



Drishti IAS Presents...



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Multiple
Choice
Questions
and
Answers

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QUESTIONS

1. Consider the following statements with respect to 'Government Security (G-Sec)':
 1. It is a tradable instrument issued by the Central Government or the State Governments.
 2. It is a type of debt instrument issued by the government to borrow money from the public to finance its Fiscal Deficit.
 3. They carry practically no risk of default and, hence, are called risk-free gilt-edged instruments.
 How many of the statements given above are correct?
 - A. Only one
 - B. Only two
 - C. All three
 - D. None

2. Consider the following statements about Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC):
 1. An NBFC is a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956, involved in various financial activities.
 2. NBFCs include institutions primarily engaged in dealing in immovable property.
 How many of statements is/are correct?
 - A. Only 1
 - B. Only 2
 - C. Both 1 and 2
 - D. Neither 1 nor 2

3. Regarding the key unemployment indicators, consider the following statements:
 1. Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) is defined as the percentage of employed persons in the population.
 2. Worker Population Ratio (WPR) is defined as the percentage of labour force in the population.
 3. Unemployment Rate (UR) is defined as the percentage of persons unemployed in the total population.
 How many of the above statements are correct?
 - (A) Only one
 - (B) Only two
 - (C) All three
 - (D) None

4. Regarding India's Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) landscape, consider the following statements:
 1. India experienced a nearly 31% rise in net FDI inflows during the fiscal year 2023-24.
 2. The Netherlands, Singapore, Japan, the USA, and Mauritius account for approximately 70% of the total FDI equity inflows into India.
 How many of statements is/are correct?
 - A. Only 1
 - B. Only 2
 - C. Both 1 and 2
 - D. Neither 1 nor 2

5. Consider the following statements about NBFC :
 1. NBFCs provide diverse financial services like personal loans, home loans, vehicle loans, gold loans, microfinance, etc.
 2. They are part of the payment and settlement system and can issue cheques drawn on themselves.
 3. NBFCs cannot accept demand deposits.
 How many of the statements given above are correct?
 - A. Only one
 - B. Only two
 - C. All three
 - D. None

6. Consider the following statements about Palm Oil :
 1. India is one of the largest importer of edible oil globally, importing approx 96% of its palm oil requirement.
 2. Indonesia and Malaysia are among the largest global palm oil producers nations.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - A. 1 only
 - B. 2 only
 - C. Both 1 and 2
 - D. Neither 1 nor 2

7. Consider the following statements:
 1. India is the world's second-largest producer of crude steel in FY2023.
 2. Stainless steel is a type of steel alloy that contains a minimum of 10.5% chromium by mass.
 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

8. With reference to Regulatory Sandbox (RS), consider the following statements:
 1. It refers to live testing of new products or services in a controlled regulatory environment.
 2. RS in the fin-tech sector is regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - A. 1 only
 - B. 2 only
 - C. Both 1 and 2
 - D. Neither 1 nor 2



- 9.** Consider the following statements:
1. Recently, the renowned Cuttack Rupa Tarakasi (Silver Filigree) has been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
 2. GI Tag guards against imitation and lasts for 15 years once registered.
- 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
- 10.** Consider the following statements:
1. Cooperative banks in India, are registered under the Cooperative Societies Act of the State concerned or the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002.
 2. The Reserve Bank regulates the banking functions of Urban Cooperative Banks under the provisions of Sections 22 and 23 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- 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
- 11.** Which of the following statements about coal use in India is not correct?
- A. Coal accounts for more than 50% of India's energy needs.
B. Odisha is the largest producer of lignite coal in India.
C. India's per capita coal consumption is lower than developed countries.
D. Coal imports are unrestricted under India's current import policy.
- 12.** Regarding the Milk Production in India, consider the following statements:
1. India is the highest milk producer in the world.
 2. India contributes to around 54% of global milk production.
 3. The Indian dairy sector is growing by 6% per year.
- How many of the above statements are correct?
- (A) Only one
(B) Only two
(C) All three
(D) None
- 13.** Regarding the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), consider the following statements:
1. It is the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog set up out of a G-7 meeting of developed nations in Paris.
 2. Recently, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has been included in the FATF greylist.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- A. 1 Only
B. 2 Only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2
- 14.** Regarding India's Spending on Research and Development (R&D), consider the following statements:
1. India's expenditure on R&D has increased in recent years as a percentage of GDP.
 2. The Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy 2013 aimed to raise Gross Expenditure on Research and Development (GERD) to 2% of India's GDP.
 3. Most developed countries allocate between 2% and 4% of their GDPs to R&D.
- How many of the above statements are correct?
- (A) Only one
(B) Only two
(C) All three
(D) None
- 15.** Regarding the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), consider the following statements:
1. It is a government organisation that manages provident fund and pension accounts for the workforce engaged in both organised and unorganised sectors in India.
 2. It is administered by the Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- A. 1 Only
B. 2 Only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2
- 16.** Regarding the Gross Value Added (GVA), consider the following statements:
1. GVA measures the value producers add to goods and services during production.
 2. It's calculated by adding the cost of inputs to the total output.
 3. If we deduct the depreciation from GVA we get Net Value Added (NVA).
- How many of the above statements are correct?
- A. Only one
B. Only two
C. All three
D. None of the above



17. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The Monetary Policy Committee's (MPC) accommodative stance means the central bank is prepared to expand the money supply to boost economic growth.

Statement-II: The MPC aims to withdraw accommodation gradually to align inflation with the target while supporting growth.

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.

18. Regarding India's Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming & Comics, and Extended Reality (AVGC-XR) sector, consider the following statements:

- 1. Presently, India shares 7% of the total output of the global AVGC-XR sector.
- 2. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 fosters a favorable ecosystem for cultivating talent in the AVGC-XR industry.

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

19. Regarding RuPay, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a payment system and financial services product developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- 2. It is a domestic card payment network that can be used at Automated Teller Machines (ATMs), Point of Sale (POS) devices, and e-commerce websites across India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

20. Consider the following statements:

- 1. A recession entails two consecutive quarters of GDP decline.
- 2. A technical recession occurs when a sustained decline in economic activity persists.

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

21. With reference to the Payment Banks, consider the following statements:

- 1. Payment banks are a specialized type of bank introduced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in 2014.
- 2. They are designed to promote financial inclusion by offering basic banking services to the unbanked and underbanked population.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

22. Consider the following:

Statement-I: Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs) are reciprocal agreements between two countries to promote and protect foreign private investments in each other's territories.

Statement-II: India's bilateral treaties have dried up since the adoption of the Model Bilateral Investment Treaties (BIT) in 2016.

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

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

23. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: India is witnessing 'premature deindustrialization'.

Statement II: The Indian economy is encountering premature transitions to the services sector, impeding the growth of the manufacturing industry in the country.

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.



24. Consider the following agencies:

1. Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
2. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
3. Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)

How many of the above are the key regulatory bodies for Fintech in India ?

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

25. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 270 of the Indian Constitution outlines the distribution of net tax proceeds between the Union government and the States.
2. Currently, the share of States from the divisible pool (vertical devolution) stands at 41% as per the recommendation of the 15th Finance Commission.
3. Cess and surcharge, collected by the Union government, are not part of the divisible pool and therefore not shared with the States.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

26. Consider the following statements:

1. India's Atomic Energy Act, 1962 governs the subject of 'nuclear energy', with the Government of India playing a central role in the development, operation, and decommissioning of nuclear facilities.
2. The Consolidated Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy of India allows foreign investment in the atomic energy sector up to 75%.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

27. Consider the following statements:

1. India currently is the biggest player in the global space economy with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) ranking at the top of all space agencies globally.
2. In India, 100% FDI is permitted in the space sector, aiming to attract potential investors to Indian space companies.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

28. Regarding the Indian Spice Market, consider the following statements:

1. India is the world's largest spice producer, consumer, and exporter of spices.
2. India produces about 75 of the 109 varieties which are listed by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

29. Consider the following statements:

1. Bitcoin is an open-source digital currency, that facilitates instant payments without central authority issuance.
2. Cryptocurrencies in India fall under the Virtual Digital Assets (VDAs) category and are not subject to taxation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

30. With reference to 'Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC Limited)', consider the following statements:

1. It is a Miniratna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Commerce.
2. It is registered with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as a Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC) and Infrastructure Financing Company (IFC).
3. It has also been made the nodal agency for certain States and Union Territories for the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS).

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

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



31. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The Monetary Policy Committee's (MPC) accommodative stance means the central bank is prepared to expand the money supply to boost economic growth.

Statement-II: The MPC aims to withdraw accommodation gradually to align inflation with the target while supporting growth.

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.

32. Regarding Inflation in India, consider the following statements:

1. Cost-push inflation occurs when the demand for goods and services exceeds their supply.
2. Demand Pull inflation is driven by an increase in the production costs for goods and services.
3. The headline inflation figure is reported through the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) in India.

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

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

33. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently revised guidelines regarding inoperative accounts and unclaimed deposits, aiming to streamline the classification and activation processes.

Statement-II: The revised instructions apply to all Commercial Banks and not to Cooperative Banks.

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.

34. Consider the following statement:

1. India is the 2nd largest producer of steel in the world after China.
2. In India, West Bengal leads among all steel-producing states, followed by Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

35. Regarding Reverse Flipping, consider the following statements:

1. It is the process of shifting the domicile of an Indian company back to India after it had moved its headquarters overseas.
2. Reverse flipping has become a trend among Indian startups, especially in the fintech sector, as they plan for Initial Public Offers (IPOs).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

36. Regarding Section 132 of the Income-Tax Act, 1961, consider the following statements:

1. It allows tax authorities to conduct searches and seizures without a warrant if there's a "reason to believe" that a person has hidden or avoided income.
2. The constitutionality of this provision was challenged in the case of Pooran Mal vs Director of Inspection (1973).

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

37. Regarding the Indian Toy Industry, consider the following statements:

1. The Indian toy industry exhibited a substantial decline in exports in recent years.
2. A substantial increase in Basic Customs Duty (BCD) on toys aims to protect the domestic toy industry.
3. Ministry of Commerce and Industry mandated sample testing for each import consignment to prevent the import of substandard toys.

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



38. Consider the following pairs:

| GI Tag | State |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Adi Kekir | Arunachal Pradesh |
| 2. Tangail Saree | West Bengal |
| 3. Kachchhi Kharek | Gujarat |

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

39. Regarding the exchange rate system, consider the following statements:

- In a stabilized arrangement, currency value is determined solely by supply and demand in the foreign exchange market.
- In a floating exchange rate, the central bank may intervene in the foreign exchange market to maintain a target range for the currency.
- An exchange rate regime is deemed stabilized by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) when the exchange rate remains within a 2% band for a consecutive period of 6 months.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (A) Only one
(B) Only two
(C) All three
(D) None

40. Regarding Goods and Services Tax (GST), consider the following statements:

- It is a comprehensive indirect tax that was introduced in India through the 106th Constitution Amendment Act, 2016.
- The GST Council, established under Article 279A (1) Constitution, is tasked with recommending solutions for issues concerning the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

41. Consider the following statements:

- Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) refers to investments made by foreign individuals, corporations, and institutions in the financial assets of India, such as stocks, bonds, and mutual funds.
- FPI is mainly for the purpose of long-term gains unlike Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) which involves short-term gain.
- Luxembourg has become the third-largest region for FPIs in India, surpassing Mauritius.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

42. Regarding Point of Presence (PoP) Regulations 2023, consider the following statements:

- This regulation makes it easier for people to join the National Pension System (NPS) by simplifying the registration process.
- Only Banks can serve as Points of Presence (PoPs) to help people join the NPS.
- Now, people require only single Registration for NPS, instead of multiple registrations as earlier required and can operate with just one branch with wider digital presence.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

43. With reference to the India's Civil Aviation Sector, consider the following statements:

- India is the second-largest aviation market globally.
- The unruly passengers were governed under The Aircraft Rules, 1937.
- The Directorate General of Civil Aviation is the principal regulatory body that primarily governs civil aviation in India.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (A) Only one
(B) Only two
(C) All three
(D) None

44. With reference to the 'Geographical Indication (GI)', consider the following statements:

- GI is governed under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) at the World Trade Organisation (WTO).
- GI certification is only extended to agricultural products and not non-agricultural products.
- Globally, China leads in GI registrations closely followed by Germany.

How many of the above statements are not correct?

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



45. Regarding the Foreign Investment in India, consider the following statements:

1. Foreign Portfolio Investments (FPIs) involve investing in the long term.
2. Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) involve investing in financial assets in short to medium-term.
3. Government's prior approval is mandatory for FDIs from countries sharing land border with India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

46. Regarding Geographical Indication (GI), consider the following statements:

1. It is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.
2. It is a powerful tool for protecting traditional knowledge, culture and can boost socio-economic development.
3. GI is governed under the Agreement on TRIPS at the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

47. Consider the following statements with respect to Terms of Trade (ToT):

1. ToT for Indian agriculture refers to the movement in prices of farm commodities relative to non-farm goods and services.
2. A rise in the terms of trade implies better purchasing power for the agricultural sector in terms of industrial goods.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

48. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) are investment vehicles that allow individuals to invest in large-scale, income-producing real estate without having to directly manage or own the properties.

Statement II: They pool capital from multiple investors to invest in a diversified portfolio of real estate assets, which may include residential or commercial properties, shopping centers, office buildings, hotels etc.

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

49. With reference to the 15th Finance Commission, consider the following statements:

1. The 15th Finance Commission proposed maintaining the states' share in central taxes at 42% for the 2021-26 period.
2. Population (2011)' and 'Tax and fiscal efforts' were introduced by the 15th Finance Commission.
3. The Commission recommended that the Centre aims to limit its fiscal deficit to 4% of GDP by 2025-26.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (A) Only one
- (B) Only two
- (C) All three
- (D) None

50. With reference to Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), consider the following statements:

1. It is a survey conducted by the National Statistical Organisation (NSO) under the NITI Aayog.
2. It was launched in April 2017 by NSO.
3. Its objective is to estimate employment and unemployment indicators in both 'Usual Status' and CWS in both rural and urban areas annually.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



59. With reference to the Alternative Investment Fund (AIF), consider the following statements:

1. AIF refers to a fund established or formed in India, serving as a privately pooled investment mechanism.
2. These investment vehicles adhere to the SEBI (Alternative Investment Funds) Regulations, 2012.
3. Category III AIFs are those that invest in startups, early-stage ventures, social initiatives, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), infrastructure, etc.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

60. With reference to 'Insurance For All by 2047', consider the following statements:

1. The Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India in alignment with the 'Insurance For All by 2047' initiative, is introducing tailored products for rural areas.
2. The focus is on extending insurance coverage to maximum rural masses, aligning with the vision of making India a developed nation by 2047.
3. LIC acknowledges the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) proposed 'Bima Vistar,' for realising the Vision of 2047.

How many of the statements given above are not correct?

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

61. Regarding the Financial Stability Board (FSB), consider the following statements:

1. FSB was established in 2005 under the aegis of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).
2. India is an active Member of the FSB.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

62. With reference to Universal Basic Income, consider the following statements:

- A. It is a social welfare proposal in which all the beneficiaries regularly receive a guaranteed income in the form of an unconditional transfer payment.
- B. It is specifically mentioned in the Indian constitution under the Directive Principle of State Policy (DPSP).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

63. With reference to Worker and Labour Productivity, consider the following :

1. Productivity is measured in terms of the labor-output ratio or change in Net Domestic Product per worker in each sector where working hours are assumed to be 8 hours per day.
2. The difference between Worker Productivity and Labor Productivity is that the 'work' in worker productivity describes mental activities while the 'work' in labour productivity is mostly associated with manual activities.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

64. Regarding the Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) consider the following statements:

1. NBFCs are restricted from accepting demand deposits from the public.
2. NBFCs form an important part of the payment and settlement system.
3. NBFCs primarily finance their operations through a mix of market borrowing and bank loans.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

65. Which of the following statements about silk production and sericulture in India is/are correct?

1. Telangana is the leading state in India's silk production, contributing 32% to the total production in the fiscal year 2021-22.
2. India is the world's largest producer of raw silk, surpassing China in the fiscal year 2020-21.
3. The Central Silk Board (CSB) is responsible for the overall development and promotion of the sericulture and silk industry in India.

Provide correct using the options given below:

- A. Only statement 1 is correct.
- B. Statements 1 and 2 are correct.
- C. Statements 2 and 3 are correct.
- D. All three statements are correct.

66. Consider the following statements:

1. A tax haven is a country that offers foreigners very low tax liability in a politically and economically stable environment.
2. An offshore company is incorporated in a jurisdiction other than its home country.

Which of the statements above is/are correct?

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

67. With reference to Investor Risk Reduction Access (IRRA), consider the following statements:

1. It was launched in order to provide a 'safety net' for investors in case of technical glitches faced by a trading member or a stockbroker.
2. It can also be used for taking fresh positions or orders and canceling the pending orders.
3. IRRA has been developed by the Reserve Bank of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

68. Consider the following statements:

1. Gondwana coal makes upto 98% of the total reserves and 99% of the production of coal in India.
2. Gondwana coal forms India's metallurgical grade as well as superior quality coal.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

69. Regarding the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) 2016, consider the following statements:

1. IBC aims to provide a time-bound and creditor-driven process for insolvency resolution and to improve the credit culture and business environment in the country.
2. The Code is quite different from the earlier resolution systems as it shifts the responsibility to the creditor to initiate the insolvency resolution process against the corporate debtor.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

70. With reference to 'De-Dollarisation', consider the following statements :

1. De-dollarisation refers to a deliberate or unintentional process undertaken by a country or region to reduce reliance on the US dollar in its financial system or economy.
2. This can involve various measures aimed at decreasing the use of the dollar in transactions, reserves, trade, or as a standard for pricing goods and services.
3. Strategies for de-dollarisation can include diversifying currency reserves, promoting the use of alternative currencies in trade agreements, establishing currency swap agreements among others.

How many of the statements given above are not correct?

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

71. With reference to Fraud Loan Apps and Digital Lending, consider the following statements:

1. Fake loan apps are unauthorized and illegal digital lending platforms that offer loans, from as little as Rs.1,000 to Rs.1 lakh targeting low-income and financially untrained individuals.
2. Fraud Loan Apps are completely regulated by the Reserve Bank of India and no other institution is authorized to regulate it.
3. The RBI has not released any guidelines until now to regulate Digital Lending.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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



72. With reference to Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGB), consider the following statements:

1. These Bonds are issued by State Bank of India on behalf of Government of India.
2. Persons resident in India as defined under Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 are eligible to invest in SGB.

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

73. Consider the following statements regarding International Financial Services Centres (IFSC):

1. An IFSC is a financial centre that caters to customers outside the jurisdiction of the domestic economy.
2. The IFSC in India is regulated by the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), a statutory authority that was established under the IFSC Act, 2019.

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

74. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Under the FDI policy, e-commerce comprises products, both digital and physical, and services traded on digital and electronic networks.

Statement-II: Business-to-consumer (B2C) is the retail part of e-commerce on the Internet, that is, the sale of goods and/or services to the end consumer through digital means.

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.

75. With reference to the Fair Price Shop (FPS), consider the following statements:

1. FPS is a government-run or government-regulated retail outlet or store in India.
2. The e-Pos devices have been integrated with electronic weighing machines to ensure the beneficiaries get the correct amount of ration.
3. These shops are aimed at ensuring food security and reducing the economic burden on backward classes.

How many of the statements given above are not correct?

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

76. Consider the following statements:

1. A wilful defaulter means a borrower or a guarantor who has committed wilful default and the outstanding amount is Rs 25 lakh and above.
2. A large defaulter refers to a borrower with an outstanding balance of Rs 1 crore or more, whose account has been categorized as doubtful or a loss.

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. Regarding the Geographical Indication (GI) tag consider the following statements:

1. Geographical indications are recognized as a part of intellectual property rights (IPRs) under the Paris Convention and Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement.
2. India, as a World Trade Organisation (WTO) member, implemented the Geographical Indications of Goods Act, 1999.
3. Arunachal Pradesh has recently received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag for Arunachal Yak Churpi, Khaw Tai (Khamti rice), and Tangsa Textiles.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3 only



- 86.** The term Bidenomics was sometimes in the news in relation to economic policies. Which of the following statements correctly reflects its meaning?
- It is a set of policies that emphasizes tax cuts, deregulation, domestic spending cuts and inflation reduction.
 - It is a set of policies that emphasize relief measures, investments in infrastructure, and strengthening the safety net, funded by tax increases on higher-income individuals and corporations.
 - It is a set of policies that emphasizes trade protectionism, immigration restriction, and isolationism from global affairs.
 - It is a set of policies that emphasize environmental sustainability, social justice, and human rights, funded by a global wealth tax.
- 87.** With reference to the Global Minimum Tax (GMT), consider the following statements:
- A GMT applies a standard minimum tax rate to a defined corporate income base worldwide.
 - The framework of GMT aims to encourage nations from tax competition through lower tax rates that result in corporate profit shifting and tax base erosion.
 - In 2021, a group of 136 countries, including India, set a minimum global tax rate of 15% for MNCs and sought to make it harder for them to avoid taxation.
- How many of the statements given above are correct?
- Only one
 - Only two
 - All three
 - None
- 88.** Regarding the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), consider the following statements:
- It is provided under Section 45ZB of the amended RBI Act, 1934.
 - It determines the policy repo rate required to achieve the inflation target.
 - The MPC functions under the chairmanship of the Union Finance Minister.
- How many of the statements given above are correct?
- Only one
 - Only two
 - All three
 - None
- 89.** With reference to the the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), consider the following statements:
- DRI serves as India's premier anti-smuggling agency, operating under the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs, Ministry of Finance.
 - It is responsible for detecting and preventing various forms of smuggling, including illicit wildlife trade.
- Which of the statmenets given above is/are not correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
- 90.** Which of the following statements is true about Fiscal Deficit ?
- Fiscal deficit is the difference between the government's total expenditure and its total revenue (including borrowings).
 - A high fiscal deficit can lead to inflation, appreciation of the currency and an increase in the debt burden.
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
- 91.** The term 'Impossible Trinity' has been in the news recently, and it pertains to which of the following economic aspects:
- This concept suggests that an economy cannot simultaneously have its own monetary policy, a fixed exchange rate, and unrestricted capital movement across its borders.
 - This concept means that an economy can't have its own fiscal policy, keep its currency's value fixed, and let money move freely in and out of the country all at once.
 - This concept means that an economy cannot simultaneously manage a current account deficit, maintain a fixed exchange rate, and permit unrestricted capital flows.
 - This concept implies that an economy cannot handle a current account deficit, maintain a fixed interest rate, and allow unrestricted capital flows all at the same time.

92. With reference to Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs), consider the following statements:

1. Unlike cryptocurrencies, which lack regulatory oversight, CBDCs are official legal tenders issued and supported by a central bank.
2. It differs from fiat currency but is exchangeable one-to-one with it.
3. El Salvador made history in 2020 by becoming the first economy to introduce its nationwide CBDC, known as the Sand Dollar.

How many of the above given statements are correct?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. Only three
- d. None of the above

93. Consider the following statements:

1. Hitachi Payment Services is the company that launched India's first UPI-ATM.
2. The UPI-ATM is a White Label ATM (WLA) developed in collaboration with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
3. The ATM was designed to enable "seamless cash withdrawals" and eliminate the need to carry physical ATM cards.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

94. Consider the following statements with respect to 'Global Fintech Fest (GFF)':

1. It has been organized by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), Payments Council of India (PCI), and Fintech Convergence Council (FCC).
2. Its aim is to provide a singular platform for fintech leaders to foster collaborations and develop a blueprint for the future of the industry.
3. The theme of GFF' 2023 is "Global Collaboration for a Responsible Financial Ecosystem".

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (A) Only one
- (B) Only two
- (C) All three
- (D) None

95. With reference to the Incremental Capital Output Ratio (ICOR), consider the following statements:

1. ICOR has evolved from the Harrod-Domar Growth Theory and examines the relationship between fresh investments and economic growth.
2. A lower ICOR signifies greater efficiency and productive use of capital.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

96. Gresham's Law, sometimes in news, is related to which of the following?

- A. Fiscal Policy
- B. Monetary Policy
- C. Currency Exchange Rate
- D. Trade Agreements

97. Consider the following states-

1. Kerala
2. Tamil Nadu
3. Tripura
4. West Bengal

How many of the above are generally rubber producing states?

- a. Only one state
- b. Only two states
- c. Only three states
- d. All of the above

98. With reference to the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), consider the following statements:

1. IRDAI is a non statutory body.
2. It comes under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Commerce.
3. It regulates and sees to the development of the insurance industry.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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



106. Consider the following statements:

1. India is the second largest cotton producer in the world, after China.
2. In India, cotton production accounts for approximately 25% of the world's total output and is often referred to as "White-Gold".
3. Mating disruption using synthetic pheromones is one technique that can be used to control the population of pink bollworm moths and reduce the damage they cause to cotton crops.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

107. Consider the following statements regarding T+1 settlement cycle:

1. T in T+1 represents the trade date.
2. This cycle means that trade-related settlements occur within one hour of the actual transaction.
3. India became the first country to implement the T+1 settlement cycle in top-listed securities.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

108. Consider the following statements about MSMEs:

1. Their general definition is based on Investment in Plant & Machinery/equipment and Annual Turnover.
2. The eligibility criteria for the Micro category require that the investment should not exceed Rs. 1 crore, and the annual turnover should not exceed Rs. 5 crores.
3. The Small category mandates that the investment should not exceed Rs. 10 crores, and the annual turnover should not exceed Rs. 50 crores.
4. For the Medium category, the permissible investment limit is not more than Rs. 50 crores, and the annual turnover should not exceed Rs. 250 crores.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- a. Only 1 and 2
- b. Only 2 and 3
- c. Only 3 and 4
- d. All the above

109. Consider the following statements:

1. AMC Repo Clearing Limited (ARCL) offers triparty repo services to facilitate repo transactions in corporate bonds, which are long-term borrowings backed by securities as collateral.
2. Triparty repo services are referred to the financial transactions where a third party, often a custodian or clearing agent, acts as an intermediary between the two parties involved in a repo agreement.

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

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Only 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

110. Consider the following statements regarding the state of formal employment in India:

1. As per the NSO's Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) report for the year 2021-22, the unemployment rate for 2021-22 was 4.1%.
2. Between 2017 and 2022, the number of regular contributors to Employees Provident Fund's (EPF) consistently increased.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- a. Only 1
- b. Only 2
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

111. Regarding the scheme "Vivad se Vishwas II", consider the following statements:

1. The scheme "Vivad se Vishwas II" is launched by the Ministry of Finance.
2. The scheme aims to resolve contractual disputes efficiently and promote ease of doing business with the government.
3. Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal will be used for the implementation of the scheme.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

112. With reference to Sugarcane in India, consider the following statements:

1. India is the second largest producer of sugarcane after Brazil.
2. Maharashtra is one of top sugarcane producing states in India.
3. Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) is set by the government that sugar mills are obligated to pay to farmers for the sugarcane procured from them.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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



113. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. India ranks 4th globally in installed wind energy capacity as of April 2023.
2. Gujarat has the highest wind power potential at 120 meters above ground level.
3. The objective of National Offshore Wind Energy Policy is to develop wind energy in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) along the Indian coastline.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 and 3 only
3. 1 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

114.

Statement-I:

Deflation refers to a sustained and general decrease in the overall price levels of goods and services in the economy.

Statement-II:

In a deflationary environment, consumers have to buy less goods and services for the same amount of money over time.

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

115. With reference to the Floating rate loans, consider the following statements:

1. These loans have an interest rate that changes periodically, depending on a benchmark rate or the base rate.
2. They are common for credit cards, mortgages, and other consumer loans.
3. They are at least 1-2% more expensive than the fixed interest loans.

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

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

116. Which of the following are a part of India's Foreign Exchange Reserves:

1. Foreign Currency Assets
2. Gold reserves
3. Foreign Assets Held by Indian Individuals or Businesses
4. Reserve position with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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

1. Under the scheme, both Domestic and Foreign companies receive financial rewards for manufacturing in India, based on a percentage of their revenue over up to five years.
2. The incentives provided under the scheme are calculated on the basis of both incremental sales and local value addition done over the period of five years.
3. The subsidy in the scheme for Mobile and allied Component Manufacturing is paid only for finishing the phone in India, not on how much value is added by manufacturing in India.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

118. With reference to Payment Banks in India, consider the following statements :

1. Nachiket Mor committee recommended setting up of 'Payments Bank' to cater to the lower income groups and small businesses.
2. They can accept both demand deposits and time deposits from their customers.
3. They are not allowed to accept deposits from Non-Resident Indians (NRIs).

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

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

1. Base Year for IIP is 2017-2018.
2. It is released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industries.
3. The core industries have a combined weight of around 40% in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

Which of the statements given above are not correct?

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3

127. Consider the following statements regarding Steel Industry in India:

1. Green Steel refers to steel that is produced using renewable energy sources.
2. India is the 2nd largest producer of crude steel after China.
3. The National Steel Policy 2017 allows 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the steel sector through automatic route.

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

128. With reference to Central Counterparties (CCPs), which the statements given below is not correct?

1. CCP is a financial institution that acts as an intermediary between buyers and sellers in various derivatives and equities markets.
2. CCPs reduce risks associated with counterparty, operational, settlement, market, legal, and default issues.
3. In India, they are regulated by both Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Security and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

Select the correct answer using codes given below:

- a. 3 only
- b. 1 and 2 only
- c. 2 and 3 only
- d. None of the above

129. Consider the following Pairs:

Subsidy Boxes

Nature of subsidies included

1. Amber Box - Those subsidies that can distort international trade by making a country's products cheaper
2. Blue Box - Domestic support measures that don't cause trade distortion or at most cause minimal distortion
3. Green Box - Any support that would normally be in the amber box is placed in the green box if it requires farmers to limit production.

How many pairs give above are matched correctly?

- a. Only 1 pair
- b. Only 2 pairs
- c. Only 3 pairs
- d. All 4 pairs

130. Consider the following statements regarding Debt for Climate Swaps:

1. These swaps involve reducing debt in exchange for policy commitments or spending to mitigate the effects of climate change by debtor countries.
2. Only official bilateral debt can be involved in debt-for-climate swaps.

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

131. With respect to the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), 2010, consider the following statements:

1. It requires every person or NGO wishing to receive foreign donations to be registered under the Act.
2. The Act prohibits receipt of foreign funds by candidates for elections and journalists.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

132. Consider the following statements:

1. The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 (MRTP Act) was repealed and replaced by the Competition Act, 2002.
2. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) is a quasi-judicial body which gives opinions to statutory authorities and also deals with other cases.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



133. If US federal reserve increases Interest rates, what can be the possible impacts of it on Indian economy?

1. Costlier imports
2. Surge in stock prices
3. Increase in India's external debt burden

Which of the options given above is/are correct?

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

134. Consider the following statements about India's Agriculture sector in FY2023:

1. Marine products, rice, cotton and sugar have been the driving forces behind India's agricultural exports.
2. Owing to Success of National mission on edible oils, India's vegetable oil imports have dropped in past two years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

135. With reference to Multi Model Logistics Parks in India, consider the following statements:

1. Logistic division under Ministry of Commerce & Industry has been authorized to develop Multi Model Logistics Parks under the Bharatmala Pariyojana.
2. It will be solely developed by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) called the National Highways and Logistics Management (NHLML).

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

136. Which of the following statements is/are not correct?

1. Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog set up out of a G-20 meeting in Paris.
2. FATF considers efforts to counter the financing of proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD).

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

137. Consider the following statements:

1. Graphite, Lithium and Cobalt are among the major critical minerals.
2. India is a member of Minerals Security Partnership (MSP).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

138. Which of the following statements is/are not correct?

1. Leaked biometric details of Aadhar card can be used to bypass the need of One Time Passwords (OTPs) for secured bank transactions in Aadhaar-enabled Payment System (AePS).
2. Aadhaar-enabled Payment System (AePS) was taken up by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) which is a joint initiative of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Indian Banks' Association (IBA).

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

139. With reference to the status of the Fisheries sector in India, consider the following statements:

1. India is the third largest fish producer and the second largest aquaculture producer.
2. Fishing and aquaculture industries are regarded as sunrise sectors.
3. Andhra Pradesh is the largest producer of fish in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

140. Consider the following statements regarding Wholesale Price Index (WPI):

1. WPI does not capture changes in the prices of services.
2. In WPI, more weightage is given to manufactured goods, while in CPI (Consumer Price Index), more weightage is given to food items.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



141. With reference to the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS), consider the following statements:

1. It is the scheme of Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
2. The scheme is not available to corporations and partnership firms.
3. Trading in foreign exchange abroad is prohibited under this scheme.

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 only

142. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The withdrawal of the Rs 2000 notes is part of the RBI's Clean Note Policy.
2. The demonetization process in India requires the recommendation of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
3. The fifty paise (half a rupee) coins is not a legal tender in India.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a. 1 and 2 only
b. 2 and 3 only
c. 1 only
d. 1, 2 and 3

143. Consider the following statements:

1. The transfer of RBI's surplus to the government is governed by banking conventions and global practices, as there is no specific statutory provision available for it.
2. The surplus transfer by the RBI is continuously increasing due to the healthy monetary policy of the country.

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

144. Regarding the new tax rules for online gaming platforms in India, consider the following statements:

1. Online gaming platforms are not required to deduct tax if net winning is less than Rs 100.
2. Bonus and referral bonus provided by the online gaming company are not considered as taxable deposits.
3. The new tax rules have been introduced by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 and 2 only b. 1 and 3 only
c. 3 only d. 1, 2 and 3 only

145. Consider the following statements:

1. Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) is planning to launch Bima Trinity to make insurance activities hassle free.
2. IRDAI Vision 2047 aims to make the Indian insurance sector globally attractive.

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

146. In March 2023, banks from 18 countries were allowed by the RBI to open Special Rupee Vostro Accounts (SRVAs) to settle payments in Indian rupees. Which among the following country's banks is allowed to open Special Rupee Vostro Accounts (SRVAs) by RBI?

- A. China B. Malaysia
C. Thailand D. Indonesia

147. Consider the following statements regarding Trademark:

1. Trademark is a logo used by a company. It is governed by the Patents Act, 1970
2. Every ten years, trademark must be renewed as they expire.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

148. Consider the following statements related to Non-Banking Financial Companies:

1. They are registered under the RBI Act, 1934.
2. Deposit insurance facility of Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation is not available to depositors of NBFCs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

149. Consider the following statements:

1. Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited has been recognized as a miniratna Category -I company.
2. A central Public Sector Enterprise can be recognised as miniratna category-I company when it has made profit continuously for 3 years and has not defaulted in the repayment of loans to the government.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
b. 2 only
c. Both 1 and 2
d. Neither 1 nor 2

150. With reference to the Virtual Digital Assets (VDAs), consider the following statements:

1. They are defined under the newly inserted clause under the Income Tax Act, 1961.
2. They are created using cryptography with the representation of having inherent value.

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

151. Consider the following statements regarding India-Russia trade ties:

1. Russia is India's Seventh biggest trading partner.
2. The balance of trade currently tilts in favor of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 Only
- (b) 2 Only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

152. Consider the following statements:

1. Off-Budget liabilities refer to debts taken by private sector entities to finance government programs and subsidies outside the traditional budget.
2. Bondholders of off-budget liabilities are willing to forego their high-yield bonds and accept prepayment offers from the government.

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

- (a) 1 Only
- (b) 2 Only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

153. Consider the following statements:

1. India is among the top 5 tea exporters in the world.
2. Tea Board of India is the statutory body under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

154. What is the Nifty Reits & InvITs Index launched by National Stock Exchange Indices Ltd?

1. The index tracks the performance of Reits and InvITs that are publicly listed and traded on the NSE.
2. The index will be reviewed and rebalanced on an annual basis.

Select the correct answer using the following code:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

155. Consider the following statements related to 'Infrastructure Investment Trust'

1. They are regulated by the Reserve Bank of India.
2. They are listed on exchanges just like stocks through initial public offerings.

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

156. Consider the following statements about India's Generic medicines:

1. India is the largest provider of generic medicines and the leading vaccine manufacturer, globally.
2. DCGI acts as an appellate authority in case of disputes regarding the quality of drugs.
3. According to World Trade organization (WTO), generic copies of drugs are legal from the patent point of view when they are made after the patent has expired.

How many ofis/are correct?

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

157. Which organization is responsible for administering the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act, 1999 in India?

- A. Registrar of Companies
- B. Controller General of Patents, Designs, and Trademarks
- C. Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- D. Geographical Indications Registry



166. Regarding the India's Digital Ecosystem, consider the following statements:

1. It has the 3rd largest telecom market globally.
2. In the last few years, India's digital economy grew 10 times faster than the national economy.
3. It is the most connected democracy in the world, where 8 billion UPI (Unified Payment Interface) transactions are made every month.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

167. With reference to Evergreening of Patents, consider the following statements:

1. It is a practice of tweaking drugs to extend their patent term.
2. Indian government has allowed the practice of "evergreening" of patents.
3. It will aid millions of people who can't afford the expensive modified drugs.

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 only

168. With reference to the IMF Bailouts, consider the following statements:

1. Countries seek help from the IMF usually when their economies face a major macroeconomic risk or political instability.
2. The IMF lends money to the troubled economies often in the form of Bonds.

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

169. Consider the following statements:

1. Both IMF and World bank were established during Bretton woods conference in 1944.
2. The IMF has universal membership.
3. Membership in the IMF is a prerequisite to membership in the IBRD.

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 only

170. Consider the following about Insolvency and Bankruptcy code (IBC):

1. The IBC covers all individuals, companies, Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs) and partnership firms.
2. Under IBC, adjudicating authority for companies and LLPs is Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT).

How many of/are correct?

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

171. Regarding the Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), consider the following statements:

1. It aims to empower the citizen with a real ability to control their data.
2. It could lead to the authoritarianism and digital colonization.
3. India became the first country to develop Digital identity (Aadhar), Real-time fast payment (UPI) and Account Aggregator.

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

172. With reference to Assamese Gamocha, consider the following statements:

1. It is a rectangular piece of cloth which comes in various colors and designs, and the most popular among them are red-and-white with chequered pattern.
2. Assamese Gamocha has been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
b. 2 only
c. Both 1 and 2
d. None of the above

173. Which of the following is NOT an objective of NPCI?

- (a) To provide safe, secure, and efficient retail payment systems in India.
- (b) To promote digital payments and financial inclusion in the country.
- (c) To provide a range of products and services to banks and financial institutions.
- (d) To regulate the payment and settlement systems in India.



174. With reference to the Funds for Startups (FFS) Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. The Ministry of Finance is the operating agency for FFS.
2. It aims to make capital available for startups at an early stage only.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

175. with reference to the report “Falling Long-Term Growth Prospects: Trends, Expectations, and Policies”, consider the following statements.

1. The report Falling Long-Term Growth Prospects: Trends, Expectations, and Policies (2020-2030) was released by International Monetary Fund (IMF).
2. According to the report, India has lost growth momentum over the past two decades.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

176. With reference to the Aviation Sector of India, consider the following statements:

1. It is currently the world's 5th-largest civil aviation market.
2. Over the past few years, India's international passenger traffic had remained stagnant.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

177. Consider the following statements:

1. IPEF is an India-led initiative that aims to strengthen economic partnership among participating countries.
2. It is a Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

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

178. With reference to Hallmarking, consider the following statements:

1. It is the accurate determination and official recording of the proportionate content of precious metal.
2. In India, it consisted of 3 marks, the BIS logo, purity of the article and six-digit alphanumeric HUID only.

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

179. What is the purpose of the Social Stock Exchange (SSE)?

1. To provide a platform for social enterprises to raise funds from the public and increase transparency about fund mobilisation and utilisation.
2. Corporate foundations can get listed on a stock exchange.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANSWERS

1. Ans: C

Exp:

- Government Securities (G-Secs) are tradable instrument issued by the Central Government or the State Governments. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- A G-Sec is a type of debt instrument issued by the government to borrow money from the public to finance its Fiscal Deficit. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ It acknowledges the **Government's debt obligation.**
 - Such securities are **short-term** (usually called treasury bills, with original maturities of less than one year- presently issued in three tenors, namely, 91-day, 182 days and 364 days) or **long-term** (usually called **Government bonds or dated securities** with original maturity of one year or more).
- **G-Secs carry practically no risk of default** and, hence, are called risk-free gilt-edged instruments. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

2. Ans: A

Exp:

Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC):

- An NBFC is a company registered under the **Companies Act, 1956**, involved in various financial activities such as providing loans and advances, acquiring shares, stocks, bonds, debentures, and securities issued by the government or local authorities. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **NBFCs do not include institutions primarily engaged in:**
 - ◆ Agricultural or industrial activities
 - ◆ Purchase or sale of goods (other than securities)
 - ◆ Providing services
 - ◆ Dealing in immovable property. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

3. Ans: D

Exp:

- **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR):** LFPR is defined as the percentage of persons in the labour force (i.e. working or seeking or available for work) in the population. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Worker Population Ratio (WPR):** WPR is defined as the percentage of employed persons in the population. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- **Unemployment Rate (UR):** UR is defined as the percentage of persons unemployed among the persons in the labour force. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Activity Status- Usual Status:** The activity status of a person is determined based on the activities pursued by the person during the specified reference period.
 - ◆ When the activity status is determined based on the reference period of the last 365 days preceding the date of the survey, it is known as the usual activity status of the person.
- **Activity Status- Current Weekly Status (CWS):** The activity status determined based on a reference period of the last 7 days preceding the date of the survey is known as the CWS of the person.

4. Ans: B

Exp:

The Finance Ministry has released a comprehensive review shedding light on **India's foreign direct investment (FDI)** landscape, revealing both declines and hopeful prospects.

- **India's net FDI inflows dropped by almost 31% to USD 25.5 billion** over the first ten months of 2023-24. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Around 65% of India's FDI equity inflows were observed in services, drugs and pharmaceuticals, construction (infrastructure activities), and non-conventional energy sectors.
- **The Netherlands, Singapore, Japan, the USA, and Mauritius** accounted for approximately **70% of the total FDI equity inflows into India.** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

5. Ans: B

Exp:

- ◆ NBFCs provide diverse financial services like personal loans, home loans, vehicle loans, gold loans, microfinance, insurance, and investment management. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- ◆ NBFCs **do not form part of the payment and settlement system** and **cannot** issue cheques drawn on themselves. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**
- ◆ They can accept public deposits for a minimum of **12 months** and a maximum of **60 months.** However, NBFCs **cannot accept demand deposits.** **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**



6. Ans: C

Exp:

- India is the second-largest consumer of edible oil globally and **one of its largest importers**. India currently struggles with achieving self-sufficiency in **edible oils**, importing **96% of its required palm oil**, which makes up 67% of the country's edible oil import bill. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- **Indonesia and Malaysia** are the main global palm oil producers, followed by **Thailand, Colombia, and Nigeria**. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

7. Ans: C

Exp:

- India is the **world's second-largest producer of crude steel**, with an output of 125.32 million tonnes (MT) of crude steel and 121.29 MT of finished steel production in FY23.
 - ◆ India is also a net exporter of steel witnessing an export of 6.72 MT of finished steel against the import of 6.02 MT in 2022-23. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Stainless steel is a type of steel alloy that contains a minimum of 10.5% chromium by mass. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ It is known for its exceptional corrosion resistance, making it highly suitable for various applications where durability and resistance to rust and staining are essential.

8. Ans: C

Exp:

- A **Regulatory Sandbox (RS)** refers to live testing of new products or services in a controlled regulatory environment for which regulators may or may not permit certain regulatory relaxations for the limited purpose of testing. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The RS is an important tool that enables more dynamic, evidence-based regulatory environments which learn from and evolve with emerging technologies.
- Recently, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** revised the timeline for the completion of various stages of a **Regulatory Sandbox (RS)** to **nine months** from the previous **seven months**.
 - ◆ To enable regulated and orderly growth of FinTech ecosystem in India, **the Reserve Bank in August 2019 became one of the few countries** that have their very own Regulatory Sandbox (RS) ecosystem. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) set up an **inter-regulatory Working Group** in **2016** to look into and report on the **granular aspects of FinTech** and its implications so as to review the **regulatory framework** and respond to the dynamics of the rapidly evolving FinTech scenario.
- The report recommended introducing an appropriate framework for a **Regulatory Sandbox (RS)** within a well-defined space and duration where the financial sector regulator will provide the requisite regulatory guidance, to increase efficiency, manage risks and create new opportunities for consumers.

9. Ans: A

Exp:

- The renowned **Cuttack Rupa Tarakasi (Silver Filigree)** has been granted the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**, marking its distinct heritage and craftsmanship.
 - ◆ Filigree is ornamental work especially of fine wire of gold, silver, or copper applied chiefly to gold and silver surfaces.
- A GI tag is a label used on products linked to a specific geographic area, ensuring only authorized users from that region can use the product's name.
 - ◆ It guards against imitation and lasts for **10 years** once registered. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) manages GI registration in India under the **Geographical Indications of Goods Act, 1999**, in line with the **TRIPS agreement**.

10. Ans: C

Exp:

Cooperative banks in India:

- Cooperative banks are financial institutions that are owned and operated by their members, who are also the bank's customers.
- Cooperative banks in India, are registered under the **Cooperative Societies Act** of the State concerned or the **Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Reserve Bank regulates** the banking functions of Urban Cooperative Banks under the provisions of Sections 22 and 23 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**



11. Ans: B

Exp:

- Coal is the most important and abundant fossil fuel in India. It accounts for **55%** of the country's energy needs.
- Lignite coal is characterized by its carbon content of **40% to 55%** and high moisture levels, and is primarily found in areas including **Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Jammu & Kashmir**.
 - ◆ **Tamil Nadu (not Odisha)** was the largest producer of lignite and produced 22.480 Million Tonnes (MT) in 2022-23 (Ministry of Coal, Government of India)
- Current per capita consumption of coal in India stands at around **350 kilograms of oil equivalent per year**, lower than developed countries.
- Present import policy allows for the **unrestricted import** of coal under Open General License.
 - ◆ Consumers, including the steel, power, and cement sectors, as well as coal traders, can import coal based on their commercial requirements.
- Hence, option B is correct.

12. Ans: B

Exp:

- **Milk Production in India:**
 - ◆ India is the **highest milk producer** i.e., ranks first position in the world. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ India contributes 24% of global milk production in the year 2021-22. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ In the last 10 years, milk production increased by almost 60%, and per capita milk availability has increased by about 40%.
 - The top 5 milk-producing states are Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh.
 - ◆ The Indian dairy sector is growing by 6% per year as compared to the global average of 2%. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

13. Ans: A

Exp:

Financial Action Task Force (FATF):

- **FATF** is the global **money laundering and terrorist financing** watchdog set up in 1989 out of a G-7 meeting of developed nations in Paris. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- ◆ Initially, its objective was to examine and develop measures to combat money laundering.
- ◆ After the 9/11 attacks on the US, the FATF in 2001 **expanded** its **mandate** to incorporate efforts to combat terrorist financing.

- The recent **removal of the United Arab Emirates (UAE)** from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) grey list has sparked optimism for investment landscapes, particularly in India's Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

14. Ans: B

Exp

India's Spending on Research and Development (R&D) :

- **India's Declined R&D Expenditure:**
 - ◆ India's expenditure on Research and Development (R&D) has **declined to 0.64% in 2020-21 of GDP (Gross Domestic Product)**, down from 0.8% in 2008-2009 and 0.7% in 2017-2018. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - This decrease is concerning, especially considering repeated calls from government agencies to double R&D spending.
 - ◆ The **2013 Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy** aimed to increase **Gross Expenditure on R&D (GERD)** to 2% of GDP, a goal reiterated in the 2017-2018 **Economic Survey**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - However, the reasons for the reduction in R&D spending are unclear. Potential factors may include **insufficient coordination among government agencies** and a **lack of strong political will** to prioritise R&D expenses.
- **Developed Countries' R&D Expenditure:**
 - ◆ Comparatively, **most developed countries** allocate between **2% and 4% of their GDPs to R&D**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

15. Ans: B

Exp:

Employees' Provident Fund Organisation:

- It is a government organisation that manages the **provident funds** and **pension accounts** for the workforce engaged in the **organised sector** in India. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It implements the **Employees' Provident Fund** and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.
- It is administered by the **Ministry of Labour & Employment**, Government of India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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

16. Ans: B

Exp:

Gross Value Added (GVA) :

- GVA measures the **value producers add to goods and services** during production. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It's calculated by **subtracting the cost of inputs (intermediate consumption) from total output.** **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- It's a key component of **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**, reflecting economic growth. GVA growth rates provide insights into sectoral performance, aiding economic analysis and policymaking.
 - ◆ $GVA = GDP + \text{subsidies on products} - \text{taxes on products}$.
- If we deduct the depreciation from GVA we get **Net Value Added (NVA)**.
 - ◆ NVA is the value of output less the values of both intermediate consumption and consumption of fixed capital. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

17. Ans: B

Exp:

- The **Monetary Policy Committee's (MPC)** accommodative stance means the central bank is prepared to expand the money supply to boost economic growth. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- The **MPC** aims to withdraw accommodation gradually to align inflation with the target while supporting growth. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
- **Hence, option B is correct because both Statement I and Statement II are correct but statement II is not the correct explanation of statement I.**

18. Ans: B

Exp:

India's AVGC-XR Sector:

- ◆ The AVGC-XR sector, currently employing 2.6 lakh individuals, anticipates creating 23 lakh direct jobs by 2032, with revenues expected to soar to over USD 26 billion by 2030 from the current USD 3 billion.
- ◆ **India's contribution** to the global AVGC-XR sector is a mere **0.5%**, as per the government data. India has the potential to **capture 5% (USD 40 billion)** of the global market share by the year **2025**, with an annual growth of around 25-30% and creating over 1,60,000 new jobs annually. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- ◆ The **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** has integrated creative arts, design, and sports into the school curriculum from Class 6 onwards, fostering a conducive environment for nurturing talent in AVGC-XR. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

19. Ans: C

Exp:

RuPay:

- **RuPay** is a **payment system** and financial services product developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (**NPCI**). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is a **domestic card payment** network that can be used at Automated Teller Machines (ATMs), Point of Sale (POS) devices, and e-commerce websites across India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The provision under the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**, empowered the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) to create a secure electronic payment and settlement system in India.

20. Ans: D

Exp:

The **National Bureau of Economic Research** (an American NGO) defines recession as "a significant decline in economic activity spread across the economy, lasting more than a few months, normally visible in production, employment, real income, and other indicators.

- A recession occurs when a sustained decline in economic activity persists. It is of long duration. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- A technical recession specifically entails two consecutive quarters of GDP decline. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

21. Ans: C

Exp:

Payment Banks:

- Payment banks are a specialized type of bank introduced by the RBI in 2014. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- They are designed to promote financial inclusion by offering basic banking services to the unbanked and underbanked population. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- They were introduced on the **recommendations of the Nachiket Mor committee** set up by the RBI to examine financial services for small businesses and low-income households.
- **Example: Airtel Payments Bank, India Post Payments Bank, etc.**



22. Ans: B

Exp:

Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs):

- Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs) are **reciprocal agreements** between two countries to promote and protect foreign private investments in each other's territories. **Hence, statement-I is correct.**
 - ◆ In the mid-'90s, the Indian government initiated BITs to offer favorable conditions and treaty-based protection to foreign investors and investments.
- While presenting the interim Union budget 2024-25, the Indian Finance Minister stated that India will be negotiating Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs) with its **trade partners** to boost the **inflow of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)**.
 - ◆ This announcement comes at a time when India's bilateral treaties have **dried up**, more so, since the adoption of the **Model BIT in 2016**. **Hence, statement-II is correct.**

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

23. Ans: A

Exp:

- **Despite a swift post-pandemic recovery**, India experiences **'premature deindustrialization'**, exacerbating inequality as benefits of rapid growth favour a small minority, widening existing disparities. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- The Indian economy is encountering premature transitions to the services sector, impeding the growth of the manufacturing industry in the country. **Hence, Statement II is correct.**

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

24. Ans: C

Exp:

- **About Fintech:**
 - ◆ Fintech, or financial technology, is the use of digital platforms, software, and services to provide or **facilitate financial services**, such as payments, lending, insurance, wealth management, and more.
- **Key Regulatory Bodies for Fintech in India:**
 - ◆ **Reserve Bank of India (RBI):**
 - Regulates banks, NBFCs, PSPs, and credit bureaus.

- Responsible for regulating India's money market and foreign exchange market.
- Oversees fintech sectors like Digital Payments, Digital Lending, and Digital or neo-banks.

◆ **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI):**

- Regulates securities markets and intermediaries such as stockbrokers and investment advisors.
- Services like stockbroking and investment advisory fall under its jurisdiction.

◆ **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI):**

- Regulates insurers, corporate agents, web aggregators for insurance, and third-party agents for insurance.
- Ensures compliance and integrity in the insurance sector.

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

25. Ans: C

Exp:

- **Article 270** of the Constitution outlines the distribution of net tax proceeds between the Union government and the States. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Currently, the share of States from the divisible pool (vertical devolution) stands at **41%** as per the recommendation of the 15th Finance Commission. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Cess and surcharge** collected by the Union government is estimated at around 23% of its gross tax receipts for 2024-25, which does **not form part** of the divisible pool and hence not shared with the States. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

26. Ans: A

Exp:

- **India's Atomic Energy Act, 1962** governs the subject of 'nuclear energy', with the Government of India playing a central role in the development, operation, and decommissioning of nuclear facilities. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Consolidated **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy** of India **prohibits foreign investment** in the atomic energy sector. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- In contrast, there is no restriction on FDI in the industry for manufacturing nuclear equipment and parts for nuclear power plants and other related facilities.

- Recently, a **NITI Aayog** (National Institution for Transforming India) panel **recommended** the Government of India to **allow FDI** into India's atomic sector.

27. Ans: B

Exp:

- India**, currently representing **2-3% of the global space economy** compared to the US (40%) and UK (7%), aims to increase its share to over 10% by 2030, with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) ranking among the top six largest space agencies globally. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- 100% FDI Allowed: Under the amended policy, 100% FDI is permitted in the space sector, aiming to attract potential investors to Indian space companies. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Liberalized Entry Routes: The entry routes for various space activities are as follows:**
 - ◆ **Up to 74% under Automatic Route:** Satellites-Manufacturing & Operation, Satellite Data Products, Ground Segment & User Segment.
 - **Beyond 74%, the government route applies.**

28. Ans: C

Exp:

Indian Spice Market:

- India is the **world's largest spice producer**. It is also the largest consumer and exporter of spices. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- India produces about **75 of the 109 varieties** which are listed by the International Organisation for Standardization (ISO). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The most **produced and exported spices** are pepper, cardamom, chilli, ginger, turmeric, coriander, cumin, celery, fennel, fenugreek, garlic, nutmeg & mace, curry powder, spice oils and oleoresins.

29. Ans: A

Exp:

- Bitcoin is an open-source digital currency, that facilitates instant payments without central authority issuance. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Cryptocurrencies in India fall under the virtual digital assets (VDAs) category and are subject to taxation. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The profits generated from cryptocurrency trading are taxed at a rate of 30%, with an additional 4% cess (Union budget 2022-23).
- In 2022, the RBI launched its own Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) known as e-Rupee which is based on blockchain technology.

30. Ans: A

Exp:

- REC Limited (formerly Rural Electrification Corporation Limited), a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power, has demonstrated its unwavering commitment to the welfare of armed forces personnel through a substantial contribution to the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund (AFFDF). **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- REC, registered with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as a Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC) and Infrastructure Financing Company (IFC), finances various sectors including power infrastructure, renewable energy, and emerging technologies. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- REC Ltd. Serves as a key player in government flagship schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (SAUBHAGAYA), Deen Dayal Upadhya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY), National Electricity Fund (NEF) Scheme which resulted in strengthening of last-mile distribution system, 100% village electrification and household electrification in the country.
 - ◆ REC has also been made the nodal agency for certain States and Union Territories for the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

31. Ans: B

Exp:

- The **Monetary Policy Committee's (MPC)** accommodative stance means the central bank is prepared to expand the money supply to boost economic growth. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- The MPC aims to withdraw accommodation gradually to align inflation with the target while supporting growth. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
- Hence, option B is correct because both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II is not the correct explanation for Statement I.

32. Ans: D

Exp:

- Inflation**, as defined by the **International Monetary Fund**, is the rate of increase in prices over a given period, encompassing a broad measure of overall price increases or for specific **goods and services**.
 - ◆ **Cost-push inflation** is driven by an increase in the **production costs for goods and services**. This can be caused by factors such as **increased incomes, increased costs of raw materials, or disruptions in the supply chain**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**



- ◆ **Demand Pull inflation** occurs when the **demand for goods and services** exceeds their **supply**. When the overall demand in the economy is high, consumers are willing to pay more for the available goods and services, leading to a **general rise in prices**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- ◆ **Headline inflation** is a measure of the **total inflation** within an economy, including commodities such as **food and energy prices**, which tend to be much more **volatile** and prone to **inflationary spikes**.
 - The **headline inflation** figure is reported through the **Consumer Price Index (CPI)**, which calculates the **cost to purchase** a fixed **basket of goods** to determine how much inflation is occurring in the broad economy. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

33. Ans: C

Exp:

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has recently revised guidelines regarding inoperative accounts and unclaimed deposits, aiming to streamline the classification and activation processes. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The revised instructions apply to **all Commercial Banks** and **all Cooperative Banks** and will come into effect from **1st April 2024**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

34. Ans: A

Exp:

- Steel is one of the **widely used materials all over the world**. The iron and steel industry is the bottom-line producer industry.
- The steel industry **plays a pivotal role in crucial sectors** such as construction, infrastructure, automobile, engineering, and defense.
- Over time, there has been remarkable expansion in the Steel Sector, and India has become a significant global player in steel manufacturing, ranking as the **world's second-largest producer** after China. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- India's major steel-producing states include **Odisha, which leads among all steel-producing states**, followed by Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh. Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and West Bengal also play crucial roles. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

35. Ans: C

Exp:

- Reverse flipping is **the process of shifting the domicile of an Indian company back to India** after it had moved its headquarters overseas, usually for tax or regulatory reasons. It is also known as **'re-domiciling'**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- Reverse flipping has become a trend among Indian startups, especially in the **fintech sector**, as they plan for Initial Public Offers (IPOs) or seek **long-term benefits** in the home market. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- This strategic move is fuelled by **India's flourishing economy, a huge market, promising venture capital, favorable tax structures**, robust intellectual property protection, young and educated population and supportive government policies.

36. Ans: D

Exp:

Section 132 of the Income-Tax Act, 1961:

- **Section 132 of the Income-Tax Act, 1961, empowers the tax authorities** to conduct searches and seizures of persons and properties, without any prior judicial warrant, if they have a "reason to believe" that the person has concealed or evaded income. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - ◆ It **grants authorities the power to search buildings, places, vehicles, or aircraft** based on suspicion of hiding financial assets.
- **Pooran Mal vs Director of Inspection (1973):**
 - ◆ The **constitutionality of Section 132** was challenged in the case of **Pooran Mal vs Director of Inspection (1973)**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
 - ◆ The Supreme Court **upheld the law**, citing its own judgment in **M.P. Sharma vs Satish Chandra (1954)** by emphasizing that the power of search and seizure is essential for the protection of social security and is regulated by law.

37. Ans: B

Exp:

- The Indian toy industry exhibited **remarkable growth between FY 2014-15 and FY 2022-23**, marked by a substantial decline in imports by 52% and a **significant rise in exports by 239%**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.



- A substantial increase in Basic Customs Duty (BCD) on toys (from 20% to 60% in February 2020, and subsequently to 70% in March 2023) aims to protect the domestic toy industry from cheaper imports and encourage local manufacturing. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, mandated sample testing for each import consignment to prevent the import of substandard toys, ensuring better quality control. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

38. Ans: D

Exp:

- Arunachal Pradesh- Adi Kekir: Ginger variety. Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.
- West Bengal-Tangail Saree: Saree style originating from Bengal with distinct weaving patterns. Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.
- Gujarat- Kachchi Kharek: Product of date palm harvested at Khalal (fresh stage), which are bold, crisp, and sweet. Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.
- Hence, option D is correct.

39. Ans: A

Exp:

- **Floating Exchange Rate:**
 - ◆ **Market-Driven:** Currency value is determined solely by supply and demand in the foreign exchange market, with minimal government intervention. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
 - ◆ **High Volatility:** The exchange rate can fluctuate significantly in response to economic news, events, or market sentiment.
 - ◆ **Promotes Flexibility:** Businesses and individuals can adjust to changing economic conditions through market-determined exchange rates.
- **Stabilized Arrangement:**
 - ◆ **More Managed than Purely Floating:** The government or central bank may intervene in the foreign exchange market occasionally to smooth out excessive volatility or maintain a target range for the currency. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
 - ◆ **Moderate Volatility:** Aiming for greater stability than a pure float, but still accepting some degree of fluctuation.
 - ◆ **Offers Predictability:** Businesses and individuals can plan with a more stable exchange rate environment.

- **IMF's Classification of Stabilised Arrangement:**

- ◆ The International Monetary Fund (IMF) classifies an exchange rate regime as a stabilized arrangement when it determines that the exchange rate has not moved beyond a 2% band in 6 months and that this stability has resulted from market interventions rather than market conditions. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

40. Ans: B

Exp:

Goods and Services Tax (GST):

- It is a **comprehensive indirect tax** that was introduced in India on **1st July 2017**, through the **101st Constitution Amendment Act, 2016**, with the slogan of 'One Nation One Tax'. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- The **GST Council** is a **constitutional body** responsible for **making recommendations** on issues related to the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India.
 - ◆ As per **Article 279A (1)** of the amended Constitution, the GST Council was constituted by the **President**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

41. Ans: B

Exp:

- **Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI)** refers to investments made by **foreign individuals**, corporations, and institutions in the financial assets of India, such as stocks, bonds, and mutual funds. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
 - ◆ These investments are mainly for the purpose of **short-term gains** and portfolio diversification, unlike **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** which involves long-term ownership of assets. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- **Luxembourg** has become the **third-largest region** for FPIs in India, surpassing Mauritius, with its Assets Under Custody (AUC) growing by 30% to ₹4.85 lakh crore. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

42. Ans: B

Exp:

Point of Presence (PoP) Regulations 2023:

- The **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** notified the Point of Presence (PoP) Regulations 2023.
- This regulation makes it easier for people to join the **National Pension System (NPS)** by simplifying the registration process. Hence, statement 1 is correct.



- **Banks and non-banks** can serve as **Points of Presence (PoPs)** to help people join the NPS. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Now, people require only a **single Registration for NPS**, instead of multiple registrations as earlier required and can operate with just one branch with wider digital presence. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

43. Ans: B

Exp:

About India's Civil Aviation Sector :

- ◆ India is the third-largest aviation market globally, trailing behind the United States and China. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- ◆ The unruly passengers were governed under The Aircraft Rules, 1937 conjointly read with the Indian Penal Code, 1860. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ◆ The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is the principal regulatory body that primarily governs civil aviation in India. It is responsible for dealing with safety issues, regulation of air transport services, enforcement of civil air rules and regulations and other such tasks. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

44. Ans: B

Exp:

- Geographical Indication (GI) is governed under the Agreement on TRIPS at the World Trade Organisation (WTO). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999** seeks to provide for the registration and better protection of geographical indications relating to goods in India.
- This certification is also extended to **non-agricultural products**, such as **handicrafts** based on human skills, materials and resources available in certain areas that make the product unique. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Germany leads in GI registrations**, with 15,566 registered products, **followed by China (7,247)**, as per 2020 data with the **World Intellectual Property Organization**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

45. Ans: B

Exp:

- Foreign investment encompasses two widely chosen investment avenues, namely Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI).

- ◆ Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) entails direct investment, offering control and a long-term outlook. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- ◆ Foreign Portfolio Investments (FPI) involves investing in financial assets without control, typically being short to medium-term. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- ◆ Government's prior approval is mandatory for FDIs from countries sharing land border with India (China, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar and Afghanistan). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

46. Ans: C

Exp:

Geographical Indication (GI):

- A geographical indication (GI) is a sign used on products that have a specific **geographical origin** and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin. Hence, statement 1 is correct. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- GI is a powerful tool for protecting traditional knowledge, culture and can boost socio-economic development. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- GI is governed under the **Agreement on TRIPS** at the World Trade Organisation (WTO). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ The **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999** seeks to provide for the registration and better protection of geographical indications relating to goods in India.

47. Ans: C

Exp:

- **Terms of Trade (ToT)** for Indian agriculture refers to the movement in prices of farm commodities relative to non-farm goods and services. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ Terms of trade refers to the ratio of agricultural prices to industrial prices, measured as price indices.
- A rise in the terms of trade implies better purchasing power for the agricultural sector in terms of industrial goods. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ A **ratio above one (or 100%)** implies **favorable pricing power**, in terms of what farmers sell versus what they buy.
 - ◆ A **TOT ratio below one** indicates **unfavorable conditions of exchange**.



48. Ans: B

Exp:

- **Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs):** These are investment vehicles that allow individuals to invest in large-scale, income-producing real estate without having to directly manage or own the properties. Hence, statement I is correct.
- ◆ REITs pool capital from multiple investors to invest in a diversified portfolio of real estate assets, which may include residential or commercial properties, shopping centers, office buildings, hotels etc. Hence, statement II is correct.

49. Ans: B

Exp:

The Finance Commission in India is a constitutional body established under **Article 280 of the Indian Constitution**. The **Fifteenth Finance Commission** was constituted on **27th November, 2017**. It made recommendations covering the period of six years commencing on **1st April, 2020** through its Interim and Final Reports.

- The Commission proposed maintaining the **states' share in central taxes at 41% for the 2021-26 period**, a slight reduction from the 42% allocated during 2015-20 by the 14th Finance Commission. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- **Population (1971)** was considered only for the 14th Finance Commission, while **'Population (2011)'** and **'Tax and fiscal efforts'** were introduced by the 15th Finance Commission. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- The Commission recommended that the Centre aims to limit its fiscal deficit to **4% of GDP by 2025-26**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

50. Ans: A

Exp:

Periodic Labour Force Survey(PLFS):

- **About:**
 - ◆ It is a survey conducted by the NSO under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** to measure the employment and unemployment situation in India. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
 - ◆ The NSO launched the PLFS in April 2017. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- **Objective of PLFS:**
 - ◆ To estimate the key employment and unemployment indicators (viz. Worker Population Ratio, Labour Force Participation Rate, Unemployment Rate) in the short time interval of three months for the urban areas only in the 'Current Weekly Status' (CWS).

- ◆ To estimate employment and unemployment indicators in both 'Usual Status' and CWS in both rural and urban areas annually. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

51. Ans: A

Exp:

Global Stocktake Draft:

- The **Global Stocktake (GST)** is a periodic review mechanism established under the **Paris Agreement in 2015**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The **fourth draft** of the GST text was unveiled at **COP28**.
- The text proposes eight steps to keep the global temperature rise within the **ambit of 1.5 degrees Celsius**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

52. Ans: C

Exp:

- **Countervailing Duty: CVD** are tariffs levied on imported goods to offset subsidies made to producers of these goods in the exporting country. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- ◆ CVDs are meant to level the playing field between domestic producers of a product and foreign producers of the same product who can afford to sell it at a lower price because of the subsidy they receive from their government.
- The **World Trade Organization (WTO)** permits the imposition of countervailing duty by its member countries. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- **Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR)** under the **Ministry of Commerce & Industry**, is the single national authority for administering all trade remedial measures including **anti-dumping, countervailing duties and safeguard measures**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

53. Ans: B

Exp:

Common Reporting Standard (CRS):

- The **CRS was developed in response to the G20 request** and approved by the OECD Council on 15th July 2014.
- It calls on **jurisdictions to obtain information from their financial institutions** and automatically exchange that information with other jurisdictions on an annual basis. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- India's participation in the **Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB)** programme for strengthening **Saint Lucia's (an island country in the Caribbean) tax administration** marks a significant step in international cooperation in tax matters.



- The focus is on strengthening Saint Lucia's tax administration by transferring technical knowledge and skills, specifically emphasizing the effective use of **OECD's Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI) under the CRS framework**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

54. Ans: A

Exp:

- **Status of the Telecom Sector in India :**
 - ◆ The Telecom industry in India is the **second largest in the world** with a subscriber base of 1.179 Billion as of August 2023 (wireless + wireline subscribers). Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
 - ◆ It is also the **4th largest sector in terms of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows**, contributing 6% of total FDI inflow. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
 - ◆ India has an overall **teledensity of 84.69%**. Teledensity denotes the number of telephones per 100 population and is an important indicator of telecom penetration. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

55. Ans: C

Exp:

Social Stock Exchange (SSEs):

- The idea of the **Social stock exchanges (SSEs)** as a platform for listing social enterprise, voluntary and welfare organizations so that they can raise capital was mooted in the **Union Budget 2019-20**.
 - ◆ Social enterprise can be defined as a **non-loss; non-dividend paying company** created and designed to **address a social problem**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- It works under the market regulator Security and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
 - ◆ The **aim** of the initiative is to help **social and voluntary organizations** which work for **social causes** to raise **capital as equity or debt** or a **unit of mutual fund**.
- It provides new and cheaper sources of financing for social welfare projects, while showcasing India's independence from foreign aid .
- **SEBI** had permitted social enterprises registered on **SSEs** to raise funds through **Zero Coupon Zero Principal Bonds (ZCZP)**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
 - ◆ The **ZCZP bonds** do not give any interest, and investors will not get any money back on the maturity of the bond.

56. Ans: C

Exp:

About Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) :

- A special purpose vehicle is a separate legal entity which has all the attributes of a corporation such as owning assets, capacity to and get sued etc.
- A **SPV**, also known as a **special purpose entity (SPE)**, is like a **separate company** created by a main company to protect against **financial risks**.
- Even if the main company faces **bankruptcy**, the SPV's independent legal status ensures that its obligations remain secure.
 - ◆ This is why an **SPV** is often referred to as a **bankruptcy-remote entity**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- An **SPV** can be employed to take on a **risky project**, lessening any potential financial harm to the main company and its investors.
- Venture capitalists use SPVs to gather funds and invest in a startup. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

57. Ans: C

Exp:

The Union government is planning to **revive tax remission benefits on sugar exports**, which were placed in the '**restricted**' category in **mid-2022**.

- The **Remission of Duties and Taxes on Export Products (RoDTEP) scheme**, which was launched in January 2021, aims to provide a mechanism for **reimbursement of taxes, duties and levies** that are incurred by the export entities in the process of **manufacture and distribution** of exported products.
- RoDTEP covers taxes, duties, and levies at the central, state, and local levels, which are not refunded through any other existing mechanisms. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - ◆ The RoDTEP Committee operates within the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Commerce & Industry. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- However, under this scheme, sugar exporters faced a tax query from the customs authorities, as it is a **restricted commodity and is not eligible for export benefits**.
 - ◆ Industry challenges arose as sugar, previously under free export, sought RoDTEP benefits.



58. Ans: D

Exp:

- **Demand-Pull Inflation:** Demand Pull inflation occurs when the demand for goods and services exceeds their supply. When the overall demand in the economy is high, consumers are willing to pay more for the available goods and services, leading to a general rise in prices. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
 - ◆ A booming economy with high consumer spending can create excess demand, putting upward pressure on prices.
- **Cost-Push Inflation:** Cost-push inflation is driven by an increase in the production costs for goods and services. This can be caused by factors such as increased incomes, increased costs of raw materials, or disruptions in the supply chain. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- **Structural inflation:** This occurs when there is a mismatch between demand and supply, which leads to an increase in the general price level. This can happen due to factors such as a shortage of goods, an increase in population, or a decrease in productivity. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- **Built-In or Wage-Price Inflation:** This type of inflation is often described as a feedback loop between wages and prices. When workers demand higher wages, businesses may raise prices to cover the increased labor costs. This, in turn, prompts workers to seek higher wages, and the cycle continues. Hence, statement 4 is correct.
 - ◆ Collective bargaining by labor unions can result in higher wages, leading to increased production costs and subsequently higher prices for goods and services.

59. Ans: B

Exp:

Alternative Investment Fund (AIF):

- An AIF refers to a fund established or formed in India, serving as a **privately pooled investment mechanism**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
 - ◆ It gathers funds from sophisticated investors, **whether domestic or international**, with the aim of investing according to a specific investment policy, ultimately benefiting its investors.
- These investment vehicles adhere to the **SEBI (Alternative Investment Funds) Regulations, 2012**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
 - ◆ As of **December, 2023**, 1,220 AIFs were registered with the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**.

- **Category I:** AIFs that invest in startups, early-stage ventures, social initiatives, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), infrastructure, or sectors deemed socially and economically beneficial by authorities.

◆ This includes **venture capital, social venture funds, infrastructure funds**, and any other specified Alternative Investment Funds. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

60. Ans: D

Exp:

- The Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India in alignment with the **'Insurance For All by 2047' initiative**, is set to play a pivotal role by introducing tailored products for rural areas and embracing digital transformation. Hence, **Statement 1 is correct**.
- The focus is on extending insurance coverage to maximum rural masses, aligning with the vision of making India a developed nation by 2047. Hence, **Statement 2 is correct**.
- LIC acknowledges the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) proposed **'Bima Vistar'**, a composite product covering life, health, and property insurance. Hence, **Statement 3 is correct**.
 - ◆ The distribution channel for these products, known as **'Bima Vahak'**, will be women-centric, in line with the proposed guidelines for dedicated distribution channels at the **Gram Panchayat** level.

61. Ans: B

Exp:

About the Financial Stability Board (FSB) :

- The FSB is an **international body** that monitors and makes **recommendations** about the **global financial system**.
- FSB was established in **2009** under the aegis of **G20**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- **India** is an active Member of the **FSB** having three seats in its **Plenary** represented by Secretary of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, and Chairperson Securities and Exchange Board of India. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

62. Ans: A

Exp:

- UBI is a **social welfare proposal** in which all the beneficiaries regularly receive a **guaranteed income** in the form of an unconditional transfer payment. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.



- UBI is typically intended to reach all (or a very large portion of the population) with no (or minimal) conditions.
- Article 38 states that, State to secure a social order for the promotion of welfare of the people. But it doesn't mention UBI. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

63. Ans: C

Exp:

- **About:**
 - ◆ The only conceptual difference between the Worker Productivity and Labor Productivity is that the 'work' in worker productivity describes **mental activities while the 'work' in labour productivity is mostly associated with manual activities. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Productivity:**
 - ◆ Productivity of an activity is usually measured as the quantum of **output value per unit of labour (time) cost at a micro level.**
 - At a **macro level**, it is measured in terms of the labor-output ratio or change in Net Domestic Product (NDP) per worker in each sector (where working hours are assumed to be 8 hours per day). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

64. Ans: B

Exp:

Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs):

- An NBFC, registered under the Companies Act, 1956, engages in various financial activities such as **loans, investments in securities, leasing, insurance.**
- It excludes institutions whose **primary business falls under agriculture, industry, goods trading, services, or immovable property trading.**
- **NBFCs are restricted from accepting demand deposits** from the public, unlike banks, which commonly accept these types of deposits that can be withdrawn on demand without prior notice. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Unlike banks, **NBFCs do not form part of the payment and settlement system.** They are unable to issue cheques drawn on themselves, a standard practice offered by banks. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- NBFCs primarily finance their operations through a **mix of market borrowing and bank loans. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

65. Ans: C

Exp:

Status of India's Silk Industry

- Karnataka emerged as the leading state in India's silk production, contributing 32% in the fiscal year 2021-22. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- India is the world's second-largest producer of raw silk after China, producing 33,739 MT in the fiscal year 2020-21. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Central Silk Board (CSB) is responsible for the overall development and promotion of the sericulture and silk industry in India. The CSB was established in 1948 and operates under the administrative control of the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

66. Ans: C

Exp:

- A tax haven is generally an offshore country that offers foreign individuals and businesses little or no tax liability in a politically and economically static environment. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- An offshore company is incorporated in a jurisdiction other than its home country. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ The main purpose of setting up an offshore company is to take advantage of the **favourable tax laws or economic environment** in a foreign country.

67. Ans: B

Exp:

Investor Risk Reduction Access (IRRA):

- The IRRA platform has been **developed to reduce risks** faced by investors in the eventuality of **technical glitches** at the trading member's end at both the primary site and disaster recovery site. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Its purpose is to **provide investors with an opportunity to square off/close their open positions and cancel pending orders** using the IRRA platform in case of technical glitches or unforeseen outages that render the trading member's site inaccessible.
- It is **not meant for taking fresh positions** or orders, but only to cancel the pending orders. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**



- Developed By:

- IRRA has been **jointly developed by all the stock exchanges** – BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange), NSE (National Stock Exchange), NCDEX (National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange), MCX (Multi Commodity Exchange) and Metropolitan Stock Exchange of India (MSE). **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

68. Ans: C

Exp:

Coal in India:

- Distribution of Coal in India:**
- Gondwana Coal Fields (250 million years old):**
 - Gondwana coal makes up to **98% of the total reserves** and **99% of the production** of coal in India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - Gondwana coal forms India's metallurgical grade as well as superior quality coal. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - It is **found in Damodar** (Jharkhand-West Bengal), **Mahanadi** (Chhattisgarh-Odisha), **Godavari** (Maharashtra), and **Narmada valleys**.
- Tertiary Coal Fields (15 – 60 million years old):**
 - Carbon content** is very low but is rich in moisture and Sulphur.
 - Tertiary coalfields are mainly **confined to extra-peninsular regions**
 - Important areas include Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, the Himalayan foothills of Darjeeling in West Bengal, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Kerala.

69. Ans: C

Exp:

- Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016:**
 - Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 provides a **time-bound process for resolving** insolvency in companies and among individuals. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - The Code is quite different from the earlier resolution systems as it **shifts the responsibility to the creditor** to initiate the insolvency resolution process against the corporate debtor. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - It Covers all individuals, companies, Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs) and partnership firms.

- Adjudicating authority:**

- National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for companies and LLPs
- Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT) for individuals and partnership firms

70. Ans: D

Exp:

- De-dollarisation** refers to a **deliberate or unintentional process** undertaken by a country or region to **reduce reliance on the US dollar** in its financial system or economy. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
 - This can involve various measures aimed at decreasing the use of the dollar in **transactions, reserves, trade**, or as a standard for pricing goods and services. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- Reasons Associated: Governments might pursue de-dollarisation for several reasons, such as reducing exposure to the impact of US monetary policy, asserting economic sovereignty, mitigating the effects of dollar fluctuations, or seeking greater independence in global finance.**
- Strategies for De-dollarisation: It can include diversifying currency reserves, promoting the use of alternative currencies in trade agreements, establishing currency swap agreements, or encouraging the use of regional currencies in financial transactions. Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**

71. Ans: A

Exp:

- Fake loan apps are **unauthorized and illegal digital lending platforms** that offer loans, from as little as Rs.1,000 to Rs.1 lakh targeting low-income and financially untrained individuals.
 - They claim to provide **instant and hassle-free loans without any credit checks**, documentation, or collateral. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- Stakeholders highlight the absence of government and regulatory norms, enabling online platforms to conduct minimal due diligence.
 - Different regulators like the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)**, and state governments lack coordination and supervision. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**
- While the **RBI released guidelines for digital lending** in September 2022, these guidelines **only apply to regulated entities like banks and NBFCs. Fraudulent apps, without such associations, remain largely unchecked. Hence, Statement 3 is not correct.**



72. Ans: B

Exp:

Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB):

- SGBs are **government securities** denominated in **grams of gold**.
- They are **substitutes for holding physical gold**. Investors have to pay the issue price in cash and the bonds will be redeemed in cash on maturity.
- The Bond is **issued by the Reserve Bank** on behalf of the Government of India. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Persons resident in India** as defined under the **Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999** are eligible to invest in SGB. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Eligible investors include individuals, HUFs, trusts, universities, and charitable institutions**. Individual investors with subsequent change in residential status from resident to non-resident may continue to hold SGB till early redemption/maturity.

73. Ans: C

Exp:

- An IFSC is a financial centre that caters to customers outside the jurisdiction of the domestic economy. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The IFSC in India is regulated by the **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)**, a statutory authority that was established under the **International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ It is headquartered at GIFT City, Gandhinagar in Gujarat.
- At present, the GIFT IFSC is the maiden IFSC in India.
- In IFSC, all transactions must be in **foreign currency (except INR)**. However, administrative and statutory expenses can be conducted in INR.

74. Ans: B

Exp:

- Under the **FDI policy, e-commerce** comprises products, both **digital and physical**, and services traded on **digital and electronic networks**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Business-to-consumer (B2C)** is the retail part of **e-commerce** on the Internet, that is, the sale of **goods and/or services** to the end **consumer** through **digital means**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Hence, option B is correct.

75. Ans: A

Exp:

Fair Price Shop (FPS):

- FPS is a government-run or **government-regulated retail outlet** or store in India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The primary purpose of fair price shops is to **distribute essential commodities like food grains, edible oils, sugar, and other basic necessities** to the public at subsidized or fair prices.
 - ◆ These shops are typically part of **government welfare programs** aimed at ensuring **food security and reducing the economic burden on low-income households**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - This system has a robust mechanism for verification of beneficiaries through **Aadhaar authentication** and has features to monitor transactions online with the help of **electronic Point of Sale (e-POS)** machines.
 - The **e-Pos devices have been integrated with electronic weighing machines** to ensure the beneficiaries get the correct amount of ration. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - These FPSs and ePOS machines have proved instrumental in the effectuation and seamless implementation of the **One Nation One Ration Card Scheme (ONORC)**.

76. Ans: C

Exp:

- A **wilful defaulter** means a **borrower or a guarantor who has committed wilful default** and the outstanding amount is **Rs 25 lakh and above**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- A **large defaulter** refers to a borrower with an **outstanding balance of Rs 1 crore** or more, whose account has been categorized as doubtful or a loss. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

77. Ans: D

Exp:

Geographical Indication (GI) tag

- A geographical indication (GI) tag is a name or sign used on certain products that correspond to a specific geographical location or origin.
- Geographical indications are recognized as a part of **intellectual property rights (IPRs) under Articles 1(2) and 10 of the Paris Convention** and also under Articles 22 to 24 of the **Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**



- India, as a **World Trade Organisation (WTO)** member, implemented the **Geographical Indications of Goods Act, 1999**, which became effective on September 15, 2003, to protect such indications. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Arunachal Pradesh has recently received the **Geographical Indication (GI)** tag for **Arunachal Yak Churpi, Khaw Tai (Khamti rice), and Tangsa Textiles.** **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

78. Ans: B

Exp:

- **Consumer Food Price Inflation, (CFPI)**, is a specific measure of inflation that focuses exclusively on the price changes of food items in a consumer's basket of goods and services.
- It calculates the rate at which the prices of food products consumed by the average household are increasing over time.
- CFPI is a sub-component of the broader **Consumer Price Index (CPI)**, where the **Reserve Bank Of India (RBI)** uses **CPI-Combined (CPI-C)** for this purpose. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- CFPI tracks the price changes of a specific basket of food items that are commonly consumed by households, **such as cereals, vegetables, fruits, dairy products, meat, and other food staples.** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

79. Ans: C

Exp:

Navratna Companies:

- The **Navratna status was first introduced in 1997.** There are currently 16 Navratna Companies in India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- To attain Navratna status, a firm must initially hold the **Miniratna designation** and it needs to achieve a score of **60 or more (out of 100) according to six performance criteria**, which include metrics like Net Profit to Net Worth, Earnings per Share, and Inter-Sectoral Performance. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

80. Ans: B

Exp:

Angel Tax:

- Angel tax is an **income tax levied at the rate of 30.6%** when an unlisted company issue shares to an investor at a price higher than its fair market value. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- Initially, angel tax was applicable only to investments made by resident investors. The **Finance Act, 2023 extended this provision** to include foreign investors as well. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- In May 2023, the **Finance Ministry exempted investors from 21 countries**, such as the US, UK, and France, from the angel tax levy for non-resident investments in Indian start-ups. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

81. Ans: C

Exp:

- The **Vizhinjam International Transshipment Deepwater Multipurpose Seaport** is an ambitious project taken up by the **Government of Kerala.** **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The port is currently being developed with a **Public Private Partnership** with a component structured on a **design, build, finance, operate, and transfer ("DBFOT") basis.** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It is positioned to compete with global transshipment hubs like **Colombo, Singapore, and Dubai**, reducing the cost of container movement. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

82. Ans: B

Exp :

- MSP is the guaranteed amount paid to farmers when the government buys their produce. **MSP is based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)**, which considers various factors such as cost of production, demand and supply, market price trends, inter-crop price parity, etc.
 - ◆ CACP is an attached office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. It came into existence in January 1965.
- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** chaired by the Prime Minister of India takes the final decision (approve) on the level of MSPs. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)** recommends MSPs for **22 mandated crops and fair and remunerative price (FRP)** for sugarcane. The mandated crops include **14 crops of the kharif season, 6 rabi crops and 2 other commercial crops.** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

83. Ans: C

Exp:

Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs):

- MDBs are international institutions comprising developed and developing countries. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**



- They **offer financing and technical assistance** for various projects in areas like transportation, energy, urban infrastructure, and waste management.
- Developed countries **contribute to MDB lending**, while developing nations typically **borrow from them** for development projects. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- MDBs have been **instrumental in supporting the**

development of both low-income and middle-income countries (LICs and MICs) by addressing issues such as poverty reduction, infrastructure development, human capital formation, etc.

- MDBs include the **World Bank Group**, the **Asian Development Bank**, the African Development Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, etc.

84. Ans: A

Exp:

| Aspect | Capital Expenditure | Revenue Expenditure |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Nature of Expenses | Expenses related to acquiring, improving, or extending long-term assets or investments expected to benefit for more than one financial year. Hence, statement 1 is correct. | Day-to-day operational expenses incurred for maintaining and supporting existing assets or services. |
| Accounting Treatment | Capitalized on the balance sheet and recognized over time through amortization or depreciation. | Fully recognized as expenses in the year incurred on the income statement. |
| Tax Treatment | Subject to depreciation or amortization , leading to a delayed tax impact and often lower taxable income in the year of purchase. Hence, statement 3 is correct. | Immediately deductible from taxable income, providing an immediate reduction in tax liability. |
| Impact on Profitability | Generally does not significantly impact short-term profitability as costs are spread over several years. | Has an immediate impact on profitability, as expenses are fully recognized in the year incurred. |
| Examples | Acquiring a new manufacturing facility, research and development for a new product, long-term license or franchise. | Routine machinery maintenance , employee salaries, advertising costs, utility bills. Hence, statement 2 is not correct. |

85. Ans: C

Exp:

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD):

- **About:**
 - ◆ The OECD is an **intergovernmental economic organisation**, founded to stimulate economic progress and world trade.
 - ◆ Most OECD members are high-income economies with a very high **Human Development Index (HDI)** and are regarded as developed countries. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Foundation:**
 - ◆ It was founded in 1961 with its **Headquarters at Paris, France and total membership is 38 countries.**
 - ◆ The most recent countries to join the OECD were Colombia, in April 2020, and Costa Rica, in May 2021.

- ◆ India is not a member, but a key economic partner. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

- **Reports and Indices by OECD:**

- ◆ Government at a Glance. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- ◆ OECD Better Life Index.

86. Ans: B

Exp:

- **Bidenomics is a wordplay on Reaganomics, the nickname for the Reagan administration's economic policies, which emphasized four pillars: tax cuts, deregulation, domestic spending cuts and inflation reduction.**
- **Bidenomics**, according to the White House, is a rejection of the trickle-down economic policies that defined Reaganomics.
 - ◆ It is a vision centred **around three key pillars: making smart public investments; empowering and educating workers to grow the middle class;**



and promoting competition to lower costs and help entrepreneurs and small businesses thrive.

- Hence, option B is correct.

87. Ans: C

Exp:

Global Minimum Tax (GMT):

- A GMT applies a standard minimum tax rate to a **defined corporate income base worldwide**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The **Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)** developed a proposal featuring a **corporate minimum tax** of 15% on foreign profits of large multinationals, which would give countries new annual tax revenues of USD 150 billion.
- In October 2021, a **group of 136 countries, including India**, set a **minimum global tax rate of 15%** for MNCs and sought to make it harder for them to avoid taxation. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
- The framework of GMT aims to discourage nations from tax competition through lower tax rates that result in corporate **profit shifting and tax base erosion**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

88. Ans: B

Exp:

Monetary Policy Committee (MPC):

- **Section 452B** of the amended **RBI Act, 1934** provides for an empowered six-member monetary policy committee (MPC) to be constituted by the Central Government by notification in the Official Gazette. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The MPC determines the policy repo rate required to achieve the inflation target. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- **MPC shall consist of 6 members:**
 - ◆ **RBI Governor** as its **ex officio chairperson**, Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.
 - ◆ Deputy Governor in charge of monetary policy,
 - ◆ An officer of the Bank to be nominated by the Central Board,
 - ◆ **Three persons** to be appointed by the central government.

89. Ans: D

Exp:

- In a recent operation named **"Kachchhap,"** the **Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)** has successfully **rescued nearly a thousand live baby Gangetic turtles**, shedding light on the ongoing battle against **illegal wildlife trade and the protection of these unique creatures**.

- DRI serves as India's premier **anti-smuggling agency**, operating under the **Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs**, Ministry of Finance. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

- It is responsible for detecting and preventing **various forms of smuggling, including illicit wildlife trade**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

90. Ans: D

Exp:

Fiscal Deficit:

- **About:**

- ◆ **Fiscal deficit** is the **difference** between the **government's total expenditure** and its **total revenue** (excluding borrowings). Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.

- ◆ It is an indicator of the extent to which the government must borrow in order to finance its operations and is expressed as a percentage of the **country's GDP**.

- **High and Low FD:**

- ◆ A **high fiscal deficit** can lead to **inflation, devaluation of the currency** and an increase in the **debt burden**.

- ◆ While a **lower fiscal deficit** is seen as a **positive sign of fiscal discipline** and a **healthy economy**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

91. Ans: A

Exp:

- The impossible trinity, or the trilemma, refers to the idea that **an economy cannot pursue independent monetary policy, maintain a fixed exchange rate, and allow the free flow of capital** across its borders all at the same time.

- In a fixed exchange rate regime, the domestic currency is tied to another foreign currency such as the US dollar, Euro, the Pound Sterling or a basket of currencies

- An able policymaker can, at best, achieve two of these three objectives at any given time.

- ◆ Hence, **option a is correct**.

92. Ans: A

Exp:

- CBDCs are a digital form of paper currency and unlike cryptocurrencies that operate in a regulatory vacuum, **these are legal tenders issued** and backed by a central bank.

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

- It is the **same as a fiat currency** and is exchangeable one-to-one with the fiat currency.



◆ A fiat currency is a national currency that is not pegged to the price of a commodity such as gold or silver.

◆ Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

● Bahamas has been the first economy to launch its nationwide CBDC — Sand Dollar in 2020.

◆ Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

93. Ans: B

Exp:

India's first ever UPI-ATM

● India's first UPI-ATM was launched on September 5th, 2023, by Hitachi Payment Services. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

● The UPI-ATM is a White Label ATM (WLA) developed in collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

● The ATM was designed to enable "seamless cash withdrawals" and eliminate the need to carry physical ATM cards. It also aims to drive financial inclusion by making banking services more accessible in areas with limited traditional banking infrastructure. It offers an experience that allows customers of certain banks to enjoy "QR-based cashless withdrawals". Hence, statement 3 is correct.

94. Ans: C

Exp:

● Global Fintech Fest (GFF) is the largest fintech conference, jointly organized by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), the Payments Council of India (PCI), and the Fintech Convergence Council (FCC). Hence, statement 1 is correct.

● Its aim is to provide a singular platform for fintech leaders to foster collaborations and develop a blueprint for the future of the industry. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

● The theme of GFF' 2023 is "Global Collaboration for a Responsible Financial Ecosystem". Hence, statement 3 is correct.

95. Ans: C

Exp:

Incremental Capital Output Ratio (ICOR):

● It has evolved from the Harrod-Domar Growth Theory and examines the relationship between fresh investments and economic growth, indicating how much additional capital is required to generate a 1% higher output. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

◆ The Harrod-Domar model, created by economists Roy Harrod and Evsey Domar, asserts that economic growth relies on the availability of capital for investment, and the rate of capital accumulation is directly linked to the rate of savings.

● A lower ICOR signifies greater efficiency and productive use of capital. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

● According to an SBI report, India is experiencing an upward trend in savings and investments, which is accompanied by a simultaneous decrease in the ICOR.

◆ The current ICOR in India stands at 4.4, indicating a reasonably efficient use of capital.

96. Ans: C

Exp:

● Gresham's Law is related to Currency Exchange Rate. This law is a monetary principle that states "bad money drives out good."

● It means that when there are two types of money in circulation, one with a higher intrinsic value and one with a lower intrinsic value, people tend to hoard the more valuable money and spend the less valuable money. Hence, option C is correct.

◆ As a result, the less valuable money dominates the market, while the more valuable money disappears from circulation.

● This phenomenon comes into play when the government fixes the exchange rate between two currencies, creating a disparity between the official rate and the market rate.

◆ In the 2022 economic crisis in Sri Lanka, Gresham's Law played a significant role when the Central Bank of Sri Lanka implemented a fixed exchange rate between the Sri Lankan Rupee and the U.S. Dollar, leading to unintended consequences in the currency market.

97. Ans: C

Exp:

● India is currently the world's fifth largest producer of natural rubber while it also remains the second biggest consumer of the material globally. (About 40% of India's total natural rubber consumption is currently met through imports)

◆ As of now, India boasts approximately 8.5 lakh hectares of rubber plantations.

● Major rubber producing states include: Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Assam.



- The lion's share of this rubber farming, nearly 5 lakh hectares, is concentrated in the southern states of Kerala and the Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu.
- Additionally, Tripura contributes around 1 lakh hectares to the rubber production landscape

98. Ans: A

Exp:

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI):

- IRDAI is a **statutory** body under the IRDAI Act, 1999 and is **under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance**.
 - ◆ Hence, Statements 1 & 2 are not correct.
- IRDAI, founded in 1999, is a **regulatory body** created with the aim of protecting the interests of insurance customers.
- It regulates and sees to the **development of the insurance industry** while monitoring insurance-related activities. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**

99. Ans: D

Exp:

- **India's GDP is calculated using two distinct methods: Economic activity (at factor cost) and Expenditure (at market prices).** Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**
- **The factor cost method assesses the performance of eight different industries.**
 - ◆ The following eight industry sectors are considered in this cost:
 - Agriculture, forestry, and fishing,
 - Mining and quarrying,
 - Manufacturing,
 - Electricity, gas, water supply, and other utility services,
 - Construction,
 - Trade, hotels, transport, communication, and broadcasting,
 - Financial, real estate, and professional services,
 - Public administration, defense, and other services.

Hence, statement 2 is not correct

- **The expenditure-based method** indicates how different areas of the economy are performing, such as trade, investments, and personal consumption. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

100. Ans: C

Exp:

- According to '**Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2022**', total milk production in India was 221.06 million tonnes in 2021-2022, keeping it the **largest milk producing country in the world**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Top five major milk producing States are **Rajasthan (15.05%)**, Uttar Pradesh (14.93%), Madhya Pradesh (8.06%), Gujarat (7.56%) and Andhra Pradesh (6.97%). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- In 2022, a study published in '**Lancet**' estimated that increasing temperatures could reduce **milk production** in India's arid and semi-arid regions **by 25% by 2085**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

101. Ans: B

Exp:

- **Indian pharmaceutical industry is the 3rd largest pharmaceutical industry in the world by volume** with current market size of around USD 50 Billions. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Recently, the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers has launched initiatives to nurture Innovation, research, and development in the Medical and **Pharmaceutical sectors**.
 - ◆ These Initiatives are **National Policy on Research and Development and Innovation in Pharma-MedTech Sector** in India and Scheme for Promotion of **Research and Innovation in Pharma MedTech Sector (PRIP)**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

102. Ans: C

Exp:

Surety Bonds:

- A surety bond can be defined in its simplest form as a **written agreement to guarantee compliance, payment, or performance of an act**. It is a unique type of insurance because it involves a **three-party agreement**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Surety bond is **provided by the insurance company** on behalf of the contractor to the entity that is awarding the project. It will help contractors to have financial closure of their projects **without depending upon only bank guarantees**.

Hence, statement 1 is correct.



103. Ans: B

Exp:

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI):

- FDI is a type of **cross-border investment** in which an investor from one country establishes a lasting interest in an enterprise in another country.
 - ◆ An **Outward Direct Investment (ODI)** is a business strategy in which a domestic firm expands its operations to a foreign country. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- FDI can take various forms, **such as acquiring shares**, establishing a subsidiary or a joint venture, or providing loans or technology transfers. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ FDI is **considered to be a key driver of economic growth**, as it can bring in capital, technology, skills, market access and employment opportunities to the host country.

104. Ans: D

Exp:

- **Nominal GDP is not adjusted for inflation and is not considered a more precise** representation of a country's economic progress. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ **Nominal GDP is the total value of all goods and services produced at current market prices over a time period**, including the effects of inflation or deflation.
 - ◆ **Real GDP is a more accurate measure of the sum of all goods and services produced at constant prices**, making it inflation-adjusted.
- **The formula for calculating GDP using the expenditure method is not $GDP = Real\ GDP\ (GDP\ at\ constant\ prices) - Taxes + Subsidies$.**
 - ◆ **The correct formula is $GDP = C + I + G + NX$** , where C = consumption, I = investment, G = government spending, and NX = net exports. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- GDP calculated based on the income method is **not** known as GDI, which stands for Gross Domestic Investment. The correct term is GDI, which stands for Gross Domestic Income. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ Gross Domestic Investment is another component of GDP that measures the spending by businesses on capital equipment, inventories, and housing.

105. Ans: D

Exp:

Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR):

- The percentage of cash **required to be kept in reserves as against the bank's total deposits**, is called CRR. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **All banks in India**, except Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Local Area Banks (LABs), **have to deposit the CRR money to RBI. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ RRBs and LABs are exempted from maintaining CRR with RBI, **as per the RBI Act, 1934**. However, they have to maintain CRR with themselves in the form of **cash or gold or unencumbered approved securities**.
- Banks **can't lend the CRR money to corporates or individual borrowers**, banks can't use that money for investment purposes, and Banks don't earn any interest on that money. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

106. Ans: C

Exp:

- **Cotton is a versatile crop that provides food, feed, and fiber for various uses**, including **textiles, cooking oil, and livestock feed**. It is also a major source of income and employment for millions of farmers in India. India is the second largest cotton producer in the world, after China. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ However, in recent years, **cotton production and yields have declined significantly**, posing a challenge for the country's agriculture and textile sectors. Cotton is one of the most important **commercial crops** cultivated in India and accounts for around **25% of the total global cotton production**.
 - ◆ Due to its economic importance in India, it is also termed as **"White-Gold"**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Traditional insecticides had limited success in controlling PBW larvae. Instead, a different method called **"mating disruption"** has been used.
 - ◆ It entails the use of **Gossypure, a pheromone signaling chemical** that is secreted by female PBW moths to attract male adults. In this case, the pheromone is artificially synthesised and filled into pipes or lures.
 - This method hinders **male moths from locating females** and engaging in mating, thereby causing disruption in their reproductive cycle. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**



107. Ans: A

Exp:

- Recently, the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has announced that it is aiming to launch One-Hour Settlement of trades by March 2024 in order to enhance the **efficiency of trade settlement processes**.
- The SEBI will launch **Application Supported by Blocked Amount (ASBA)**-like facility for trading in the **Secondary Market** by January 2024.

Trade Settlement:

- About:**
 - Trade settlement is a critical process in the financial markets that involves the transfer of funds and securities between parties involved in a trade.
 - It ensures that the **buyer receives the purchased securities**, and the seller receives the **agreed-upon funds**.
 - In the context of securities trading, this settlement process **finalizes the transaction**.
- T+1 Settlement Cycle:**

- In January 2023, India adopted the **T+1 settlement cycle**, where T represents the trade date. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- This means that trade-related settlements occur **within one business day or 24 hours** of the actual transaction. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- India became the second country, after China, to **implement the T+1 settlement cycle** in top-listed securities. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- This transition brought several advantages, including **increased operational efficiency, faster fund transfers, prompt share delivery**, and improved convenience for participants in the stock market.

- One-Hour Trade Settlement:**

- Under this scheme, when an **investor sells a share**, the money from the sale will be credited to their **account within one hour**, and the buyer will receive the purchased **shares in their demat account within the same time frame**.
- This represents a **significant reduction in settlement time** compared to the existing T+1 cycle.

108. Ans: D

Exp:

- MSME stands for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises. The MSME sector of India contributes around **33% of the country's total GDP** and is predicted to contribute worth **USD 1 trillion to India's total exports by 2028**.
- Therefore, all statements are correct.**

What's MSME

Revised Classification applicable w.e.f 1st July 2020

Composite Criteria: Investment in Plant & Machinery/equipment and Annual Turnover

| CLASSIFICATION | MICRO | SMALL | MEDIUM |
|--|---|---|--|
| Manufacturing Enterprises and Enterprises rendering Services | Investment in Plant and Machinery or Equipment: Not more than Rs.1 crore and Annual Turnover ; not more than Rs. 5 crore | Investment in Plant and Machinery or Equipment: Not more than Rs.10 crore and Annual Turnover ; not more than Rs. 50 crore | Investment in Plant and Machinery or Equipment: Not more than Rs.50 crore and Annual Turnover ; not more than Rs. 250 crore |

109. Ans: A

Exp:

AMC Repo Clearing Limited (ARCL)

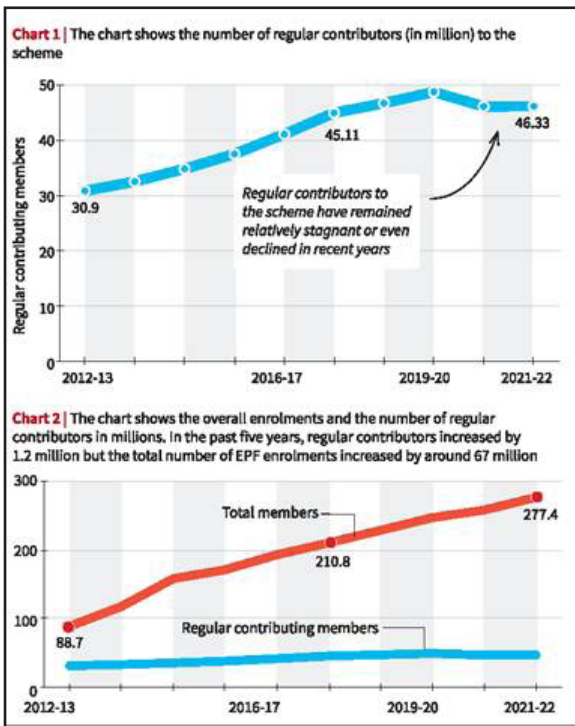
- ARCL is a **Limited Purpose Clearing Corporation** that provides clearing and settlement services to all trades made in corporate debt securities on the **National Stock Exchange (NSE) and Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)**
- It received in-principle approval from the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** under the **Stock Exchanges and Clearing Corporations (SECC) Regulations, 2018**.
- ARCL offers **triparty repo services and central counterparty services** to facilitate **repo transactions in corporate bonds**, which are **short-term borrowings** backed by **securities** as collateral. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- ◆ **Triparty Repo Services:** Triparty repo services are financial transactions where a **third party, often a custodian or clearing agent**, acts as an intermediary between the two parties involved in a **repurchase agreement (repo)**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

110. Ans: A

Exp:

- According to the National Statistical Office's (NSO) Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) report for the year 2021-22, the unemployment rate for 2021-22 was 4.1%.
 - ◆ **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- EPFO's annual reports show a stagnant or declining number of regular contributors, those with consistent PF contributions, in recent years.
 - ◆ Between 2012 and 2022, the number of regular contributors to the EPF increased from 30.9 million to 46.3 million.
 - ◆ Between 2017 and 2022, the number of regular contributors increased only from 45.11 million to 46.33 million, showing a slowdown in growth during this period.



- It is clear from the chart shown above that between 2017 to 2022 regular contribution increased from 2017 to 2019, then decreased. This shows regular

contribution was not consistent. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

111. Ans: C

Exp:

- Recently, the Ministry of Finance launched the scheme, "Vivad se Vishwas II" to effectively settle the pending **contractual disputes of government** and government undertakings. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - ◆ The scheme was announced in the **Union Budget 2023-24** by the Union Finance Minister.
- The Scheme aims to provide a platform for **resolving contractual disputes** efficiently and promptly, promoting ease of doing business with the government and encouraging fresh investments in the country. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- It will be implemented through an online functionality on the **Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

112. Ans: C

Exp:

Sugarcane:

- **Temperature:** Between 21-27°C with hot and humid climate.
- **Rainfall:** Around 75-100 cm.
- **Soil Type:** Deep rich loamy soil.
 - ◆ It can be grown on all varieties of soils ranging from **sandy loam to clay loam** given these soils should be well drained.
- **Top Sugarcane Producing States:** Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Bihar. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
 - ◆ India is the **second largest producer** of sugarcane after Brazil. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- It is the **main source** of sugar, gur (jaggery), khandsari and molasses.
- **Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP)** is the price set by the government that sugar mills are obligated to pay to farmers for the sugarcane procured from them. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

113. Ans: D

Exp:

- India **ranks 4th globally** after China, the United States and Germany, in terms of installed wind energy capacity, with **42.8 GW (onshore wind)** as of April 2023. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- **Best Performing States:**

◆ Wind Power Potential (in GW) at 120 m Above Ground Level:

- Gujrat (142.56), Rajasthan (127.75), Karnataka (124.15), Maharashtra (98.21), and Andhra Pradesh (74.90). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

● **National Offshore Wind Energy Policy:**

◆ Objective is to develop offshore wind energy in the Indian **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)** along the Indian coastline of 7600 km. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

114. Ans: C

Exp:

- Deflation is the opposite of Inflation. It refers to a **sustained and general decrease in the overall price levels of goods and services** in the economy. **Hence, statement-I is correct.**
- In a deflationary environment, consumers **can buy more goods and services for the same amount of money** over time. **Hence, statement-II is not correct.**

115. Ans: B

Exp:

- Floating rate loans are loans that have an **interest rate that changes periodically, depending on a benchmark rate or the base rate.** **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ This base rate, such as the **repo rate** - rate at which RBI lends money to financial institutions - is influenced by market forces.
- Floating-rate loans are also **known as variable or adjustable-rate loans**, as they can vary over the term of the loan.
- Floating rate loans are **common for credit cards, mortgages, and other consumer loans.** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Floating rate loans are **beneficial to borrowers when interest rates are expected to drop in the future.**
 - ◆ In contrast, a **fixed interest rate loan** requires a borrower to pay set installments during the loan tenure. It offers a **greater sense of security and stability in times** of fluctuations in the economy.
- They are **at least 1-2% cheaper than the fixed interest loans.** **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

116. Ans: A

Exp:

India's foreign exchange reserves include various assets that are held by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and denominated in foreign currencies. These reserves provide

stability to the country's economy and help in managing balance of payments and currency exchange rates. The following are typically considered as part of India's forex reserves:

- Foreign Currencies
- Foreign Currency Assets (FCAs)
- Gold Reserves
- Special Drawing Rights (SDRs)
- Reserve Position in IMF

Foreign Assets Held by Indian Individuals or Businesses do not form a part of India's Forex. **Hence, option A is the correct answer.**

117. Ans: C

Exp:

Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI):

- The PLI scheme was **conceived to scale up domestic manufacturing capability**, accompanied by **higher import substitution** and employment generation.
- **Launched in March 2020, the scheme initially targeted three industries:**
 - ◆ Mobile and allied Component Manufacturing
 - ◆ Electrical Component Manufacturing and
 - ◆ Medical Devices.
- Later, it was **extended to 14 sectors.**
- In the PLI scheme, **Domestic and Foreign companies** receive financial rewards for **manufacturing in India**, based on a percentage of their revenue over up to five years. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The subsidy in the scheme for **Mobile and allied Component Manufacturing** is paid **only for finishing the phone** in India, not on how much value is added by manufacturing in India. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- The incentives given, are **calculated on the basis** of incremental sales.
 - ◆ In some sectors such as advanced chemistry cell batteries, textile products and the drone industry, the incentive **to be given will be calculated on the basis of sales**, performance and local value addition done over the period of five years. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

118. Ans: A

Exp:

Payment Bank:

- Payments banks were part of the **Reserve Bank of India's** strategy of offering differentiated banking licenses.



- A committee headed by Dr. Nachiket Mor recommended setting up of 'Payments Bank' to cater to the lower income groups and small businesses. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
 - ◆ A payments bank is a differentiated bank, offering a limited range of products.
- It can accept demand deposits only that is savings and current accounts, not time deposits. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
- Payment banks are restricted to holding a maximum balance of Rs. 2,00,000 (Rupees Two lakh only) per individual customer.
 - ◆ Payment Banks cannot accept Non-Resident Indian (NRI) deposits. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
- The Payment Banks cannot set up subsidiaries to undertake non-banking financial services activities.

119. Ans: A

Exp:

Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016:

- **Real Estate Regulatory Authorities (RERAs):**
 - ◆ The Act establishes RERAs in each state, serving as regulatory bodies and dispute resolution forums.
- **Mandatory Registration:**
 - ◆ All real estate projects with a **minimum plot size of 500 sq.mt or eight apartments must be registered with RERAs before launch.** This aims to enhance transparency in project marketing and execution. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- **Transparency and Database:**
 - ◆ RERAs maintain a public database of registered projects on their websites. This includes project details, registration status, and ongoing progress, providing transparency to buyers.
- **Funds Management:**
 - ◆ Promoters are required to **deposit 70% of the collected funds in a separate escrow account** for the specific project's construction and land costs, preventing fund diversion. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- **Time-Bound Adjudication:**
 - ◆ Appellate Tribunals are mandated to adjudicate cases **within 60 days, while Regulatory Authorities must resolve complaints in the same timeframe,** ensuring faster dispute resolution. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

120. Ans: A

Exp:

Impact of Rising Inflation on the Indian Economy:

- When inflation is high, **stock prices are undervalued,** and the value of gold increases.
- **Creditors may lose out,** as the value of the money they receive from debtors decreases.
 - ◆ Conversely, debtors could benefit by repaying loans with money that is worth less than when they borrowed it.
- High inflation in one country can lead to a **decrease in its international competitiveness.**
- Inflation can sometimes trigger a cycle of rising wages and prices i.e., **Wage price spiral.**

Hence, option C is correct.

121. Ans: C

Exp:

Account Aggregator (AA):

- An AA is a framework that simply facilitates sharing of financial information in a real-time and data-blind manner (Data flow through AA are encrypted) between regulated entities (Banks and NBFCs). Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The RBI (Reserve Bank of India) in 2016 approved AA as a new class of NBFC (Non Banking Financial Companies), whose primary responsibility is to facilitate the transfer of user's financial data with their explicit consent.
- AAs enable flow of data between Financial Information Providers (FIPs) and Financial Information Users (FIUs). Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The architecture of AA is based on the Data Empowerment and Protection Architecture (DEPA) framework.
 - ◆ DEPA is an architecture that lets users securely access their data and share the same with third parties.

122. Ans: D

Exp:

Project Worldcoin:

- **About:**
 - ◆ Worldcoin is an initiative to create a digital network in which everyone can claim some kind of stake, and join the digital economy. Hence, option D is the correct answer.



● **Worldcoin Working Process:**

- ◆ The initiative uses a device called “Orb” to collect **biometric (iris) data** and help participants get a World ID through the World app.
 - With the app, participants can collect a **cryptocurrency** called **Worldcoin [WLD]**.
- ◆ Users need to be willing to scan irises and/or get their own irises scanned to make the Worldcoin network possible.
- ◆ Those who have their irises scanned and **collect a World ID can use this to claim the WLD crypto**, which they may use for transactions (if possible and legal) or hold on to the asset in the hope that its price might rise.
- ◆ Worldcoin claims that using **biometric information to avoid duplication is a valid method for including everyone in its network**.
 - This process is called “**proof of personhood**” and makes sure that people do not sign themselves up multiple times in exchange for crypto.

123. Ans: B

Exp:

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has initiated a pilot programme aimed at evaluating the feasibility of a ‘Public Tech Platform for Frictionless Credit’, seeking to facilitate seamless and efficient credit delivery by lenders for Credit Appraisal, and therefore boosting Financial Inclusion in India.

- Developed by the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH), It is an end-to-end digital platform that will have an open architecture, open Application Programming Interfaces (APIs), and standards to which all banks can connect in a “Plug and Play” Model.

Benefits and Outcomes:

- **Enhanced Credit Portfolio Management:** The platform’s data consolidation will enable improved credit risk assessment and efficient credit portfolio management.
 - ◆ Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- **Improved Access to Credit:** Access to accurate information supports informed and swift credit assessments. This expansion of credit availability benefits borrowers by lowering the cost of capital access.
 - ◆ Hence, statement 2 is correct.

- **Reduced Operational Costs:** The platform addresses operational challenges such as multiple visits and documentation requirements, leading to cost reduction for both lenders and borrowers.
 - ◆ Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
- **Efficiency and Scalability:** The platform’s streamlined processes lead to quicker disbursement and scalability, resulting in a more efficient credit ecosystem.
 - ◆ Hence, statement 4 is correct.

124. Ans: A

Exp:

Implications of Excess Liquidity in India

- **Positive Implications:**
 - ◆ **Lower Interest Rates:** Excess liquidity can lead to lower interest rates in the economy.
 - ◆ **Stimulating Investment:** With lower interest rates, businesses may find it cheaper to borrow and invest in expanding their operations, launching new projects, and creating jobs.
- **Negative Implications:**
 - ◆ **Inflationary Pressure:** Excess liquidity can contribute to inflationary pressures in the economy.
 - ◆ **Asset Price Bubbles:** While excess liquidity can boost asset prices, it can also lead to the formation of speculative bubbles.
 - ◆ **Income Inequality:** The benefits of excess liquidity, such as increased asset prices, might disproportionately benefit the wealthy who have more exposure to these assets. This can exacerbate income inequality in the economy.
- Higher interest rate is not an implication of Excess Liquidity. Hence, Option A is the correct answer

125. Ans: C

Exp:

- **Corporate Bond:** Corporate bonds are debt securities issued by corporations to raise capital for various purposes, such as expanding operations, funding projects, or refinancing existing debt. Hence, option 1 is correct.
- **Triparty Repo Services:** Triparty repo services are financial transactions where a third party, often a custodian or clearing agent, acts as an intermediary between the two parties involved in a repurchase agreement (repo). Hence, option 2 is correct.

126. Ans: a

Exp:

Index of Industrial Production

- IIP is an indicator that measures the changes in the volume of production of industrial products during a given period.
- It is compiled and published monthly by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)**, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Base Year for IIP is **2011-2012**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **About Eight Core Sectors:**
 - ◆ These comprise **40.27%** of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ The eight core sector industries in decreasing order of their weightage: **Refinery Products> Electricity> Steel> Coal> Crude Oil> Natural Gas> Cement> Fertilizers.**

127. Ans: D

Exp:

Steel Production in India

- **Production and Consumption:** India is currently the world's 2nd largest producer of crude steel (as of 2021) and also the 2nd largest consumer of finished steel in 2021 (preceded in both cases by China). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Important Steel-Producing Centers in India:** Bhilai (Chhattisgarh), Durgapur (West Bengal), Burnpur (West Bengal), Jamshedpur (Jharkhand), Rourkela (Odisha) and Bokaro (Jharkhand).
- **Export:** India is a significant exporter of steel products, with major export destinations including the US, the UAE, and Nepal.
- **Government Policies:** The Government has taken various steps to boost the sector including the introduction of **National Steel Policy 2017** and allowing **100 per cent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** in the steel sector under the automatic route. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Green Steel:**
 - ◆ The Ministry of Steel seeks to reduce CO₂ in steel industry through promotion of **Green Steel (manufacturing steel without using fossil fuels)**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- This can be done by using **low-carbon energy sources** such as **hydrogen, coal gasification, or electricity** instead of the traditional **carbon-intensive manufacturing route of coal-fired plants.**
- It eventually **lowers GHG emissions**, cuts cost and improves the quality of steel.

128. Ans: D

Exp:

What is CCP?

- **About:**
 - ◆ CCP is a financial institution that acts as an **intermediary between buyers and sellers in various derivatives and equities markets**. CCPs are structures that help facilitate the **clearing and settlement process** in financial markets. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The primary goal of CCPs is to increase efficiency and stability in financial markets.
 - ◆ CCPs reduce risks associated with **counterparty, operational, settlement, market, legal, and default issues**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ CCPs act as a counterparty to both buyers and sellers in a trade, collecting money from each party involved and guaranteeing the terms of the trade.
- **Functions:**
 - ◆ **Clearing and settlement** are the two main functions of a CCP.
 - Clearing involves **validating the details of the trade** and ensuring that both **parties have sufficient funds to complete the transaction**.
 - Settlement involves the **transfer of ownership of the asset** or security being traded from the seller to the buyer.
- **Regulators in India:**
 - ◆ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for CCPs clearing money market instruments and foreign exchange derivatives.
 - A CCP is authorized by the RBI to operate in India under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.
 - ◆ The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for CCPs clearing securities and commodity derivatives.
 - ◆ **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

129. Ans: A

Exp:

Subsidies under WTO:

- **Amber Box:**
 - ◆ Amber box subsidies are those that can distort international trade by making a country's products cheaper in comparison to those of other countries. Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.
 - **Examples:** Subsidies for inputs such as fertilisers, seeds, electricity, irrigation, and Minimum Support Price (MSP).
- **Blue box:**
 - ◆ It is the "amber box with conditions" — conditions, designed to reduce distortion.
 - ◆ Any support that would normally be in the amber box is placed in the blue box if it requires farmers to limit production. Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.
- **Green Box:**
 - ◆ Green Box is domestic support measures that don't cause trade distortion or at most cause minimal distortion. Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.
 - ◆ The Green box subsidies are government funded without any price support to crops.

130. Ans: A

Exp:

- **Debt-for-Climate Swaps**
 - ◆ Debt-for-climate swaps can incentivize debtor countries to take meaningful action on climate while reducing their debt burdens.
 - ◆ These swaps involve reducing debt in exchange for policy commitments or spending by debtor countries. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
 - Both official bilateral and commercial debt can be involved in debt-for-climate swaps. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
 - Bilateral debt swaps involve redirecting previously committed debt service payments to official bilateral creditors towards financing mutually agreed projects in areas such as climate action.
 - ◆ In the past decade, debt-for-climate swaps have become relatively popular among low- and middle-income countries.

131. Ans: C

Exp:

Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), 2010:

- **About:**
 - ◆ The FCRA was enacted during the Emergency in 1976 in an atmosphere of apprehension that foreign powers were interfering in India's affairs by pumping in funds through independent organisations.
 - These concerns had been expressed in Parliament as early as in 1969.
 - ◆ The law sought to regulate foreign donations to individuals and associations so that they functioned "in a manner consistent with the values of a sovereign democratic republic".
- **Objectives:**
 - ◆ It requires every person or NGO wishing to receive foreign donations to be registered under the Act, to open a bank account for the receipt of the foreign funds and to utilise those funds only for the purpose for which they have been received and as stipulated in the Act. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
 - ◆ The Act prohibits receipt of foreign funds by candidates for elections, journalists or newspaper and media broadcast companies, judges and government servants, members of legislature and political parties or their office-bearers, and organisations of a political nature. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

132. Ans: C

Exp:

Competition Commission of India (CCI):

- **About:**
 - ◆ It is a statutory body of the Government of India responsible for enforcing the Competition Act, 2002, it was duly constituted in March 2009.
 - ◆ The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 (MRTP Act) was repealed and replaced by the Competition Act, 2002, on the recommendations of the Raghavan committee. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- **Composition:**
 - ◆ The Commission consists of one Chairperson and six Members who shall be appointed by the Central Government.

- ◆ The commission is a **quasi-judicial body** which gives opinions to statutory authorities and also deals with other cases. The Chairperson and other Members shall be whole-time Members. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

133. Ans: C

Exp:

Impacts of US Fed Rate Hike on Indian Economy:

- **Capital Flows:** A US Fed rate hike can lead to a rise in interest rates in the US, which can attract capital flows from other countries. This can lead to a reduction in foreign investment in India, which can affect economic growth.
- **Depreciation of rupee:** It can also lead to a depreciation of rupee, which can have an impact on India's trade balance and current account deficit.
 - ◆ Depreciation of Indian rupee may result in costlier imports such as crude oil and other goods. This may bring the imported inflation in Indian Economy. Hence, **1 is correct.**
- **Domestic Borrowing Costs:** It can lead to an increase in borrowing costs in India, as investors may choose to invest in US securities instead of Indian securities. This can lead to a reduction in domestic investment and higher borrowing costs for businesses and individuals.
- **Stock Market:** It can also impact the stock market in India. Higher US interest rates can lead to a reduction in demand for risky assets such as equities, which can lead to a decline in stock prices in India. Hence, **2 is not correct.**
- **External Debt:** India's external debt is mostly denominated in US Dollars, a US Fed rate hike can increase the cost of servicing that debt, as the value of the rupee may fall against the dollar. This can lead to an increase in India's external debt burden and a negative impact on the economy. Hence, **3 is correct.**
- **Banks:** The banking industry gets benefited by the interest rates rise, as banks re-price their loan portfolio much quicker than their deposit rates, which helps them to increase their net interest margin.

134. Ans: D

Exp:

- India's basket of imported farm produce is less dominated by agricultural products compared to its exports.
- Among these imports, the most significant is **vegetable oils, whose imports have more than doubled** in value terms between 2019-20 and 2022-23. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**

- The yield gains from Bt tapering off and the regulatory regime not permitting new gene technologies, **the country has turned from a net exporter to an importer of cotton.**
- In recent times, **marine products, rice, and sugar have been the driving forces** behind India's agricultural exports. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**

- ◆ Marine Products: Marine product exports have grown steadily from USD5.02 billion in 2013-14 to USD8.08 billion in 2022-23.

- ◆ Rice: Rice exports have also gone up during this period, from USD7.79 billion to USD11.14 billion.

- It's been driven by non-basmati rice, which has more than doubled. On the other hand, premium priced basmati rice has witnessed a decline.

- Basmati exports are mainly to the Persian Gulf countries and, to some extent, the US and UK. Non-basmati shipments are more diversified.

- It's non-basmati that has made India the biggest rice exporter, ahead of Thailand.

- ◆ Sugar: The recent boom in sugar exports has been the third largest contributor – from a mere USD 810.90 mn in 2017-18 to USD 5.77 bn in 2022-23 – the sugar exports have grown many folds during these years.

- India has, in the process, emerged as the world's No. 2 exporter after Brazil

135. Ans: C

Exp:

Multi Model Logistics Parks (MMLP):

- **About:**

- ◆ A **MMLP is a transportation hub** that combines different modes of transport in one location to enable efficient movement of goods.

- ◆ These logistics parks are typically located **near major transportation nodes, such as ports, airports, and highways.**

- ◆ They are designed to handle a large volume of goods, with facilities for **warehousing, distribution,** and value-added services such as **packaging and labeling.**

- **Status of MMLP in India:**

- ◆ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) authorized the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** to develop 35 MMLP under the Bharatmala Pariyojana. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**



- Bangalore, Chennai, Guwahati, and Nagpur MMLPs under implementation.
- ◆ The MMLPs are to be developed under Public Private Partnership (PPP) on **Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) mode**. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- ◆ The **National Highways and Logistics Management (NHLML)**, a special purpose vehicle (SPV) fully owned by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), plans to construct the majority of the proposed MMLPs in PPP mode.

136. Ans; A

Exp:

- **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** is the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog set up in **1989 out of a G-7 meeting of developed nations in Paris**. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- After the **9/11 attacks on the US**, the **FATF in 2001** expanded its mandate to incorporate efforts to **combat terrorist financing**.
- **FATF's** added efforts to counter the financing of proliferation of **Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

137. Ans: A

Exp:

Critical Minerals:

- **About:**
 - ◆ Critical minerals are elements that are the building blocks of essential modern-day technologies and are at risk of supply chain disruptions.
 - ◆ These **minerals are now used everywhere** from making mobile phones, computers to batteries, **electric vehicles** and green technologies like and wind turbines.
- **Major Critical Minerals:**
 - ◆ **Graphite, Lithium and Cobalt** are used for making EV batteries. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
 - ◆ **Aerospace, communications and defence industries** also rely on several such minerals as they are used in manufacturing **fighter jets, drones, radio sets** and other critical equipment.
 - ◆ While **Cobalt, Nickel and Lithium** are required for batteries used in electric vehicles, rare earth minerals are critical, in trace amounts, in semiconductors and high-end electronics manufacturing.

● **Minerals Security Partnership (MSP)**

- ◆ It is an **initiative by the United States** to bolster critical mineral supply chains.

● **Partners:**

- ◆ Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Commission. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

138. Ans: D

Exp:

- A series of recent scams have exposed the vulnerabilities of the **Aadhaar-enabled Payment System (AePS)** and how cybercriminals are exploiting the loopholes in the system to defraud unsuspecting customers.
- Scammers have been using **leaked biometric details to bypass** the need for **One Time Passwords (OTPs)** and drain funds from unsuspecting victims. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- **Aadhaar-enabled Payment System (AePS)** was taken up by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** which is a **joint initiative of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Indian Banks' Association (IBA)**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

139. Ans: D

Exp:

Status of the Fisheries Sector in India:

- **About:**
 - ◆ As the **third-largest fish producer** and the **second-largest aquaculture producer** globally, India recognizes the significance of the fisheries and aquaculture industry. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
 - ◆ The **Indian Blue Revolution** has led to a major improvement in the fishing and aquaculture industries. The industries are regarded as **sunrise sectors** and are anticipated to have a big impact on the Indian economy. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
 - ◆ In the recent past, Indian fisheries has witnessed a paradigm shift **from marine dominated fisheries to inland fisheries**, with the latter emerging as a major contributor of fish production from **36% in the mid-1980 to 70% in the recent past**.
 - ◆ The fish production reached an all-time high of 16.25 MMT during FY 2021-22 with marine exports touching Rs. 57,586 Crores.



- **Top Producing States:**

- ◆ Andhra Pradesh is the largest producer of fish in India followed by West Bengal. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

140. Ans: C

Exp:

Wholesale Price Index

The latest data released by the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** reveals that the **Wholesale Price Index (WPI) in India fell to a near three-year low** with **deflation rate of (-) 0.92% in April**, marking its entry into **negative territory** after 33 months.

- WPI measures the changes in the **prices of goods sold and traded in bulk by wholesale businesses to other businesses.**
- Published by the Office of **Economic Adviser, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.**
- It is the most widely used **inflation indicator** in India.
- The **base year of All-India WPI** has been revised from **2004-05 to 2011-12 in 2017.**

Difference Between WPI and CPI:

- WPI tracks **inflation at the producer level** and **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** captures changes in **prices levels at the consumer level.**
 - ◆ Both baskets **measure inflationary trends (the movement of price signals) within the broader economy**, the two indices differ in which weightages are assigned to food, fuel and manufactured items.
- WPI does not capture changes in the **prices of services**, which CPI does. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- In **WPI, more weightage is given to manufactured goods**, while in **CPI, more weightage is given to food items.** Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

141. Ans: D

Exp:

Liberalised Remittance Scheme:

- **About:**

- ◆ This is the **scheme of the Reserve Bank of India**, introduced in the year **2004.** Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- ◆ Under the scheme, **all resident individuals**, including minors, are allowed to freely remit up to **USD 2,50,000 per financial year (April – March)** for any permissible current or capital account transaction or a combination of both.

- **Not Eligible:**

- ◆ The Scheme is **not available to corporations, partnership firms, Hindu Undivided Family (HUF), Trusts etc.** Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- ◆ Though there are no restrictions on the frequency of remittances under LRS, once a remittance is made for an amount up to **USD 2,50,000** during the financial year, a resident individual would not be eligible to make any further remittances under this scheme.

- **Remitted Money can be used for:**

- ◆ Expenses related to travelling (private or for business), medical treatment, study, gifts and donations, maintenance of close relatives and so on.
- ◆ Investment in shares, debt instruments, and buy immovable properties in the overseas market.
- ◆ Individuals can also open, maintain and hold foreign currency accounts with banks outside India for carrying out transactions permitted under the scheme.

- **Prohibited Transactions:**

- ◆ Any purpose specifically **prohibited under Schedule-I** (like the purchase of lottery tickets, proscribed magazines, etc.) or any item restricted under **Schedule II** of Foreign Exchange Management (Current Account Transactions) Rules, 2000.
- ◆ Trading in foreign exchange abroad. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**
- ◆ Capital account remittances, directly or indirectly, to countries identified by the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** as “**non-cooperative countries and territories**”, from time to time.
- ◆ Remittances directly or indirectly to those individuals and entities identified as posing a significant risk of committing **acts of terrorism** as advised separately by the Reserve Bank to the banks.

- **Requirements:**

- ◆ It is mandatory for the resident individual to provide his/her **Permanent Account Number (PAN)** for all transactions under LRS made through Authorized Persons.

142. Ans: A

Exp:

- The withdrawal of the Rs 2000 notes is part of the **RBI's Clean Note Policy**, which aims to provide the public with high-quality currency notes and coins with improved security features. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

- The legal basis for demonetization in India is **Section 26(2) of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**, which empowers the **central government to declare any series of banknotes** as ceasing to be legal tender by notification in the Official Gazette, **on the recommendation of RBI**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- In India, coins function as **limited legal tender**. **Coins with denominations equal to or higher than one rupee can be used as legal tender** for amounts up to **one thousand rupees**.
- Additionally, **fifty paise (half a rupee) coins** can be used as legal tender for **amounts up to ten rupees**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

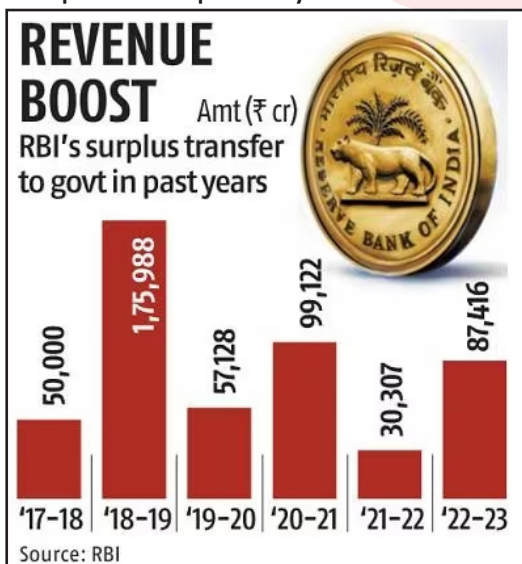
143. Ans: C

Exp:

RBI Surplus Transfer

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has approved a significant **transfer of surplus funds** to the Union Government, providing a major boost to the fiscal position.

- The surplus transfer for the accounting year **2022-23** amounts to **Rs 87,416 crore**, a **188% increase** compared to the previous year.



- As per the above image, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- **Surplus of RBI:**
 - ◆ The difference between RBI's income and expenditure is Surplus.
 - ◆ **RBI transfers the surplus to the government** after making provisions for reserves and retained earnings.

- ◆ RBI transfers the surplus, in accordance with **Section 47 (Allocation of Surplus Profits) of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.

- A technical Committee of the **RBI Board** headed by **Y H Malegam (2013)**, which reviewed the adequacy of reserves and surplus distribution policy, recommended a higher transfer to the government. By and large, with a few exceptions, the quantum of surplus transfer averages around **0.5% of the GDP**.

144. Ans: B

Exp:

- Online gaming platforms **will not be required to deduct tax at the source for a player if the net winning does not exceed Rs 100**. Hence **statement 1 is correct**.
- Bonus, referral bonus, and incentives provided by the online gaming company are **considered taxable deposits**. These deposits will be subject to tax under **Rule 133 of the Income-tax Act**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- The **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** has recently introduced **new tax rules for online gaming platforms in India**. These rules aim to bring clarity and establish guidelines for **Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) on winnings from online gaming**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

145. Ans: C

Exp:

IRDAI Vision 2047

The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)**, as part of its **Vision Insurance for all' by 2047**, has allotted states and union territories to every insurer to increase **insurance penetration in India**.

- **IRDAI** is also planning to launch **Bima Trinity** - Bima Sugam, Bima Vistar, Bima Vaahaks – in collaboration with general and life insurance firms to make insurance activities hassle free. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

What is IRDAI Vision 2047?

- **Objective:**
 - ◆ Insurance for All by 2047 aims that every citizen has an appropriate **life, health and property insurance cover** and every enterprise is **supported by appropriate insurance solutions**.
 - ◆ It also aims to make the **Indian insurance sector globally attractive**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

● **Pillars:**

- ◆ Insurance customers (Policyholders)
- ◆ Insurance providers (insurers)
- ◆ Insurance distributors (intermediaries)

● **Focus Areas:**

- ◆ Making available right products to right customers
- ◆ Creating robust grievance redressal mechanism
- ◆ Facilitating ease of doing business in the insurance sector
- ◆ Ensuring the regulatory architecture is aligned with the market dynamics
- ◆ Boosting innovation
- ◆ Competition and distribution efficiencies while mainstreaming technology and moving towards principle based regulatory regime.

Cover drive for the uninsured

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority is driving multi-pronged changes to expand citizens' safety nets



■ A new bundled insurance product Bima Vistar to provide life, health, accident and property cover through a single, simple policy



■ A Bima Sugam platform as a one-stop shop for customers, integrating insurers and distributors



■ Linking digital death registries to platform so claims can be settled within hours or a day



■ Permitting insurers to sell value-added services with policies; for example, a yoga class bundled with a health scheme



■ Women to lead campaign to spur insurance penetration in each Gram Sabha



■ Roping in States to form insurance committees and expand coverage across districts

■ Move will also allow smaller, micro and regional insurers to reach different strata of society

146. Ans: B

Exp:

- In March 2023, banks from 18 countries were allowed by the RBI to open Special Rupee Vostro Accounts (SRVAs) to settle payments in Indian rupees.
- **It includes: Botswana, Fiji, Germany, Guyana, Israel, Kenya, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, New Zealand, Oman, Russia, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Uganda, and the United Kingdom. Hence option (b) is correct.**

147. Ans: D

Exp:

- A trademark is a **sign capable of distinguishing the goods or services** of one enterprise from those of other enterprises. Trademarks are protected by **Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)**.
- **In India**, trademarks are governed by the Trademarks Act 1999, **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Trademarks do not expire; the owner must make regular use of them in order to receive the protections associated with them. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

148. Ans: B

Exp:

- A **Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)** is a **company registered under the Companies Act, 1956** engaged in the business of loans and advances, acquisition of shares/stocks/bonds/debentures/securities issued by Government or local authority or other marketable securities of a like nature. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- NBFCs **do not form part of the payment and settlement system** and cannot issue cheques drawn on itself;
- Deposit insurance facility of **Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation** is **not available to depositors of NBFCs**, unlike in case of banks. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

149. Ans: A

Exp:

- Recently, the Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) has been recognized as a Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Govt. of India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

What are the Criteria for Miniratna Status for CPSEs?

- **Miniratna Category-I Status:** The CPSEs which have made profit in the last three years continuously, pre-tax profit is Rs.30 crores or more in at least one of the three years and have a positive net worth are eligible to be considered for grant of Miniratna-I status.
- **Miniratna Category-II Status:** The CPSEs which have made profit for the last three years continuously and have a positive net worth are eligible to be considered for grant of Miniratna-II status.
 - ◆ Miniratna CPSEs should have not defaulted in the repayment of loans/interest payment on any loans due to the Government. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ Miniratna CPSEs shall not depend upon budgetary support or Government guarantees.

150. Ans: C

Exp:

Virtual Digital Assets (VDAs):

- The government in the **Union Budget for 2022-23** introduced **new provisions aimed at taxing and tracking VDAs**. Along with the framework for taxation, the Budget for the first time defined virtual digital assets.
 - ◆ It has defined virtual digital assets in the **newly inserted clause (47A) under Section 2 of the Income Tax Act, 1961**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- VDA has been **defined to mean any information or code or number or token** (not being Indian currency or any foreign currency), generated through cryptographic means, with the promise or representation of having inherent value. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- VDAs mean cryptocurrencies, DeFi (decentralised finance) and **non-fungible tokens (NFTs)**.
- From April 2022, India introduced a **30% income tax on gains made from cryptocurrencies**.
- In July 2022, rules regarding 1% tax deducted at source on cryptocurrency came into effect.

151. Ans: A

Exp:

- Russia is India's **seventh biggest trading partner**, up from **25th position in 2021**.
- The US, China, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Indonesia were the **six countries that recorded higher volumes of trade with India** during the first five months of 2022-23. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- India's **Imports from Russia** accounted for **USD 17.23 Billion**, while India's exports to Moscow were only worth **USD 992.73 million**, resulting in a **negative trade balance** of USD 16,24 Billion in 2020-21. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct**

152. Ans: B

Exp:

- Off-Budget liabilities refer to debts taken by state-run agencies to finance government programs and subsidies outside the traditional budget. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Indian government has ended its practice of off-budget borrowings through state-run agencies in FY22, but some off-budget liabilities remain outstanding.
- The outstanding off-budget liabilities of the Centre include approximately Rs 6.7 trillion as of end-FY21.
- **Bondholders** of off-budget liabilities are **unwilling to accept prepayment offers** from the government without demanding a premium or higher interest rate to recoup their loss of interest income. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The investors are worried that they won't find other secure and highly rated bonds with similar attractive coupon rates to invest in if they accept the prepayment offer.
- Furthermore, **bondholders usually demand a premium or a higher interest rate than promised to them to recoup their loss of interest income** in the residual period of the bonds, in case an issuer wants to prepay.

153. Ans: A

Exp:

Tea Board of India:

- **About:**
 - ◆ It is a **statutory body under the Ministry of Commerce and Industries** that was set up in 1953 for the development of tea industry in India. It started functioning in 1954. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Vision:**
 - ◆ Its vision and mission is to **make the country a leading producer of tea** across the globe for which it established several programmes and schemes.
- **Members:**
 - ◆ **The Board is constituted of 31 members (including Chairman)** drawn from Members of Parliament, tea producers, tea traders, tea brokers, consumers, and representatives of Governments from the principal tea producing states, and trade unions
 - The Board is **reconstituted every three years**.
- **Offices in India:**
 - ◆ The board has its **headquarters located in Kolkata and 17 other offices** across India.
- **Foreign Offices:**
 - ◆ Currently Tea Board has **two overseas offices located at Dubai, and Moscow**.
- **Production:**
 - ◆ India is the **second-largest producer** of tea globally.
- **Tea Export:**
 - ◆ India is among the **top 5 tea exporters** in the world. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

154 Ans: (a) 1 only

Exp:

- The Nifty Reits & InvITs Index launched by National Stock Exchange Indices Ltd aims to track the performance of Reits and InvITs that are publicly listed and traded on the NSE. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The index has a base date of 1 July 2019 and a base value of 1,000.
- The index will be reviewed and rebalanced on a quarterly basis. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**



155. Ans: B

Exp:

- An **InvITs** is a **collective Investment Scheme** similar to a **mutual fund**, which **enables direct investment of money** from individual and institutional investors in infrastructure projects to earn a small portion of the income as a return.
- InvITs are regulated by the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) (Infrastructure Investment Trusts) Regulations, 2014**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- InvITs are listed on exchanges just like stocks — **through Initial Public Offering (IPO)**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

156. Ans: C

Exp:

- The Indian Pharmaceuticals industry plays a prominent role globally. India ranks 3rd worldwide for production by volume and 14th by value.
- The nation is the **largest provider of generic medicines** globally, occupying a **20% share in global supply by volume**, and is the **leading vaccine manufacturer** globally. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- India is home to more than 3,000 pharma companies with a strong network of over 10,500 manufacturing facilities as well as a highly skilled resource pool.
- According to WTO, **Generic copies of drugs are legal from the patent point of view when they are made after the patent has expired or under voluntary or compulsory licence** — but pirated and counterfeit products are by definition illegal. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
- The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) is the head of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- The DCGI is also responsible for setting standards for manufacturing, sales, import, and distribution of drugs and medical devices in India, as well as ensuring uniformity in the enforcement of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.
- In addition to these responsibilities, the **DCGI acts as an appellate authority in case of disputes regarding the quality of drugs and prepares and maintains the national reference standard for drugs**. Furthermore, DCGI is the central licensing authority for medical devices that fall under the Medical Device Rules 2017. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

157. Ans: B

Exp:

- **GI Protection in India:**
- India, as a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), enacted the **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act, 1999** which came into force with effect from 2003.
 - The Act provides registration and also protection of GI goods in India.
 - **This Act is administered by the Controller General of Patents, Designs, and Trademarks**, who is also the Registrar of Geographical Indications.
- The **Geographical Indications Registry for India is located in Chennai**.
- The registration of a geographical indication is **valid for a period of 10 years**. It can be renewed from time to time for a further period of 10 years each.
- Hence, **option B is correct**.

158. Ans: B

Exp:

- **About QCVM:**
 - ◆ QCVM is a cashless coin dispensation machine **which would dispense coins against debit to the customer's bank account using UPI (Unified Payment Interface)**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- Customers would be endowed with the option of withdrawing coins in required quantities and denominations.
- It will **ease accessibility to coins**.
 - ◆ Unlike a cash-based traditional Coin Vending Machine, the QCVM would **eliminate the need for physical tendering of banknotes** and their authentication. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

159. Ans: D

Exp:

Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA):

- FCRA was enacted during the Emergency in 1976 amid apprehensions that foreign powers were interfering in India's affairs by pumping money into the country through independent organisations.
- The law sought to regulate foreign donations to individuals and associations so that they functioned in a manner consistent with the values of a sovereign democratic republic.



- The FCRA requires every person or NGO seeking to receive foreign donations to be:
 - registered under the Act
 - to open a bank account for the receipt of the foreign funds in State Bank of India, Delhi. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
 - to utilize those funds only for the purpose for which they have been received and as stipulated in the Act.
 - FCRA registration is valid for 5 years, and NGOs are expected to apply for renewal within six months of the date of expiry of registration. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
 - The government can also cancel the FCRA registration of any NGO if it finds that the NGO is in violation of the Act, if it has not been engaged in any reasonable activity in its chosen field for the benefit of society for two consecutive years, or if it has become defunct.
 - Once the registration of an NGO is cancelled, it is not eligible for re-registration for three years.

160. Ans: D

Exp:

- SWAMIH (Special Window for Affordable and Mid-Income Housing) Investment Fund is India's largest social impact fund specifically formed for completing stressed and stalled residential projects.
- SWAMIH is a government backed fund, set up as a Category-II AIF (Alternate Investment Fund) debt fund registered with SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India), launched in 2019. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
 - ◆ The Fund is sponsored by the Ministry of Finance and is managed by SBICAP Ventures Ltd. (a State Bank Group company).
- Eligibility Criteria:
 - ◆ The real estate projects must be Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act (RERA)-registered which have been stalled due to a lack of adequate funds.
 - Each of these projects must be very close to completion.
 - ◆ They must also fall under the 'Affordable and Middle-Income Project' category (any housing projects wherein housing units do not exceed 200 sq.m.). Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

161. Ans: C

Exp:

- Virtual Digital Assets service providers/businesses have now become the 'Reporting Entities' under PMLA Act 2002, and they must follow similar reporting standards and KYC norms as the other regulated entities like banks, securities intermediaries, payment system operators, etc. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- PMLA-covered activities include: Exchange of Virtual digital assets (VDA) and fiat currencies, Change between one or more VDA types, etc.

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

162. Ans: B

Exp:

- The transmission sector in India is regulated by the Ministry of Power. Hence Statement 1 is not correct.
- As of 31st October 2022, India is the third-largest producer and consumer of electricity worldwide, with an installed power capacity of 408.71 GW. Hence Statement 2 is correct.

163. Ans: d

Exp:

- The term "bank run" refers to a circumstance in which banks run out of funds due to depositors withdrawing all of their money for fear of losing it. Following are the ways commonly used to prevent or mitigate bank runs:
 - ◆ To increase cash availability, banks may sell assets.
 - ◆ Banks may impose withdrawal limitations or prohibit withdrawals entirely.
 - ◆ Banks may borrow money from other banks, financial institutions, or the central bank to prevent bankruptcy. Hence, point 3 is correct.
 - ◆ If a bank run is imminent, banks may temporarily close to prevent further withdrawals. Hence, point 2 is correct.
 - ◆ Deposit insurance provides a safety net for depositors in case of bank failure and can limit the catastrophic impact of bank runs. Hence, point 1 is correct.

164. Ans: A

Exp:

- About:
 - ◆ Critical minerals are elements that are the building blocks of essential modern-day technologies and are at risk of supply chain disruptions. Hence, statement 1 is correct.



- ◆ **Examples:** Copper, lithium, nickel, cobalt, and rare earth elements are critical components in many of today's rapidly expanding clean energy technologies, ranging from wind turbines and power grids to electric vehicles. As the transition to clean energy accelerates, demand for these minerals will skyrocket. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- **Indian Policy:** India's Department of Science and Technology, in collaboration with the Council on Energy, Environment and Water, drafted the **Critical Minerals Strategy for India in 2016**, with a focus on India's resource requirements till 2030.
- The Indian Critical Minerals Strategy has **identified 49 minerals that will be vital for India's future economic growth.**

165. Ans: D

Exp:

- **About TIES Scheme:**
- The **TIES scheme** provides **grants-in-aid to central/state government-owned agencies** or their joint ventures for infrastructure projects with significant export linkages. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The infrastructure includes **Border Haats, Land customs stations, quality testing** and certification labs, cold chains, trade promotion centres, export warehousing and packaging, **Special Economic Zones**, and ports/airports cargo terminuses. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

166. Ans: C

Exp:

- **About:**
 - ◆ India is the **2nd largest telecom market** globally with 1.2 billion digital subscribers. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The past nine years witnessed an unprecedented digital leap, whereby **India's digital economy grew 2.5 times faster** than the national economy. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - Over this period, the number of broadband users rose to 800 million, from 60 million, and the number of internet connections rose to 850 million from 250 million. The government and private sector together have laid over 2.5 million km of **Optical Fiber.**
 - ◆ India is the most connected democracy in the world, where **70 million e-authentications are**

done every day, and 8 billion **UPI (Unified Payment Interface)** transactions are made every month. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

- India has sent upwards of ~28 lakh crore directly to its citizens through direct benefit transfers.

167. Ans: C

Exp:

- The evergreening of patents is a practice of **tweaking drugs in order to extend their patent term** and thus their profitability. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Indian Patents Act 1970** introduced many provisions to **prevent the mischievous practice** of "evergreening" of patents. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- This is to aid millions of people who can't afford the expensive modified drugs, as well as the **development of the domestic generic drug market.** **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

168. Ans: D

Expl:

- **IMF Bailouts:** Countries seek help from the IMF usually when their economies face a major macroeconomic risk, mostly currency crisis (such as the ones Sri Lanka is facing). **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Countries seek such assistance from the IMF to meet their external debt and other obligations, to purchase essential imports, and to prop up the exchange value of their currencies.
- The IMF lends money to the troubled economies often in the **form of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs).** **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- SDRs simply represent a basket of five currencies, namely the U.S. dollar, the euro, the Chinese yuan, the Japanese yen, and the British pound.
- This lending is carried out by a number of lending programs such as extended credit facility, flexible credit lines, stand-by agreements, etc.
- Countries receiving the bailout can use the SDRs for various purposes depending on their individual circumstances.

169. Ans: C

Expl:

- The Bretton Woods conference in 1944 established the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the International Bank for Reconstruction and



Development (IBRD) to regulate the international monetary and financial order after World War II. The IMF's main objective is to promote global monetary stability. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is an organization of 190 countries (not universal membership), working to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty around the world. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **IMF Members: Any other state, whether or not a member of the UN, may become a member of the IMF in accordance with IMF Articles of Agreement and terms prescribed by the Board of Governors.**
 - ◆ Membership in the IMF is a prerequisite to membership in the IBRD. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ Pay a quota subscription: On joining the IMF, each member country contributes a certain sum of money, called a quota subscription, which is based on the country's wealth and economic performance (Quota Formula).

170. Ans: A

Exp:

- The Government implemented the IBC, 2016 to consolidate all laws related to insolvency and bankruptcy and to tackle Non-Performing Assets (NPA), a problem that has been pulling the Indian economy down for years.
- The IBC Covers all individuals, companies, Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs) and partnership firms. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Adjudicating authority:**
 - ◆ National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for companies and LLPs.
 - ◆ Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT) for individuals and partnership firms. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

171. Ans: D

Exp:

- **About DPI:**
 - ◆ DPIs mediate the flow of people, money and information. First, the flow of people through a digital ID System. Second, the flow of money through a real-time fast payment system. And third, the **flow of personal information through a consent-based data** sharing system to actualize

the benefits of DPIs and to empower the citizen with a real ability to control data. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- ◆ These three sets become the **foundation for developing** an effective DPI ecosystem.
- ◆ Each DPI layer fills a **clear need and generates considerable value** across sectors.
- ◆ However, like in the case of physical infrastructure, it is important that DPIs not succumb to monopolization, authoritarianism and digital colonization. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ◆ India, through **India Stack**, became the first country to develop **all three foundational DPIs, Digital identity (Aadhar), Real-time fast payment (UPI) and Account Aggregator built on the Data Empowerment Protection Architecture (DEPA).** **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - DEPA creates a **digital framework that allows users to share their data** on their own terms through a third-party entity, who are known as Consent Mangers.

172. Ans: B

Exp:

- Assamese Gamocha is a traditional handwoven cotton towel, which is an integral part of Assamese culture and tradition.
 - ◆ It is a rectangular piece of cloth. The towel comes in various colors and designs, and the **most popular among them are the red and white ones with a Phulam** known as the 'Gamocha design'. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **The Assamese Gamocha was granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.** And it has gained national and international recognition for **its unique design and cultural significance.** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

173. Ans: D

Exp:

- **About:**
 - NPCI is an **umbrella organisation for all retail payments systems** in India. Its primary objective is to provide **safe, secure, and efficient retail payment systems in India.**
- It aims to promote **digital payments and financial inclusion** in the country.
- **Establishment:**
 - NPCI was established in **2008** under the guidance and support of **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Indian Banks' Association (IBA).**



- **Ownership:**
 - NPCI is a **not-for-profit company**, and its ownership is shared by a **consortium of major banks in India**.
- **Products and Services:**
 - NPCI offers a range of products and services, including **Unified Payments Interface (UPI), National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT), Immediate Payment Service (IMPS), Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS), RuPay card**, and others. **However, it is not responsible for regulating payment and settlement systems in India. That is the responsibility of the RBI. Hence, Option D is correct.**

174. Ans: D

Exp:

- **Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS) Scheme:**
- The Government has established FFS with a corpus of Rs. 10,000 crore, to meet the funding needs of startups.
- Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is the monitoring agency and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) is the operating agency for FFS. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It has **not only made capital available for startups at early stage, seed stage and growth stage but also played a catalytic role in facilitating raising of domestic capital**, reducing dependence on foreign capital and encouraging home grown and new venture capital funds. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

175. Ans: B

Exp:

- **The report "Falling Long-Term Growth Prospects: Trends, Expectations, and Policies" (2020-2030) is released by World Bank.**
 - ◆ The report uses a comprehensive database of multiple measures of potential growth. It **examines trends in potential growth and its drivers, global and regional prospects for potential growth** and investment over the 2020s, and a range of policy options to lift potential growth. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- According to the report although **India has also lost its growth momentum over the past two decades**, it is and will likely remain a **global leader when it comes to growth rates. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

176. Ans: D

Exp:

- **About India's Aviation Sector:**
- **India's Civil Aviation** is among the fastest-growing aviation markets globally and will be a major growth engine to make India a **USD 5 trillion economy by 2024**.
- India is currently the world's **3rd-largest civil aviation market. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Over the past 6 years, India's domestic passenger traffic has grown at a **compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of around 14.5% and international passenger traffic at around 6.5%. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- India's domestic passenger traffic is projected to rise to **16 crores in the 2023-24 fiscal year and to 35 crores by 2029-30.**

177. Ans: C

Exp:

- IPEF (Indo-Pacific Economic Framework) is a US-led initiative that aims to strengthen economic partnership among participating countries to enhance resilience, sustainability, inclusiveness, economic growth, fairness, and competitiveness in the Indo-Pacific region. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The IPEF was launched in 2021 with a dozen initial partners who together represent 40% of the world GDP.
- The IPEF is not a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) but allows members to negotiate the parts they want to. The negotiations will be along four main "pillars". **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ Supply-chain resilience
 - ◆ Clean energy, decarbonisation & infrastructure
 - ◆ Taxation & anti-corruption
 - ◆ Fair & resilient trade.

178. Ans: C

Exp:

- **About Hallmarking:**
- Hallmarking is the **accurate determination and official recording of the proportionate content of precious metal** in precious metal articles. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Hallmarking scheme for Jewelry was started by **BIS** in the year 2000. In India, at present two precious metals namely **gold and silver** have been brought **under the purview of Hallmarking.**



- However, **Mandatory Hallmarking** has been successfully implemented in 288 districts of the country **with effect from 23 June 2021 by Hallmarking of Gold Jewellery and Gold Artefacts Order, 2022.**
- After introduction of 6-digit HUID in 2021, **hallmark consisted of 3 marks viz, BIS logo, purity of the article and six-digit alphanumeric HUID.** Each hallmarked article has unique HUID number which is traceable. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

179. Ans: A

Exp:

- **About Social Stock Exchange (SSE):**
 - ◆ The SSE would function as a separate segment **within the existing stock exchange** and help social enterprises raise funds from the public through its mechanism.
 - ◆ It would serve as a **medium for enterprises to seek finance for their social initiatives, acquire visibility** and provide increased transparency about fund mobilisation and utilisation. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - Retail investors can only invest in securities offered by **for-profit social enterprises (SEs) under the Main Board.**

- In all other cases, **only institutional investors and non-institutional investors** can invest in securities issued by SEs.

◆ **Eligibility:**

- Any **non-profit organisation (NPO) or for-profit social enterprise (FPSEs)** that establishes the primacy of social intent would be recognised as a **SE**, which will make it eligible to be **registered or listed on the SSE.**
- 17 plausible criteria under **SEBI's ICDR Regulations, 2018** include **servicing to eradicate hunger, poverty, malnutrition, promoting education, employability, equality, and environmental sustainability** among others

◆ **Ineligibility:**

- Corporate foundations, political or religious organisations, professional or trade associations, infrastructure and housing companies (except affordable housing) would not be identified as SE. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- NPOs would be deemed **ineligible if dependent on corporates for more than 50% of its funding.**