushman Bharat** has **two pillars**: PM-JAY for secondary/tertiary health insurance and Health & Wellness Centres for primary care. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

105.

Ans: B

Exp.

- Japanese Encephalitis virus is primarily transmitted by mosquitoes of the genus *Culex*, especially *Culex tritaeniorhynchus*, not *Aedes*. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- India has introduced JE vaccines such as SA 14-14-2 (live attenuated) in the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) in endemic districts. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- Pigs are amplifying hosts because the virus multiplies to very high levels in their blood, efficiently infecting mosquitoes. Humans are dead-end hosts because the level of virus in their blood (viremia) is typically too low to pass the infection back to a biting mosquito, thus breaking the transmission cycle. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**

106.

Ans: C

Exp.

- Successive floods in Chennai (notably 2015, 2023) were aggravated by loss of wetlands and unregulated urbanisation around Pallikaranai marsh. **Hence, Pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- The July 2005 Mumbai floods highlighted how the narrowed, encroached Mithi river and simultaneous high tide events worsened inundation. **Hence, Pair 2 is correctly matched.**

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- During 2023–24 floods, heavy rainfall in Himachal and Shivalik foothills caused dam overflows (Bhakra, Pong), and Punjab's flat terrain with poor drainage worsened the situation in towns. **Hence, Pair 3 is correctly matched.**

107.

Ans. A

Exp.

- The ownership of Waqf property is considered to be vested in God, meaning it cannot be sold or transferred. Waqf properties are meant to serve religious or charitable purposes. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Central Waqf Council** was established in 1964 and functions under the **Ministry of Minority Affairs**, not the Ministry of Home Affairs. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**

108.

Ans. A

Exp.

- The Gaza Strip is a coastal enclave with a significant shoreline along the Mediterranean Sea. The West Bank, however, is located inland and is completely landlocked, with its eastern border formed by the Jordan River and the Dead Sea. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- Both territories share a land border with Israel, but only the Gaza Strip borders Egypt at Rafah; the West Bank borders Jordan to the east and does not border Egypt. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**

109.

Ans. A

Exp.

- Malabar Revolt was led by **Ali Musliyar and Variyankunnath Kunhammed Haji**, not Sidhu and Kanhu. **Hence Pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
- The Santhal uprising was led by **Sidhu and Kanhu Murmu**, not Moplah leaders. **Hence Pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
- The Indigo Revolt in Bengal was led by the Biswas brothers—Digambar Biswas, Bishnu Biswas. **Hence Pair 3 is correctly matched.**

110.

Ans. A

Exp.

- The Election Commission of India launched the **Electors Photo Identity Card (EPIC) scheme** in **1993**. To prevent impersonation and electoral malpractices by issuing photo ID cards to all voters. This was one of the earliest large-scale electoral reforms post-independence.
- EVMs were experimented with in **1982 (Parur, Kerala)**, but their full adoption took time. The **2001 Assembly**

elections marked the **first nationwide use of EVMs**, and by **2004 Lok Sabha elections**, EVMs had completely replaced ballot papers.

- To improve transparency, the **Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT)** was first tested in the Nagaland by-election in **2013**. VVPAT became mandatory in **all constituencies** by **2019 Lok Sabha elections**.

➤ **Hence, Option A is correct.**

111.

Ans. C

Exp:

Reinforcement Learning is fundamentally about learning through interaction and feedback. The core concept involves an agent (the learner or decision-maker) that interacts with an environment.

- The agent takes **actions**, and the environment responds by transitioning to a new state and providing a numerical **reward** (or penalty).
- The agent's goal is not to find a "correct" label but to discover a policy—a sequence of actions—that maximizes the total reward over time.
- **Hence, option C is the correct answer.**

The other options describe different machine learning paradigms:

- **(a)** describes **Supervised Learning**, where the model learns from a "teacher" providing labeled examples (e.g., pictures of cats labeled "cat").
- **(b)** describes **Unsupervised Learning**, where the model finds patterns on its own without any labels (e.g., clustering customers into groups).

112.

Ans. A

Exp.

Sin Tax:

- A **Sin Tax** is a tax levied on goods and services considered harmful to individuals or society, such as tobacco, alcohol, and gambling.
- A **Pigovian Tax** is a tax imposed on any activity that generates negative externalities (costs to society not paid for by the producer or consumer). The goal is to make the private cost of the activity equal to its social cost.
- A sin tax is a classic example of a Pigovian tax because it aims to discourage the consumption of goods whose societal costs (e.g., healthcare expenses from smoking-related diseases) are higher than their private costs. **Hence, statement I is correct.**

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- Goods treated as “sin goods” in policy (e.g., tobacco, pan masala, aerated/sugar-sweetened drinks, and gambling/online gaming) are placed in high GST slabs with additional compensation cess or higher rates under indirect taxation, both to curb consumption and to raise revenue for welfare and health initiatives, thereby exemplifying the Pigovian rationale in practice. **Hence, statement II is correct and explains statement I.**

➤ **Hence, the correct answer is A.**

113.

Ans. B

Exp.

- The LAC is a **de facto border**; it is **not fully demarcated**, and disputes remain in several sectors (Ladakh, Arunachal Pradesh). **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- Doklam plateau is at the tri-junction of **India, Bhutan, and China**, and was the site of the 2017 standoff. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct**
- **Hence, Option B is correct**

114.

Ans. B

Exp.

- The EU is a major partner for India in **services trade**. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- India is **not formally part** of the EU’s Global Gateway initiative; it may cooperate indirectly. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct**
- Counter-terrorism and security cooperation are **regular agenda items** in India–EU summits. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

115.

Ans. D

Exp.

- India has made progress but **epidemics like TB are still prevalent**, so the SDG 3 target is not fully achieved. **Hence, assertion A is not correct**
- India has **eliminated polio, reduced HIV/AIDS, and made progress against malaria and TB**, hence correct. **Hence, Reason R is correct**
- **Hence, Option B is correct**

116.

Ans. A

Exp.

- **PM2.5 and PM10:** These are primary contributors to smog and respiratory problems. **Hence 1 is correct.**

- **Carbon monoxide, CO:** Produced during incomplete combustion of crop residue. **Hence 2 is correct.**
- **Nitrogen oxides, NOx:** Released in small amounts and not a major pollutant. **Hence 3 is incorrect.**
- **Methane, CH4:** released during burning and contributes to greenhouse effect. **Hence 4 is correct.**
- **Sulphur dioxide, SO2:** Released in minor amounts, not a major pollutant. **Hence 5 is incorrect.**

117.

Ans. B

Exp.

- **Preparing and periodically revising the electoral rolls.** This is a core function of the Election Commission under Article 324 and the Representation of People Acts. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Recognising political parties and allotting election symbols.** ECI performs this under the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Advising the President on matters of disqualification of MPs under Article 103.** The President decides on disqualification, but is constitutionally bound to act as per the opinion of the Election Commission. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Appointing election tribunals to decide disputes relating to elections.** This was originally provided, but the Election Commission (Amendment) Act, 1950 and **Representation of People Act, 1951** transferred this function to the High Courts. **Hence, statement 4 is Not correct.**

118.

Ans. B

Exp.

- **India** is one of the largest importers of crude oil from the Gulf region. West Asia, particularly countries such as Saudi Arabia, Iraq, UAE, and Kuwait, supplies over half of India’s crude oil imports. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)** includes both Saudi Arabia and Iran. GCC is a regional organization of six countries: Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, and Bahrain. Iran is not a member. **Hence, statement 2 is not incorrect.**
- The largest share of India’s overseas remittances comes from Indian workers in West Asia. India receives a significant portion of its remittances from the Gulf countries due to the large Indian diaspora working there. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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119.

Ans. C

Exp.

- Plastic carry bags less than 120 microns in thickness Correct. Such thin plastic bags are banned. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Plastic plates and cups: These are among the identified SUPs banned from July 2022. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Plastic water bottles: Bottles are **not banned**, but PET bottles must be collected and recycled under EPR. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- Polystyrene [Thermocol] for decoration: These are included in the ban. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**

120.

Ans. A

Exp.

- In a fixed exchange rate system, the central bank actively intervenes to maintain the currency value. Central banks buy/sell foreign currency to maintain the peg. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Even in floating systems, central banks may intervene occasionally (managed floats) to stabilize volatility. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- India follows a managed float system where the RBI occasionally intervenes in the foreign exchange market. India's exchange rate is market-determined but the RBI intervenes to prevent excessive volatility. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

121.

Ans. A

Exp.

- Trade sanctions restrict the import or export of specific goods. Examples include restrictions on oil, arms, or dual-use technologies. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Financial sanctions block access to international banking or capital markets. Freezing of foreign reserves or denial of loans are financial sanctions. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Diplomatic sanctions involve cutting off formal diplomatic relations and embassy closures. Suspension of diplomatic ties, visa restrictions, or ambassador withdrawals are examples. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- UN sanctions are binding on member states, but unilateral sanctions by a country or group of countries are **not legally binding internationally**. **Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**

122.

Ans. A

Exp.

- The Preamble states "We, the People of India..." thereby identifying the people as the source of the Constitution's authority, not the Constituent Assembly. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The Preamble was adopted by the Constituent Assembly, while deriving authority from the people.
- The words "Socialist" and "Secular" were inserted by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976, and were not part of the original Preamble. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Preamble explicitly declares the objectives of securing Justice, Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- The Preamble is not legally enforceable in courts like Fundamental Rights; it serves as a guiding light for constitutional interpretation. **Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**

123.

Ans: C

Exp:

- SEBI's reclassification enables mutual funds to treat REITs as part of their equity allocation, removing previous investment caps. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- REITs are considered safer than typical equities as they invest in regular income-generating real estate and distribute around 90% of income to investors. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Indian REIT market is still small, with only a few listed REITs and limited liquidity, meaning large inflows from equity mutual funds cannot be easily absorbed. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

124.

Ans: D

Exp:

- **Extreme Nuclear Transients (ENTs)** occur due to the accretion of stellar debris onto supermassive black holes, producing very high luminosity with slow rise and decay, and are typically observed in the centers of host galaxies.
- **Fast X-ray Transients (FXTs)** have lower peak luminosity, very rapid rise and decay, and often originate from supernovae or other transient phenomena not associated with black hole disruption.
- **Gamma-Ray Bursts (GRBs)** are extremely luminous, very short-lived events, often associated with massive star

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collapse leading to supernovae (long GRBs) or mergers of neutron stars (short GRBs).

- Hence, the correct match is (D) 1 - b, 2 - a, 3 - c.

125.

Ans: B

Exp:

- Singhbhum in Jharkhand has the richest uranium deposits. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Uranium is **not restricted to coastal regions**; it occurs in Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Meghalaya, and Karnataka. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- Rajasthan has sandstone-type uranium deposits. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

126.

Ans: D

Exp:

- Pakistan is a full member of SCO. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Saudi Arabia is the largest oil exporter and a key Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries OPEC member. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Pakistan shares a short border with Iran in the southwest; Saudi Arabia shares a border with Iran via the Gulf maritime boundary. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

127.

Ans: C

Exp:

- Morocco is a member of the International Solar Alliance, which was initiated by India. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- India and Morocco do not have a formal defence and strategic partnership treaty. Cooperation is mainly in trade, energy, and multilateral forums. They have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- Both countries have cultural exchange programs, including academic collaborations and promotion of Hindi and Arabic language studies. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

128.

Ans: A

Exp:

- India is one of Sri Lanka's largest trade partners and a significant investor across multiple sectors including agriculture, IT, and manufacturing, contributing to economic growth and employment. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- Bilateral cooperation extends to infrastructure development such as ports, highways, and renewable energy projects, reflecting India's role in enhancing regional connectivity and sustainable development. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- India does not limit itself to financial aid; it actively invests in Sri Lanka's energy sector, including renewable energy and power infrastructure. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

129.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The Dadasaheb Phalke Award is conferred by the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**, not by the Ministry of Culture. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- The award consists of a Swarna Kamal (Golden Lotus), a cash prize, and a shawl. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- It was instituted in 1969 to commemorate Dadasaheb Phalke, regarded as the "father of Indian cinema." Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- Therefore, Option B is the correct answer.

130.

Ans: A

Exp:

- India is the largest rice exporter globally and also imports nearly 60–65% of its edible oil demand. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- India exports maize primarily to countries such as Vietnam, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Malaysia. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- While spices and marine products contribute significantly, the **largest share is held by rice** in India's agri-exports. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
- Therefore, Option A is the correct answer.

131.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The Act prohibits discrimination in areas like education, employment, healthcare, access to public goods and services. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The Act requires a **certificate of identity issued by the District Magistrate**, though the 2014 NALSA judgment emphasized self-identification. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- The Act establishes a **National Council for Transgender Persons** to advise the government and monitor implementation. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- Therefore, Option C is the correct answer.

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132.

Ans: B

Exp:

- Ayurveda is an indigenous Indian system with texts like Charaka Samhita and Sushruta Samhita. It did not originate in Greece. **Hence, pair 1 is not correct.**
- Unani originated in Greece (Unan) and developed through Arab scholars. The Charaka and Sushruta Samhitas belong to Ayurveda, not Unani. **Hence, pair 2 is not correct.**
- Siddha medicine has its roots in **Tamil culture** and is considered one of the oldest systems of medicine. **Hence, pair 3 is correct.**
- **Homoeopathy was founded by Samuel Hahnemann**, based on the principle of "like cures like." **Hence, pair 4 is correct.**
- **Hence, Option B is correct**

133.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The economy's demand side is composed of consumption by households, private investment, government spending, and net exports (exports minus imports). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ This is a fundamental concept in macroeconomics, represented by the formula:
$$AD=C+I+G+NX$$
 - ◆ **C (Consumption):** Spending by households on goods and services.
 - ◆ **I (Investment):** Spending by businesses on capital goods (machinery, factories) and by households on new housing.
 - ◆ **G (Government Spending):** Spending by the government on public services and investment.
 - ◆ **NX (Net Exports):** The value of a country's exports minus the value of its imports.
 - These four pillars represent the total demand for all finished goods and services produced in an economy.
- When capacity utilisation is low (below say 80%), firms have room to expand but won't unless demand picks up; thus, boosting household demand is indeed a way to encourage fresh private investment. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- While public investment is a powerful tool, it's not a **sustainable long-term substitute** for private investment. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Short-Term vs. Long-Term:** Increased government spending can boost the economy in the short term when the private sector is weak (a concept from Keynesian economics). This is often called "pump-priming."

- **Unsustainability:** Relying on it for the long run is not viable. It can lead to a massive increase in **government debt** and fiscal deficits.
- **Engine of Growth:** In a market economy, **private investment** is considered the primary engine of innovation, efficiency, and long-term growth. The government's role is to create a favorable environment that encourages (or "crowds in") private investment, not to replace it indefinitely.
- **Therefore, option A is the correct answer.**

134.

Ans: B

Exp:

- Secularism was not explicitly mentioned in the original Constitution; it was clarified through judicial interpretation over time. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Supreme Court has repeatedly affirmed that secularism forms part of the Constitution's basic structure and cannot be amended. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The State, in accordance with Articles 14, 15, and the Preamble, must ensure equality and cannot discriminate on the basis of religion. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Hence, Option B is correct**

135.

Ans: C

Exp.

The given characteristics match a conifer-dominated forest with evergreen, needle- or scale-like leaves, cone production, and acidic soils from needle litter, which are characteristic of pine and other conifer forests found in temperate to boreal zones and select montane sites globally.

Key characteristics

- Conifers are typically evergreen, with needle- or scale-like leaves and reproduce via cones, aligning with pine-dominated forests within coniferous biomes.
- Decomposition of conifer needles acidifies soils, a common trait under pine forests and broader coniferous forests.

Geographic clues

- Conifer forests occur widely in the Northern Hemisphere's temperate and boreal regions, and also in specific montane locales such as the Sky Islands of the southwestern United States, where pine and other conifers dominate at higher elevations.
- References to places like the Sky Islands and montane settings align with pine/conifer forest distributions; "pine forest" is a common, specific label for these conifer stands.

Why the Other Options Are Incorrect

- **A. Tropical Rainforest:** These are found in equatorial regions with very high rainfall. They are characterized by

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broadleaf evergreen trees, incredible biodiversity, and are not dominated by cone-bearing trees.

- **B. Temperate Deciduous Forest:** These forests are known for trees with broad leaves that shed annually (e.g., oak, maple, beech). Their soil is typically much richer and less acidic than that of a pine forest.
- **D. Mangrove Forest:** This is a coastal, saltwater ecosystem. Mangrove trees are uniquely adapted to grow in saline, brackish water with complex root systems that rise above the mud. This environment is completely different from the one described.
- **Therefore, the best choice is (C) Pine Forest.**

136.

Ans. D

Exp.

National Pension System:

- The National Pension System is regulated by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), not SEBI. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The NPS is available to all Indian citizens, including both residents and non-residents, within the age range of 18 to 70. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- While NPS was initially voluntary for government employees, it became mandatory for all central government employees (except the armed forces) from January 1, 2004.
 - ◆ The NPS is not mandatory for state government employees; it is up to individual states whether to implement the NPS for their employees. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

137.

Ans. B

Exp.

- The Narasimham Committees (1991 and 1998) focused on broad banking sector reforms such as SLR/CRR reduction, asset reconstruction, prudential norms, and restructuring/mergers; they did not recommend a statutory MPC to target inflation, which was later proposed by the Urjit Patel Committee (2014) leading to the 2016 framework. **Hence, Statement 1 is not correct.**
- The MPC under the amended RBI Act (2016) has six members: three from the RBI (Governor, Deputy Governor in charge of monetary policy, and one RBI nominee) and three external members appointed by the Central Government. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- The legal inflation target notified under the flexible inflation targeting framework is 4% CPI with a tolerance band of $\pm 2\%$ (i.e., 2–6%), set by the Government in consultation with RBI. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**

138.

Ans. B

Exp.

Essential food items like salt have highly inelastic demand. People generally buy the amount they need regardless of small price changes. Therefore, a GST cut will cause only a very small increase in sales. Since the tax rate per unit is lower and the sales volume doesn't increase much, the government's total tax revenue from these items will fall significantly.

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

139.

Ans. D

Exp.

The six principal organs of the United Nations are:

- General Assembly
- Security Council
- Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
- Trusteeship Council
- International Court of Justice
- Secretariat

The World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the UN, focusing on global health issues, and is therefore not considered one of its principal organs.

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

140.

Ans. C

Exp.

The H-1B visa allows U.S. employers to hire foreign professionals in specialty occupations that typically require a bachelor's degree or higher. Due to immense demand, the number of applications received each year often far surpasses the annual quota set by the U.S. Congress. To manage this, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) conducts a random lottery to select which petitions are eligible for processing.

Hence, option C is the correct answer.

141.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Sixth Schedule** exclusively governs the administration of tribal areas in **Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura (and not Manipur), and Mizoram**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Autonomous District Council (ADC)** function as mini-legislatures with powers over specified subjects like land, forest management, and social customs. However, a crucial safeguard is that **all laws passed by the District or Regional Councils require the assent of the Governor to come into effect**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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- The acts of Parliament or the state legislature **do not automatically apply to autonomous districts and autonomous regions**, they get applied with specified modifications and exceptions. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

142.

Ans: B

Exp:

M.C. Mehta v. Union of India

- The **MC Mehta case**, which arose from the **1985 Oleum gas leak in Delhi**, is fundamental to the evolution of environmental rights and corporate liability in India.
- The Supreme Court used this case to deliver a two-fold judgment:
 - ◆ First, it **expanded the 'Right to Life' under Article 21 to implicitly include the 'Right to a Healthy Environment'**, thereby giving environmental protection the status of a fundamental right.
 - ◆ Second, the **Court introduced the strict rule of 'Absolute Liability' for hazardous industries.**
- This rule holds an enterprise absolutely and non-delegably responsible for any harm caused by its dangerous activity, making it impossible to claim any exceptions or defenses available under the older, milder principle of Strict Liability.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

143.

Ans: C

Exp:

- **Sikkim** is strategically located in the Himalayas and shares its international borders with **Nepal** (to the west), **China** (to the north and northeast), and **Bhutan** (to the east). **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- Due to its narrow geographical stretch (the Siliguri Corridor or 'Chicken's Neck'), **West Bengal's** northern protrusion shares borders with three countries: **Nepal** (to the northwest), **Bhutan** (to the northeast), and **Bangladesh** (to the east). **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- **Arunachal Pradesh** shares its boundaries with **Bhutan** (to the west), **China** (to the north and northeast), and **Myanmar** (to the east). **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**

144.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The process predominantly used to convert vegetable oils or animal fats into biodiesel is **Transesterification**.

- This is a chemical reaction where the large triglyceride molecules (**which make up oils and fats**) are reacted with a short-chain alcohol, usually methanol or ethanol, in the presence of a catalyst (**such as potassium hydroxide or sodium methoxide**).

- ◆ This reaction effectively replaces the glycerol component of the oil molecule with the alcohol, resulting in **Fatty Acid Methyl Esters (FAME)**, which is the chemical **name for biodiesel**, and **glycerol as a valuable byproduct**.

- **Fermentation** is a biological process used to produce ethanol from sugars. **Gasification** converts solid biomass into synthetic gas and **Hydrocracking** is a petroleum refinery process that uses hydrogen to break down long hydrocarbon chains.

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

145.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The **Bakhshali Manuscript** is an **ancient Indian mathematical text written on birch bark, discovered in Bakhshali, Pakistan**, possibly the oldest Indian mathematical manuscript still in existence.
- It contains advanced mathematical concepts including profit and loss, interest, fractions, and indeterminate equations, and notably features the **earliest known recorded use of a dot as a symbol for zero**.
- ◆ The manuscript is written in **Sanskrit using the Sharada script**.

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

146.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)**, established in **2001 post-Kargil War and chaired by the Defence Minister**, is indeed the highest decision-making body for all major capital acquisitions of the **Army, Navy, and Air Force**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP)** governs Capital Acquisitions (major equipment and long-term assets) undertaken by the Service Headquarters (SHQs).
 - ◆ However, the **DAP explicitly states that agencies like DRDO and DPSUs (Defence Public Sector Undertakings) will continue to follow their own procurement procedures**, making the DAP non-mandatory for their specific internal processes. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**



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