

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

26. Regarding the India- Nepal Relations, consider the following statements:

1. Nepal shares a border of over 1850 km with six Indian states.
2. The Treaty of Peace and Friendship of 1950 forms the bedrock of the special relations that exist between India and Nepal.
3. India is Nepal's largest trade partner and the largest source of foreign investments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

27. With reference to the Migration and Mobility Agreement between India and Italy, consider the following statements:

1. Under this agreement, graduates seeking professional exposure in Italy post-academic or vocational training can secure temporary residency for up to 12 months.
2. The agreement outlines quotas for non-seasonal and seasonal Indian workers, with a reserved quota range over the years 2023-2025.
3. The Italian government's annual "Flow Decree" sets the maximum number of non-EU citizens who can enter Italy for work.

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

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

28. With reference to Paris Club, consider the following statements:

1. It describes itself as a forum where official creditors meet to solve payment difficulties faced by debtor countries.
2. India is an active member of this club.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

29. Consider the following statements with respect to 'Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)':

1. CAC is an international food standards body established jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO).
2. The Agreement on Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) acknowledges Codex standards for international trade and trade dispute settlement.
3. The objective of 'Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)' is to protect consumer's health and ensure fair practices in the food trade.

How many of the above statements are not correct?

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

30. Consider the following countries:

1. Bangladesh 2. Sri Lanka
3. Myanmar 4. Maldives

How many of the above are not the participants of MAHASAGAR Initiative of the Indian Navy?

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

31. Which of the following is not a part of India's Foreign Policy:

1. Gujral Doctrine
2. Panchsheel
3. Policy of Non-Alignment
4. Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 only B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1, 2, 3 and 4 D. None

32. Regarding the Charter of the United Nations, consider the following statements:

1. UN Charter is binding on UN member states.
2. The International Criminal Court is the primary judicial body of the United Nations.
3. Article 99 of the UN Charter empowers the secretary-general to bring attention to the Security Council about potential threats to international peace and security.



How many of the above statements are correct?

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

33. Regarding China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), consider the following statements:

1. It was launched in 2013 and aims to link Southeast Asia, Central Asia, the Gulf region, Africa, and Europe with a network of land and sea routes
2. India initially joined the project but withdrew from the project in 2022 on the grounds of sovereignty and transparency.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

34. Regarding the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), consider the following statements:

1. It is legally binding on all the signatories.
2. UDHR along with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) forms the International Bill of Rights.

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. With reference to "Truth and Reconciliation Commission", consider the following statements:

1. A Truth and Reconciliation Commission is an official mechanism to not just acknowledge, but also reveal, wrongdoings by government servants.
2. The commission engages directly and broadly with the affected population, gathering information on their experiences.
3. In India's neighbourhood, truth commissions have been set up in Sri Lanka and Nepal.

How many of the statements given above are not correct?

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

36. Regarding the Asian Development Bank (ADB), consider the following statements:

1. ADB is a regional development bank established in 1966 exclusively for Asian countries.
2. India is a founding member of the ADB.
3. The top three largest shareholders of the bank are Japan, India, and China.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

37. Regarding the Arab League, consider the following statements:

1. It is an intergovernmental pan-Arab organization of all Arab states confined to the Middle East.
2. It was formed following the adoption of the Alexandria Protocol.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

38. Consider the following statements:

1. The Svalbard Treaty is the sole treaty that governs scientific research in the Arctic region.
2. India is a signatory to the Svalbard Treaty.
3. Himadri was India's first research base in the Arctic.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

39. Consider the following :

1. Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF)
2. Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)
3. International Solar Alliance (ISA)

How many of the above organizations consist of both India and the USA as members?

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

40. Consider the following statements related to Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC):

1. It is an intergovernmental organization created at the Astana Conference.
2. Its headquarter is in Baghdad.
3. Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela are its founding members.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- A. Only one B. Only Two
C. Only Three D. None

41. Consider the following countries:

1. Poland
2. China
3. India
4. Canada
5. Denmark



How many of the above are members of the Arctic Council?

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

42. Who publishes the 'Global Corruption Barometer'?

- A. Transparency International
B. World Bank
C. United Nations
D. Trace International

43. With reference to Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) consider the following statements :

1. Established in 1975 through the Lagos Treaty, the ECOWAS is a regional intergovernmental organisation among West African nations.
2. It aims to achieve economic integration, free movement of people and goods, and regional cooperation across sectors.
3. Its headquarters is located in Nairobi, Kenya.

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

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

44. With reference to the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), consider the following statements:

1. It is an independent organisation that is responsible for regulating shipping and preventing marine pollution from ships.
2. India is one of the founding members of IMO.
3. IMO is governed by the Assembly of members which is also the highest governing body of the organisation.

How many of the statements above are correct?

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

45. With reference to "Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT)", consider the following statements:

1. LeadIT is a global initiative that aims to accelerate the transition of challenging sectors such as steel, cement, chemicals, aviation, and shipping.
2. It was launched by the governments of Sweden and India at the United Nations Climate Action Summit in 2019 and is supported by the World Economic Forum.
3. It has 38 members, encompassing countries and companies where India is an active participant.

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

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

46. With reference to the global initiatives related to road safety, consider the following statements:

1. The UN General Assembly adopted resolution "Improving global road safety " with the target of preventing at least 50% of road traffic deaths and injuries by 2050.
2. The Brasilia Declaration on Road Safety was signed at the second Global High-Level Conference on Road Safety, and India has also signed it.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

47. Regarding the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), consider the following statements:

1. IMO was established in 1945 following the San Francisco Conference.
2. India has played a pivotal role as a founding member of this organization.

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:

1. The Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) aims to monitor "dark shipping" and create a more comprehensive and precise real-time maritime overview of partner nations' waters.
2. It focuses on integrating the Pacific Islands, Southeast Asia, and the Indian Ocean region (IOR) in the Indo-Pacific.
3. Dark shipping is a term used to describe a vessel operating with its Automatic Identification System (AIS) turned off.

How many of the above statements are not correct?

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

49. Consider the following pairs:

| Declaration/Report | : Related to |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Wuhan Declaration | : Wetland Conservation |
| 2. Bletchley Park Declaration | : Safe Artificial Intelligence |
| 3. Brundtland Report | : Creation of the World Bank |

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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



58. Regarding the India-Australia Relations, consider the following statements:

1. Australia and India concluded the Mutual Logistic Support Arrangement (MLSA) in 2020.
2. Engagement between the Royal Australian Navy and the Indian Navy has advanced significantly through the key bilateral exercise, AUSINDEX.
3. Recently, the 2nd India-Australia 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue was held in New Delhi.

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

59. With reference to Voice of the Global South Summit (VOGSS), consider the following statements:

1. The concluding session was emphasized around the theme 'Together, for Everyone's Growth, with Everyone's Trust'.
2. Indian PM inaugurated the Global South Center of Excellence 'DAKSHIN' aimed at fostering collaboration among developing nations by serving as a knowledge repository and think tank.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

60. With reference to the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), consider the following statements:

1. It is an intergovernmental group that advocates for the sustainable use of tropical forests and encourages the responsible trade of timber from legally harvested and well-managed forests.
2. It was established under the International Tropical Timber Agreement in 1983.
3. All the United Nations members are its members including India.

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

61. With reference to International Labor Organization, consider the following statements:

1. It is the only tripartite United Nation (UN) agency which brings together governments, employers and workers of various countries.
2. It was established in 1945 as an affiliated agency of the United Nations.
3. It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

62. With reference to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), consider the following statements:

1. The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation was founded in 2009.
2. India has been an active member of this organization since its establishment.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

63. Regarding the Washington Treaty, consider the following statements:

1. It forms the basis of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).
2. The Treaty was signed in Washington D.C. on 4th April 1949 by 12 founding members.
3. Collective defense is a core part of the Treaty.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

64. With reference to the International Energy Agency (IEA), consider the following statements:

1. The IEA is an autonomous Intergovernmental Organisation established in 1974 in Paris, France.
2. The World Energy Outlook Report is released by the IEA annually.
3. India became a permanent member of IEA in 2015 and it is since then only that engagement of India with IEA began.

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

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

65. Regarding India-Bhutan Relations consider the following statements:

1. India is Bhutan's largest trading partner and Bhutan's major export destination.
2. Bhutan is one of the few countries in the world that has pledged to remain carbon-neutral, and India has been a key partner in helping Bhutan achieve this goal.

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. With reference to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, consider the following statements:

1. It was adopted in 1961 by the United Nations Conference on Diplomatic Intercourse and Immunities held at the Neue Hofburg in Vienna, Austria.
2. It entered into force in 1964 and is universally ratified.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

75. With reference to India's Policy over the Israel-Palestine Conflict, consider the following statements:

1. In 1972, India established full diplomatic relations with Israel.
2. India's official stance on the Israel-Palestine conflict advocates for a two-state solution.
3. In 2017, India supported the US and Israel for an attempt to unilaterally declare all of Jerusalem as the Israeli capital.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

76. Consider the following statements:

1. The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) was negotiated at the Conference on Disarmament in Vienna in 1994.
2. None among India, Israel, China and the US have ratified the CTBT.

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. Consider the following statements regarding the 'International Solar Alliance (ISA)':

1. Singapore is the latest country to join ISA.
2. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has granted Observer Status to the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
3. The Assembly of the ISA is the apex decision-making body which comprises of representatives from each Member Country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. One statement only
B. Two Statements only
C. All three Statements
D. None of the statements

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

1. India is among the founding members of ADB.
2. It is headquartered in Manila, Philippines.
3. It serves as Secretariat to the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC).

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

79. Regarding the Quad grouping, consider the following statements:

1. It is an informal dialogue of four countries with a common vision for the Indo-Pacific region.
2. The idea of Quad was first mooted by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2007.
3. Quad is the grouping of four democracies – India, Australia, the US, and Japan.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

80. With reference to East Asia Summit (EAS), consider the following statements:

1. India is a member of both Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and EAS.
2. The EAS was established in 2005 as an ASEAN-led initiative.
3. India hosted the 18th EAS in 2023.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

81. Regarding the G20 Grouping, consider the following statements:

1. The 19th G20 Summit was held in New Delhi, India, with the theme 'One Earth, One Family, One Future.'
2. Canada is scheduled to assume the G20 Presidency in 2024.
3. India's GDP per capita rose to USD 2,388.62 in 2022, but it continued to be at the bottom among the 19 regions of G20 nations.



How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

82. Consider the following statement :

1. The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) Project was signed at the G20 Summit in New Delhi.
2. Addressing environmental impact concerns, ensuring sustainability, and adhering to green and eco-friendly practices in construction and operation are critical aspects of the project.
3. All QUAD partners are part of this project.
4. It is a world bank sponsored project.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

83. Consider the following statements:

1. World Health Organisation has recently released the first ever Patient Safety Right Charter.
2. The theme for World Patient Safety Day 2023 is 'Engaging patients for patient safety'.
3. World Health day is celebrated on 5th May every year.

How many of the statements given above are correct ?

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

84. Consider the following statements regarding Five Eyes Alliance:

1. It is an intelligence-sharing alliance of five countries: the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.
2. It originated from the 1946 UK-USA Agreement, which was a cooperative arrangement for sharing signals intelligence (SIGINT).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

85. Regarding the Asia Pacific Forum on Human Rights, consider the following statements:

1. It was founded in the year 1990.
2. It aims to address significant human rights challenges in the Asia-Pacific region.
3. It forms partnerships with various international agencies, governments, and non-government organizations.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

86. Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the member states of which of the following alliances and its five FTA partners?

- A. ASEAN
- B. BRICS
- C. G20
- D. African Union

87. With reference to the China-Nepal Relations, consider the following statements:

1. Nepal has declined China's invitation to join China's Global Security Initiative (GSI).
2. Nepal has expressed interest in China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), aiming to improve infrastructure connectivity and trade facilitation.

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

88. With reference to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), consider the following statements:

1. It is a subsidiary organ of the UN General Assembly and works as a sexual and reproductive health agency.
2. UNFPA is not supported by the UN budget, instead, it is entirely supported by voluntary contributions.

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



89. Which of the following Countries are signatories of India-Middle East-Europe Corridor?

1. India
2. United States
3. Saudi Arabia
4. China
5. European Union

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

90. Patient Safety Rights Charter” is released by which of the following?

- A. OECD
- B. ICMR
- C. WHO
- D. IMC

91. Consider the following statements regarding United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO):

1. The UNWTO is an intergovernmental organization based in Madrid, Spain, and has 159 Member States.
2. UNWTO promotes tourism as a driver of economic growth, inclusive development, and environmental sustainability and offers leadership and support to the sector in advancing knowledge and tourism policies worldwide.
3. The General Assembly, which is the principal gathering of the World Tourism Organization, meets every three years.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

92. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Katchatheevu is an uninhabited island of Bangladesh in the Indian Ocean.

Statement-II: Katchatheevu Island was transferred from India to Bangladesh in 1974 by an agreement signed by the then Prime Ministers of both countries.

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. Both Statement-1 and Statement-II are incorrect
- D. Statement-1 is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

93. Consider the following statements regarding India-Bangladesh relations:

1. India was the first country to recognise Bangladesh as a separate and independent state and established diplomatic relations with the country immediately after its independence in December 1971.
2. Bangladesh is India’s biggest trading partner in the subcontinent and the two countries have launched a trade transaction in rupees in July 2023.
3. India and Bangladesh share 4096.7 km. of border; the second longest land boundary that India shares with any of its neighbors.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

94. Consider the following statements:

1. The Bangkok Declaration established ASEAN and includes an annual rotation of the chairmanship among member states in alphabetical order.
2. ASEAN-India Business Council (AIBC) is an organization formed by the Governments of ASEAN and India for fostering closer business linkages and providing an industry perspective.
3. The key agenda of the AITIGA review is to review the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) that was originally signed in 2022.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

95. Consider the following statements with respect to ‘15th BRICS Summit’:

1. The theme for this Summit is “BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism”.
2. BRICS marked this summit by increasing its membership from five to eleven countries.
3. Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Ethiopia, and Argentina joined the BRICS fold, amplifying the group's representation across the Middle East, Africa, and South America.



How many of the above statements are correct?

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

96. With reference to the India-China border dispute, consider the following statements:

1. China administers Aksai Chin as part of its Xinjiang region, while India considers it part of its union territory of Ladakh.
2. The India-China border is divided into three sectors i.e., western sector covers Ladakh, middle sector covers Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, eastern sector covers Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim.
3. The Shimla agreement of 1914 demarcated the boundary between Tibet and North East India and was signed by British India, Tibet and China.

How many of the above statements are not correct?

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

97. Consider the following statements about Business 20 (B20) summit:

1. The B20 serves as the designated G20 dialogue platform that engages the worldwide business community.
2. Annually, the G20 Presidency designates a B20 Chair who is assisted by a B20 Sherpa and secretariat to oversee the proceedings.
3. The overarching theme for B20 India 2023 is encapsulated by the acronym R.I.S.E, signifying the imperative for Businesses to be Responsible, Innovative, Sustainable, and Equitable.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

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

98. Consider the following statements regarding 'Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)':

1. It was created through the Lagos Treaty and headquartered in Nigeria.
2. It aims to foster economic integration, cooperation, and development among West African nations.

Which of the statements given above is/correct?

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

99. The "Three-year Work Program" was signed between India and which of the following countries?

- A. China
- B. Israel
- C. Maldives
- D. Seychelles

100. Consider the following statements 'China-Pakistan Economic Corridor':

1. It connects China's northwest Yunnan province with the Gwadar Port in Pakistan.
2. It includes the development of highways, railways, and pipelines along with industrial and energy infrastructure projects.
3. It is part of the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

101. Consider the following statements regarding 'Arab League':

1. Its membership is limited only to Arab nations of the Arabian Peninsula.
2. Recently, the Arab League has suspended Syria from the organization.
3. Alexandria Protocol is related to the Arab League.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

102. Regarding the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), consider the following statements:

1. It published a study titled "The Race to Net Zero: Accelerating Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific".
2. It is the United Nations' regional development agency for the Asia-Pacific region, situated in Bangkok, Thailand.
3. The Asia-Pacific region is responsible for one-third of the world's greenhouse gas emissions.



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

103. Prior to the creation of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in 2001, which among the following were the members of the Shanghai Five?

- 1. Kazakhstan
- 2. Uzbekistan
- 3. Tajikistan
- 4. Pakistan
- 5. Turkmenistan

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

104. With reference to the Global Financial Innovation Network (GFIN), consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a consortium of over 80 international organizations committed to supporting financial innovation for the benefit of consumers.
- 2. The GFIN is currently chaired by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), a leading regulatory body in the United Kingdom.
- 3. From India, only Reserve Bank of India is its member.

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

105. Consider the following statements regarding 'International North–South Transport Corridor (INSTC)':

- 1. Rasht–Astara railway is a part of the International North–South Transport Corridor (INSTC).
- 2. It is a Multi-Mode Transit System that connects ship, rail, and road routes for moving cargo between India, Iran, Azerbaijan, Russia, Central Asia, and Europe.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

- 1. UNHCR is the United Nations agency responsible for protecting and supporting refugees worldwide. Its headquarters is located in Geneva, Switzerland
- 2. The Indian government has signed the 1951 Refugee Convention to protect the rights of Rohingya refugees.

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

107. Consider the following statements:

- 1. ICOM is a membership association and a non-governmental organization that establishes professional and ethical standards for museum activities. It is the only global organization in the museum field.
- 2. The UNESCO Red Lists of Cultural Objects at Risk are practical tools to curb the illegal traffic of cultural objects.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

108. With reference to the export of contaminated cough syrups from India, consider the following statements:

- 1. The contaminants diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol, found in the samples of cough syrup being exported from India.
- 2. The decision to implement mandatory testing stems from the discovery of contaminated cough syrups that led to the tragic deaths of children in Gambia and Uzbekistan.

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

109. Consider the following statements with reference to 'Forum for India–Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) Summit':

- 1. India emphasized the shared priority of reforming international institutions to amplify the voice of the Global South.
- 2. India will support the development of the small- and medium-scale enterprise sector in each Pacific Island nation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

110. With reference to the India's Relations with Singapore, consider the following statements:

1. Singapore is among India's largest trade and investment partners in ASEAN.
2. The Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) was signed between India and Singapore in 2023.
3. Bold Kurukshetra is the army exercise between these two countries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

111. Consider the following statements:

1. G7 aims to eliminate "inefficient fossil fuel subsidies" by 2025 or earlier.
2. China aims for net-zero by 2060, while India has set 2070 as its target.

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

112. With reference to the World Health Assembly (WHA), consider the following statements:

1. The World Health Assembly (WHA) is WHO's decision-making body attended by delegations from all of WHO's member states.
2. The World Health Assembly (WHA) appoints the Director-General of WHO.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

113. Consider the following statements about the G7 summit:

1. The 49th G7 annual summit was held in Japan in May 2023.
2. Russia was expelled from the group in 2022, after it started war with Ukraine.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

114. Regarding the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), consider the following statements:

1. It is composed of representatives from the national standards organizations of member countries.
2. Its headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland.
3. India's national standards organization 'Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)' is a member of ISO.

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

115. With reference to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), consider the following statements:

1. UNSC has 15 members: 5 permanent members (P5) and 10 non-permanent members elected for 2-year terms.
2. India has been a non-permanent member of the Council for 8 Times, latest in 2021
3. Permanent Members of UNSC include US, Germany, Russia, China and the UK.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

116. Consider the following statements:

1. 6th Indian Ocean Conference (IOC) held in Dhaka with the theme of "Peace Prosperity and Partnership for a Resilient Future.
2. IOC is a consultative forum of the Indian Ocean countries for Security and Growth for All in Region (SAGAR).

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

117. Consider the following statements regarding I2U2 Quad:

1. I2U2 is a new grouping formed by India, Israel, the UAE, and the US.
2. It was formed in 2021 followed by the Abraham Accords.
3. The Abraham Accords normalized relations between Israel and a few Arab Gulf countries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

118. The term Persona Non Grata was recently in the news. It is related to which of the following:

- A. A diplomatic row between China and Canada
B. A principle to protect the rights of migrants
C. A new trade agreement between India and Japan
D. A new initiative launched by the World Health Organization

119. Consider the following statements regarding 'International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)':

1. It's a specialized agency of United States (UN).
2. It's headquartered in New York.
3. India has been participating in ICAO's schemes - CORSIA and LTAG since 2015.

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

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

120. With reference to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), consider the following statements:

1. CPTPP aims to impose tariffs on trading of goods and services among the member countries.
2. India is a member of CPTPP.

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.

121. Consider the following statements regarding Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC):

1. India is one among the founding members of OPEC.
2. OPEC countries produce around 40% of world's crude oil.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

122. Which of the subsequent projects launched by the Government of India have been endorsed by the World Bank?

1. India Energy Efficiency Scale-up Program
2. Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor Project
3. Innovate in India for Inclusiveness

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

123. With reference to the UN Economic Social Council (ECOSOC), consider the following statements:

1. Its members are elected by the UN General Assembly for overlapping three-year terms.
2. The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) works under the ECOSOC.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

124. Consider the following statements:

1. Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) is India's second major global initiative after the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
2. The Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator Fund is the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)'s initiative to help in improving the ability of infrastructure systems.

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

125. With reference to United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF), consider the following statements:

1. UNDEF was established in 2005 as a United Nations General Trust Fund to support democratization efforts around the world.
2. India is the third largest contributor to UNDEF.



Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

126. With reference to the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), consider the following statements:

1. The Convention on International Civil Aviation was signed during the Chicago convention, 1944.
2. India is a member of ICAO.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

127. Which of the following countries are a part of OPEC+?

1. Saudi Arabia
2. Iran
3. China
4. USA
5. Venezuela
6. South Sudan
7. Azerbaijan

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 7 only
- B. 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7 only
- C. 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 only
- D. 1, 2, 5 and 6 only

128. Which of the following countries are a part of Group of Seven (G7) countries?

1. Canada
2. France
3. Germany
4. Italy
5. Japan
6. Australia
7. The United States

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7 Only
- B. 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7 Only
- C. 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 Only
- D. 1, 2, 5 and 6 Only

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

1. The WTO is the successor to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).
2. The WTO's objective is to promote the use of trade quotas and increase tariff duties among its members.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

130. Consider the following statements regarding India - UAE relationship:

1. Both countries are members of the I2U2 grouping.
2. India and UAE have signed the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

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 reference to Markets in Crypto Assets (MiCA), consider the following statements:

1. It is an initiative by Russia to use Cryptocurrencies as an alternative to facilitate its trade with other countries.
2. The MiCA legislation will be applied only on those crypto currencies who can be transferred and stored using Distributed Ledger Technology.
3. Non-Fungible tokens (NFTs) are excluded under MiCA.

Which of the statements given is/are not correct?

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

132. What is Operation Kaveri launched recently by the government?

- A. A counter-terrorism operation undertaken by the Indian Armed Forces
- B. A rejuvenation project to protect Kaveri River from Siltation
- C. A hydropower project on River Kaveri.
- D. A rescue operation to evacuate Indian citizens stranded in Sudan

133. Consider the following statements:

1. India is a signatory to Convention on Supplementary Compensation (CSC) but it hasn't rectified the treaty yet.
2. India's Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act provides the damage to be equally compensated by the operator and the government.
3. India's CLNDT provides the operator to seek recourse from the supplier in the event that supplies are found to have patent defects.

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

134. Consider the following statements:

1. India is situated between two major drug-producing regions, the Golden Crescent and the Golden Triangle.
2. Opium and cannabis are two of the most cultivated and consumed drugs in India.
3. The government aims to make India "drug-free" by 2050.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

135. Consider the following statements:

1. The India's official Tibetan policy allows the Tibetan community in India to undertake peaceful religious and political activities.
2. Dalai Lama, who is spiritual head of a dominant Buddhist school in Tibet, nominates his successor before his death.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

136. Which of the following countries share a boundary with Romania?

1. Ukraine
2. Hungary
3. Serbia
4. Bulgaria

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Only 3
- D. All Four

137. With reference to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), consider the following statements:

1. NATO is a political and military alliance.
2. NATO Headquarters is located at Brussels, Belgium
3. Finland has become the 31st member of NATO.
4. Sweden is one of the founding members of NATO.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 1, 2 and 3 only
- d. 1, 2, 3 and 4 only

138. The Windsor Framework, recently in the news, is related to which of the following issues?

- A. Territorial dispute between Spain and the UK over Gibraltar
- B. Trade issues among Northern Ireland, rest of the UK and the European Union.
- C. Dispute between Greece and Turkey over Aegean Sea
- D. Energy security between Russia and Germany

139. With reference to the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), consider the following statements:

1. It aims to build and expand understanding and mutually beneficial cooperation through consensus-based, evolutionary, and non-intrusive means.
2. As of 2023, it has 23 member states.
3. Its secretariat is based in Mauritius.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

140. Recently, India has collaborated with Asia Energy Transition Initiative (AETI). Which of the following country has taken this initiative?

- A. China
- B. USA
- C. Germany
- D. Japan



141. Consider the following:

1. Argentina
2. Mexico
3. South Africa
4. Iran
5. Malaysia

Which of the following are the members of the G-20 Groups:

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

142. With reference to the High seas, consider the following statements:

1. It is an area within a country's territorial waters.
2. It is an area where a country has jurisdiction over living and non-living resources.
3. It accounts for more than 60% of the world's ocean area.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

143. Which of the following countries borders Persian Gulf?

1. Iraq
2. Kuwait
3. Jordan
4. Bahrain
5. Qatar

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

144. Consider the following statements regarding 'IBSA Grouping':

1. It is a developmental initiative between India, Bangladesh and South Africa to promote South-South cooperation and exchange.
2. The grouping was formalised and named the IBSA Dialogue Forum after the Brasilia Declaration.

Which of the above statements given above is/are correct?

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

145. Consider the following statements about the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO):

1. SCO is a permanent intergovernmental international organization.
2. The SCO's member states include both India and Pakistan.
3. The SCO's main objectives include promoting cooperation between its member states in the areas of security, economy, and culture.

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

146. Consider the following statements regarding Trade Policy Forum (TPF):

1. It is the policy group between India and US to accelerate their economic ties.
2. The US is India's largest exporter and trade partner, while India is the 9th largest trading partner for the US.

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

147. Doha Political Declaration is related to which of following?

- A. To put Least Developed Countries back on track to achieve SDGs
- B. To restart diplomatic relations with neighbour Saudi Arabia
- C. To facilitate the withdrawal of US led NATO forces from Afghanistan
- D. None of the Above

148. With reference to the International Criminal Court (ICC), consider the following statements:

1. ICC is governed by an international treaty called 'The Rome Statute'.
2. The International Criminal Court under the United Nations mainly hears disputes between nations.

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

149. Consider the following statements:

1. Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP) is an infrastructure project in Maldives operationalized by India.
2. The project is funded by India through Line of Credit (LOC) which can be accessed as needed.

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

150. Consider the following statements regarding Interpol:

1. It was established following World War II, to facilitate criminal investigation of police forces across the globe.
2. India is one of the founding members of Interpol.

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. Regarding the 'Elimination of Racial Discrimination', consider the following statements:

1. Every year 21st March is marked as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.
2. Pass Laws was a system used to control the movement of Black, Indian and Coloured people in South Africa.

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

152. With reference to Raisina Dialogue, consider the following statements:

1. It is a flagship conference on "geopolitics and geo-strategy" organized by the India Foundation.
2. It is a multi-stakeholder event, which includes cross-sectoral discussions, involving heads of state and cabinet ministers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

153. Consider the following statements:

1. It is located in the Gulf of Persia.
2. It is the only Iranian port with direct access to the ocean.
3. It is situated in the Khorasan province of Iran.
4. The port offers a gateway to trade opportunities between India, Iran, Afghanistan and central Asian countries.

Which of the following statements about Chabahar port is/are correct?

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

154. Recently, India and Australia signed the Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA), consider the following statements regarding MLSA:

1. It will increase military interoperability through defence exercises and allow both militaries the reciprocal use of bases.
2. Earlier India has such agreements with only US.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

155. With the reference to General Data Protection Regulation, consider the following statements:

1. It focuses on a comprehensive data protection law for processing of personal data.
2. This US law seeks to protect an individual's dignity and her right over the data she generates.

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: B

Exp:

- The **International Organization for Migration** originated in 1951 as the Provisional Intergovernmental Committee for the Movement of Migrants from Europe (PICMME) after **World War II**'s chaos. Also, the UN has only 16 specialized agencies and IOM is not one of them. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The **International Organization for Migration** currently has 175 Member States and 8 states with Observer status. **India** became an IOM Member State on 18th June 2008. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

2. Ans: A

Exp:

India and Brazil conducted their **first-ever '2+2' defence and foreign ministerial dialogue**, discussing cooperation in key areas.

- The talks focused on expanding cooperation in various areas, including energy, critical **minerals**, technology, and **counter-terrorism**.
- The '2+2' defence and foreign ministerial dialogue involves the participation of the **defence and foreign ministers of two countries**, along with their respective counterparts, to discuss strategic and security-related issues, as well as diplomatic matters. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- India conducts '2+2' dialogues with key strategic partners: the US, Australia, Japan, and Russia. The US holds the oldest and most significant '2+2' talks partnership with India. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

3. Ans: D

Exp:

- International Labor Organisation (ILO) is the **only tripartite United Nations (UN) agency**. It **brings together governments**, employers and workers of 187 Member States (India is a member), to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1969.
- It was established in 1919 by the Treaty of Versailles as an affiliated agency of the League of Nations and became the first affiliated specialised agency of the UN in 1946. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland

4. Ans: B

Exp:

European Free Trade Association (EFTA):

- EFTA comprises Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland, all non-EU members. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Established in 1960 by the Stockholm Convention, it seeks to enhance free trade and economic integration for the benefit of its four Member States and global trading partners. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) recently signed the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA).

5. Ans: B

Exp:

India-Indonesia Relations:● **Commercial Relations:**

- ◆ Indonesia has emerged as the **second largest trading partner of India in the ASEAN region**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- ◆ Bilateral trade has increased from USD 4.3 billion in 2005-06 to USD 38.84 billion in 2022-23.

● **Political Relations:**

- ◆ Both countries were chief supporters of independence for Asian and African countries, leading to the **Bandung Conference of 1955 and the formation of the Non-Aligned Movement in 1961**.
- ◆ Since India adopted the **'Look East Policy' in 1991**, there has been rapid development in bilateral relations.
- ◆ Both countries are members of **G20, East Asia Summit and the United Nations**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

● **Cultural Relations:**

- ◆ The **Hindu, Buddhist and later Muslim faiths** travelled to Indonesia from the shores of India.
- ◆ The stories from the great epics of **Ramayana and Mahabharata** form a source of Indonesian folk art and dramas. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**



6. Ans: A

Exp:

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD):

- IFAD is an international financial institution and specialized United Nations agency working in the field of poverty eradication in the rural areas of developing countries providing grants and loans with low interest for allied projects. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- It was created in 1977, which is the outcome of the World Food Conference of 1974.
- It has 177 member countries. India is also a member country. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

7. Ans: D

Exp:

- 'Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)' is a regional grouping aimed to promote economic integration and shared development of the West African sub-region.
- ECOWAS established its free trade area in 1990 and adopted a common external tariff in January 2015. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- It was established in May 1975 by 15 West African countries in Lagos, Nigeria.
- **Founding members:** Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sénégal, and Togo.
- Headquarters: Abuja, Nigeria.
- It has also worked to address some security issues by developing a peacekeeping force for conflicts in the region. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Troops were initially sent to Liberia in 1990 during its civil war and to Sierra Leone in 1997 following the overthrow of a democratically elected government.
- India has maintained a longstanding association with ECOWAS, earning the status of an observer to the organization in 2004. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

8. Ans: B

Exp:

India- Bhutan Relations:

- Bhutan serves as a buffer state between India and China, two Asian giants with complex relations. Bhutan's strategic location provides India with an additional layer of security against potential threats from the north. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- India is Bhutan's top trade partner both as an import source and as an export destination. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

- The two countries commissioned the first-ever joint venture project, the 600 MW Kholongchhu Hydropower Project. The project is aimed at generating surplus hydroelectricity for Bhutan which will be exported to India aiding Bhutan's revenue as well as employment generation.

- The Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project (HEPP) is a 720MW run-of-river power plant built on the Mangdechhu River in Trongsa Dzongkhag District, central Bhutan. The Indian Government funded the project through a 70% loan and a 30% grant. It is not a joint venture between India and Bhutan. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

9. Ans: C

Exp:

India-UAE Relations:

- India-UAE signed agreements on the interlinking of digital payment platforms- UPI (India) and AANI (UAE). Hence, statement 1 is correct.
 - ◆ This will facilitate seamless cross-border transactions between India and UAE, enhancing financial connectivity and cooperation.
- The Indian Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of Bharat Mart, which aims to integrate retail, warehousing, and logistics services at Jebel Ali Free Trade Zone in Dubai, potentially boosting exports from India's micro, small, and medium sectors by offering them access to international buyers in the Gulf, West Asia, Africa, and Eurasia. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

10. Ans: D

Exp:

European Free Trade Association (EFTA):

- The EFTA is the intergovernmental organization of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland (all four are not a part of the EU).
- It was founded by the Stockholm Convention in 1960.
- It aims to promote free trade and economic integration to the benefit of its four Member States and their trading partners around the globe.
- Hence, option D is correct.



11. Ans: B

Exp:

- The **Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan** is a series of high-level meetings involving **National Security Advisers (NSA)** or **senior security officials** from countries in the region, including **Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, China, Russia, India, and other Central Asian states**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan follows the objective of UNSCR 2593. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
 - ◆ The resolution, passed by the **15-member organ (UNSC)**, calls for the prevention of **Afghan territory** from being used to pose threats or launch attacks against any nation.
 - ◆ The adoption of the resolution is a strong signal from the Security Council and the international community on its expectations in respect of Afghanistan.

12. Ans: C

Exp:

Line of Actual Control (LAC) vs Line of Control (LoC):

- The LAC serves as the **boundary separating Indian-controlled territory from Chinese-controlled territory**.
 - ◆ India asserts the length of the LAC to be 3,488 km, whereas China contends it to be approximately 2,000 km.
 - ◆ This demarcation is categorized into **three sectors**:
 - ◆ **Eastern sector** encompassing Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim.
 - ◆ **Middle sector** spanning Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.
 - ◆ **Western sector** located in Ladakh.
 - ◆ India and China have **only exchanged maps for the middle sector of the LAC**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- The **Line of Control (LoC) was established in 1972 after the Kashmir War**, based on the ceasefire line negotiated by the UN in 1948. It has international legal validity and is delineated on a map signed by both countries. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
 - ◆ On the other hand, the LAC is not agreed upon by both countries and is not delineated on a map or demarcated on the ground.

13. Ans: C

Exp:

Interpol Notice:

- **INTERPOL Notices:** are international requests for cooperation or alerts allowing police in member countries to share critical crime-related information.
- **Types of Notices:** Red, Yellow, Blue, Black, Green, Orange, Purple, and INTERPOL–United Nations Security Council Special Notice.
- **Blue Notice:** Referred to as an "**enquiry notice**," enables police forces in member states to exchange crucial crime-related information, including verifying a person's criminal record and location, among other details. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - ◆ Blue Corner notices are issued **before** the filing of **criminal charges**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- **Red Notice:** Issued by a member state to **apprehend a wanted** criminal through extradition or other lawful means, targeting individuals sought by national jurisdictions for prosecution or to serve a sentence following an arrest warrant or court ruling.

14. Ans: D

Exp:

- **The Raisina Dialogue:** It is an annual conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics, which aims to address the most challenging issues faced by the world. Delhi-based think tank **Observer Research Foundation (ORF)**, in partnership with the Ministry of **External Affairs, India** hosts the conference. Hence, **pair 1 is not correctly matched**.
- **Munich Security Conference (MSC):** Held annually in **Munich, Germany**, the MSC is one of the most prominent forums for discussing international security policy. Hence, **pair 2 is not correctly matched**.
- **Shangri-La Dialogue:** Organised by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) and held **annually in Singapore**, the Shangri-La Dialogue focuses on security issues in the Asia-Pacific region. Hence, **pair 3 is not correctly matched**.

15. Ans: D

Exp:

- **Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI)** offers **non-NATO countries in the broader Middle East** region the opportunity to cooperate with NATO, aiming to enhance regional security. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.



- "NATO plus" denotes a security coalition comprising NATO and five US treaty allies — Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Israel, and South Korea — aimed at bolstering global **defense cooperation** and prevailing in strategic competition against the Chinese Communist Party. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

16. Ans: B

Exp:

About Act East Policy:

- The 'Act East Policy' announced in **November 2014** is the upgrade of the "Look East Policy". It is a diplomatic initiative to promote economic, strategic and cultural relations with the vast Asia-Pacific region at different levels. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- **Initiatives to Enhance Connectivity under Act East Policy:**
 - ◆ Agartala-Akhaura Rail Link between India and Bangladesh. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ Intermodal transport linkages and inland waterways through Bangladesh.
 - ◆ The Trilateral Highway Project links the Northeast region of India with Myanmar and Thailand. **Hence, Statement 3 is not correct.**

17. Ans: C

Exp:

India-Italy Relations:

- **Migration and Mobility Agreement:** The agreement is set to strengthen cooperation on issues related to irregular migration while bolstering people-to-people ties between India and Italy. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It facilitates mobility for various segments, including students, skilled workers, businesspersons, and young professionals, fostering exchange and collaboration.
- Italy is among **India's top 5** trading partners in the European Union. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ The bilateral trade between the two countries was valued at USD 14.25 billion in 2022-23.
 - ◆ The main items of Indian exports to Italy are ready-made garments, leather, iron ore, motor vehicles, textiles, chemicals, gems & jewellery.

18. Ans: B

Exp:

India-Myanmar relations:

- Myanmar is the **only Southeast Asian country** that shares a land border with northeastern India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- As part of India's **SAGAR Vision**, India developed the **Sittwe port in Myanmar's Rakhine state**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- ◆ The port is meant to be India's answer to the **Chinese-fronted Kyaukpyu port**, which is intended to cement China's geostrategic footprint in Rakhine.

- **Free Movement Regime (FMR)**, implemented in 2018, allows people residing on either side of the **India-Myanmar border** to venture **16 km** into each other's territory without a visa. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

19. Ans: D

Exp:

India-Maldives Relations:

- **Eight Degree Channel separates** Indian Minicoy (part of Lakshadweep Islands) from that of Maldives. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Defense cooperation** extends to the areas of Joint Exercises - "Ekuverin", "Dosti", "Ekatha" and "Operation Shield" (begun in 2021). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **India** provides the **largest number of training opportunities** for the Maldivian National Defence Force (MNDF), meeting around 70% of their defense training requirements. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

20. Ans: A

Exp:

- Three cross-border transmission lines were jointly inaugurated between India and **Nepal** including the 132 kV **Raxaul-Parwanipur**, 132 kV **Kushaha-Kataiya**, and **New Nautanwa-Mainahiya** lines. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- India has the **longest boundary with Bangladesh**, followed by China. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- India is **Nepal's largest trade partner** and the largest source of foreign investments, besides providing transit for almost the entire third-country trade of Nepal. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

21. Ans: C

Exp:

- Uganda is a beneficiary of the **Duty-Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) Scheme of India** for Least Developed Countries (LDCs). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ Major items of Indian exports to Uganda include pharmaceutical products, vehicles, plastic, paper and paperboard, organic chemicals.



- ◆ Major commodities of imports from Uganda to India are edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers, coffee, tea, mate and spices and cocoa and cocoa preparation.

- A **Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement** between India and Uganda is in effect since 2004. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

22. Ans: C

Exp:

Group of 77 (G77):

- The **Group of 77 (G-77)** was established on 15 June 1964 by seventy-seven developing countries signatories of the "Joint Declaration of the Seventy-Seven Developing Countries" issued at the end of the first session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (**UNCTAD**) in Geneva.
- Although the members of the G-77 have increased to 134 countries, the original name was retained due to its historic significance. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is the largest intergovernmental organization of developing countries in the United Nations. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Chairmanship, which is the highest political body within the organizational structure of the Group of 77, **rotates on a regional basis** (between Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean) and is **held for one year in all the Chapters**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ **Chapters** refer to the **regional divisions**, currently, Uganda is the chairman, acts as the spokesperson and coordinates the actions of the G-77 on behalf of the member countries within the African Chapter.

23. Ans: C

Exp:

India and France:

- India and France in September 2022 agreed to set up an **Indo-Pacific Trilateral Development Cooperation Fund** that will support sustainable innovative solutions for countries in the Indo-Pacific region. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The first edition of the India, France, and United Arab Emirates (UAE) **Maritime Partnership Exercise** commenced on 7th June 2023 in the Gulf of Oman, featuring the participation of INS Tarkash, French Ship Surcouf, French Rafale aircraft, and UAE Navy Maritime Patrol Aircraft. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- ◆ It emphasizes the exchange of best practices and paves the way for greater naval collaboration among India, France, and the UAE.

24. Ans: A

Exp:

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA):

- UNRWA was established in **1949** to provide aid to **Palestinians** who were displaced during the **1948 Arab-Israeli war**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It operates in **Gaza, Israeli-occupied West Bank, Lebanon**, Syria, and Jordan, offering education, health, relief, social services, microfinance, and emergency assistance programs. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ The agency currently serves around **5.9 million Palestinian** refugees and plays a vital role in providing essential services to Palestinians in Gaza.

25. Ans: B

Exp:

India- Bangladesh Relationships:

- India and Bangladesh share 4096.7 km of border; the **longest land boundary** that India shares with any of its neighbours. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ Assam, West Bengal, Mizoram, Meghalaya, and Tripura share borders with Bangladesh.
- India and Bangladesh **share 54 common rivers**, but only two treaties have been signed so far of Ganga Waters Treaty and The Kushiyara River Treaty. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Bangladesh has emerged as **India's largest trade partner in South Asia**, with bilateral trade reaching USD 18 billion in 2021-2022 from USD 10.8 billion in 2020-21.
 - ◆ **India is also the second biggest trade partner of Bangladesh**, with exports amounting to USD 2 billion in Indian markets. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

26. Ans : B

Exp:

About India -Nepal Relations:

- India and Nepal, being immediate neighbors, enjoy special bonds of friendship and collaboration marked by an open border and strong people-to-people connections rooted in kinship and culture.



- Nepal shares a border of over 1850 km with **five Indian states – Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- The **India-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship of 1950** forms the bedrock of the special relations that exist between India and Nepal. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- India is **Nepal's largest trade partner** and the **largest source of foreign investments**, besides providing transit for almost the entire third country trade of Nepal. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

27. Ans: D

Exp:

Migration and Mobility Agreement between India and Italy:

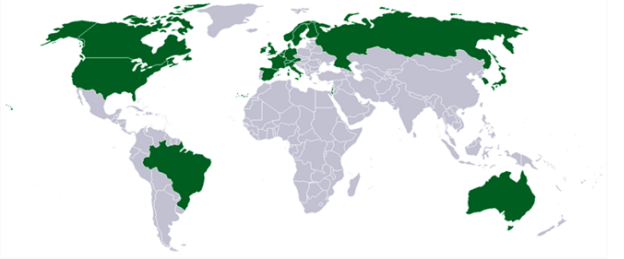
- The agreement is set to strengthen cooperation on issues related to **irregular migration** while bolstering people-to-people ties between India and Italy.
 - ◆ It facilitates mobility for various segments, including **students, skilled workers, businesspersons, and young professionals**, fostering exchange and collaboration.
- **Temporary Residence for Indian Students:** Graduates seeking professional exposure in Italy post-academic or vocational training can secure temporary residency for **up to 12 months**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- **Reserved Quotas for Workers:** The agreement outlines **quotas for non-seasonal and seasonal Indian workers**, with a reserved quota range over the years 2023-2025 under the existing Flows Decree. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
 - ◆ The Italian government's annual "**Flow Decree (Decreto Flussi)**" sets the maximum number of non-EU citizens who can enter Italy for work and self-employment. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

28. Ans: A

Exp :

- The Paris Club is a group of **mostly western creditor countries that grew from a 1956 meeting** in which Argentina agreed to meet its public creditors in Paris.
 - ◆ It describes itself as a forum where official creditors meet to solve payment difficulties faced by debtor countries. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- India is **not a member of Paris Club**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

- The members are: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Russia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States.



29. Ans: A

Exp:

- '**Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)**' is an international food standards body established jointly by the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** and the **World Health Organization (WHO)**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - India has been unanimously elected as a member representing the Asian region in the Executive Committee of Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) during its 46th meeting at Food and Agriculture organization (FAO) headquarters at Rome.
 - The **Agreement on Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)** of the **World Trade Organization (WTO)** recognizes **Codex standards, guidelines and recommendations** as reference standards for international trade and trade dispute settlement. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
 - Currently the Codex Alimentarius Commission has 189 Codex Members made up of 188 Member Countries and one Member Organization (The European Union).
 - The objective of '**Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)**' is to protect consumer's health and ensure **fair practices** in the **food trade**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
30. Ans: A
- Exp:
- The first session of **MAHASAGAR**, the **Indian Navy's initiative**, brought together maritime leaders from diverse nations within the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.
 - Theme: '**Collective Maritime Approach towards Countering Common Challenges**'.

- **MAHASAGAR** stands for **Maritime Heads for Active Security And Growth for All** in the Region.
- It aims to create a platform for **high-level interactions** fostering cooperation among IOR nations.
- Participating nations included several members such as **Bangladesh**, Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, **Maldives**, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, **Sri Lanka**, and **Tanzania**. Hence, **option A is correct**.

31. Ans: D

Exp:

- **Gujral Doctrine:**
 - ◆ It encourages a **unilateral approach to extend cooperation** and support to neighboring countries without expecting immediate reciprocity.
 - ◆ The doctrine underscores the importance of **resolving disputes through peaceful means** and building trust in the South Asian region.
- **Panchsheel:**
 - ◆ The principles include **mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity** and sovereignty, non-aggression, non-interference in internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence.
- **Policy of Non-Alignment:**
 - ◆ Non-alignment implies that a **country does not align itself with any major power bloc or alliance**, maintaining independence in foreign policy.
 - ◆ The goal is to promote sovereignty, peace, and development by avoiding entanglement in military alliances and conflicts between major powers.
- **Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes:**
 - ◆ This principle emphasizes **resolving international conflicts through peaceful means** rather than resorting to war or aggression.
 - ◆ Methods for peaceful settlement **include negotiation, mediation, arbitration, and adjudication** through international organizations.
 - ◆ Hence, **option D is correct**.

32. Ans: B

Exp:

Charter of the United Nations

- The Charter of the UN is the founding document of the UN. It was signed on 26th June 1945, in San Francisco and came into force on 24th October 1945.

- The UN Charter is an instrument of international law, and **UN Member States** are bound by it. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The **International Court of Justice (ICJ)**, the primary judicial body of the United Nations, operates by its Statute, annexed to the UN Charter as an integral part. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- Article 99 is a provision within the United Nations Charter, serving as the U.N.'s constitution.
 - ◆ It empowers the secretary-general to **bring attention to the Security Council** about matters that, in their opinion, could **threaten international peace and security**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

33. Ans: A

Exp:

China's Belt and Road Initiative:

- The **BRI**, represents a **multifaceted development strategy** aimed at enhancing **global connectivity and cooperation**.
- It was **launched in 2013** and aims to **link Southeast Asia, Central Asia, the Gulf region, Africa and Europe** with a network of land and sea routes. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The project was first named the **'One Belt, One Road'** but was renamed as the BRI to **convey a more open and inclusive initiative** as opposed to a Chinese-dominated one.
- **India opposes** the project on the grounds of **sovereignty and transparency**. **India has boycotted the BRI summits** held by China in 2017, and 2019 and has not endorsed the BRI joint statements issued by the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).
- India never joined the project. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

34. Ans: D

Exp:

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR):

- The UDHR, established in 1948, **is not a legally binding treaty in itself**. However, its principles have been widely adopted and integrated into the legal frameworks of numerous countries. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- The UDHR, together with the **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights** and its two Optional Protocols (on the complaints procedure and on the death penalty) and the **International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights** and its Optional Protocol, form the so-called International Bill of Human Rights. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.



35. Ans: D

Exp:

- A **Truth and Reconciliation Commission**, also known as a **'truth and justice commission'** or simply, a **'truth commission'**, is an official mechanism to not just acknowledge, but also reveal, wrongdoings by a government or sometimes non-state actors. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- The truth commission is one that is focused on the past, rather than in ongoing events.
- It investigates a pattern of events that took place over a period of time.
- The commission engages directly and broadly with the affected population, gathering information on their experiences. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- It is a **temporary body**, with the aim of concluding with a final report.
- Commission is officially authorized or empowered by the state under review.
- The two best known and most consequential commissions are considered to be set up in **South Africa, Australia and Canada.**
- In India's neighborhood, truth commissions have been set up in Sri Lanka and Nepal. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**

36. Ans: A

Exp:

Asian Development Bank (ADB):

- **ADB is a regional development bank** established in **1966** with the objective of promoting social and economic development in **Asia and the Pacific.** **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ It has 68 members; 49 are from within Asia and the Pacific and 19 outside.
- India is a **founding member.** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **ADB assists its members** and partners by providing loans, technical assistance, grants, and equity investments to promote social and economic development.
- As of **31st December 2022**, **ADB's five largest shareholders** are **Japan and the US** (each with 15.6% of total shares), **China** (6.4%), **India** (6.3%), and **Australia** (5.8%). **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- It is headquartered in Manila, Philippines.

37. Ans: B

Exp:

Arab League:

- **Arab League**, also called the **League of Arab States (LAS)**, is an intergovernmental **pan-Arab organization** of all Arab states in the **Middle East and North Africa.** **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It was **formed in Cairo, Egypt on 22nd March 1945**, following the adoption of the **Alexandria Protocol in 1944.** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Currently, there are 22 Arab countries:** Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

38. Ans: A

Exp:

- India signed the **Svalbard Treaty in Paris in 1920.** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- India has operated a research base in the Arctic named **Himadri Since 2008**, which has been mostly **hosting scientists during the summer (April to October).**
- **Dakshin Gangotri in Antarctica** was set up much earlier in **1983.** Dakshin Gangotri is now submerged under ice, but **India's two other stations, Maitri and Bharti, are in use.**
- **Scientific research in the Arctic region** is governed by international legal instruments like the **Svalbard Treaty of 1920 and the UN Convention on the Law of the Seas**, apart from the **individual jurisdictions of the Arctic countries.** **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Recently, The Union Minister of Earth Sciences flagged off **India's first winter scientific expedition** to the Arctic. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

39. Ans: B

Exp:

International Cooperations:

- India and the United States cooperate closely at multilateral organizations, including the **United Nations, G-20, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and World Trade Organization.**
- India is one of twelve countries partnering with the United States on the **Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF).** **Hence, option 1 is correct.**



- India is a member of the **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)**, at which the United States is a **dialogue partner**. Hence, **option 2 is not correct**.
- In **2021**, the United States joined the **International Solar Alliance** headquartered in India, and in 2022 the United States Agency for International **Development (USAID)**. Hence, **option 3 is correct**.

40. Ans: A

Exp:

- The Organization of the **Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)** is a permanent, intergovernmental organization, created at the **Baghdad Conference in 1960**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
 - ◆ It aims to manage the supply of oil in an effort to set the price of oil in the world market, in order to avoid fluctuations that might affect the economies of both producing and purchasing countries.
- It is headquartered in **Vienna, Austria**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- **Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela** are its founding members. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

41. Ans: A

Exp:

- **Members of the Arctic Council:** Ottawa Declaration declares **Canada**, the Kingdom of **Denmark**, Finland, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden and the United States of America as a member of the Arctic Council.
 - ◆ Denmark represents Greenland and the Faroe Islands.
- **Observer status:** It is open to non-Arctic states, along with inter-governmental, inter-parliamentary, global, regional and non-governmental organizations that the Council determines can contribute to its work. It is approved by the Council at the Ministerial Meetings that occur once every two years
 - ◆ Arctic Council Observers primarily contribute through their engagement in the Council at the level of Working Groups.
 - ◆ Observers have no voting rights in the Council.
 - ◆ As of 2022, thirteen non-Arctic states have **Observer status**.
 - Germany, 1998
 - Netherlands, 1998

- **Poland, 1998**
- United Kingdom, 1998
- France, 2000
- Spain, 2006
- **China, 2013**
- **India, 2013**
- Italy, 2013
- Japan, 2013
- South Korea, 2013
- Singapore, 2013
- Switzerland, 2017

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

42. Ans: A

Exp:

Transparency International:

- It is an international non-governmental organisation founded in 1993 based in Berlin, Germany
- Its non-profit purpose is to take action to combat global Corruption with civil societal anti-corruption measures and to prevent criminal activities arising from corruption.
- Its most notable publications include the **Global Corruption Barometer** and the Corruption Perception Index. Hence, **option A is correct**.

43. Ans: B

Exp:

- Established in 1975 through the Lagos Treaty, the **ECOWAS (CEDEAO in French)** is a **regional intergovernmental organization** promoting economic integration and cooperation among West African nations. Hence, **Statement 1 is correct**.
- It aims to achieve **economic integration, free movement of people and goods**, and regional cooperation across sectors. Additionally, it seeks to establish a borderless region governed by democratic principles and address security challenges through collaborative conflict resolution. Hence, **Statement 2 is correct**.
- ECOWAS consists of 15 member states: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cote d' Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Senegal, and Togo.
 - ◆ **Headquarters: Abuja, Nigeria**. Hence, **Statement 3 is not correct**.



44. Ans: B

Exp:

International Maritime Organisation (IMO):

● **About:**

- ◆ The IMO is a specialised agency of the United Nations (UN) that is responsible for regulating shipping and preventing marine pollution from ships. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- ◆ IMO was established in 1948 following a UN conference in Geneva and came into existence in 1958.

● **Members:**

- ◆ IMO has 175 Member States and three Associate Members, and its headquarters are in London, United Kingdom.
 - India is one of the **founding members** of IMO. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

● **Structure of IMO:**

- ◆ IMO is **governed by an assembly of members**, which meets every two years, and a council of 40 members, which is elected by the assembly for a two-year period.
 - The Assembly is the highest Governing Body of the IMO. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- ◆ The IMO Council, being the executive organ, is responsible for supervising the organization's work, especially in maritime safety and pollution prevention.

45. Ans: C

Exp:

- LeadIT is a global initiative that aims to accelerate the transition of challenging sectors such as steel, cement, chemicals, aviation, and shipping to **low-carbon pathways**. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- The LeadIT gathers countries and companies that are committed to action to achieve the **Paris Agreement**.
- It was launched by the governments of Sweden and India at the United Nations **Climate Action Summit in 2019** and is supported by the World Economic Forum. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
- The LeadIT Secretariat is responsible for managing the work of the Leadership Group.
- LeadIT, boasting **38 members**, encompasses countries and companies. Notably, India is an **active participant**. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**

- LeadIT members subscribe to the notion that energy-intensive industries can and must progress on low-carbon pathways, aiming to **achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050**.

46. Ans: B

Exp:

Global Initiatives Related to Road Safety:

● **Brasilia Declaration on Road Safety (2015):**

- ◆ The declaration was signed at the second Global High-Level Conference on Road Safety held in Brazil. India is a signatory to the Declaration. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ◆ The countries plan to achieve **Sustainable Development Goal 3.6** i.e., to halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents by 2030.

● **Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021-2030:**

- ◆ The **UN General Assembly** adopted resolution "Improving global road safety" with the ambitious target of preventing at least 50% of road traffic deaths and injuries by 2030. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- ◆ The Global Plan aligns with the **Stockholm Declaration**, by emphasizing the importance of a holistic approach to road safety.

● **The International Road Assessment Programme (iRAP) :**

- ◆ It is a registered charity dedicated to saving lives through safer roads.

47. Ans: D

Exp:

- The **IMO** is a **specialized agency of the United Nations (UN)** that is responsible for regulating shipping and preventing marine pollution from ships.
 - ◆ **IMO** was established in **1948** following a **UN conference in Geneva** and came into existence in 1958. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **India joined the IMO in 1959**. India maintains to be in **Category B of the IMO Council**, highlighting its **consistent commitment to maritime affairs**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**



48. Ans: D

Exp:

Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA):

- The IPMDA, introduced by the **Quad group** (consisting of India, Australia, Japan, and the US) at the Tokyo summit, 2022, aims to monitor "**dark shipping**" and **create a more comprehensive and precise real-time maritime overview of partner nations' waters. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- ◆ It focuses on **integrating the Pacific Islands, Southeast Asia, and the Indian Ocean region (IOR) in the Indo-Pacific. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Dark Shipping

- Dark shipping is a term used to describe a vessel operating with its Automatic **Identification System (AIS)** turned off. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- AIS transponder systems transmit a ship's position at sea, alongside identification data and other useful information that vessels and maritime authorities can reference.

49. Ans: B

Exp:

- The **Wuhan Declaration** was adopted at the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties(COP14) to the **Ramsar Convention**. The declaration called for strong will and practical actions to promote the **conservation, restoration, management as well as wise and sustainable use of wetlands worldwide. Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- The **Brundtland Report** included chapters covering, among other topics within **sustainable development**, the role of the international economy, population and human resources, food security, species and ecosystems, energy, industry, and proposed legal principles for environmental protection. **Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.**
- The Bletchley Park Declaration is the first global pact on tackling frontier AI risks, and it reflects a high-level political consensus and **commitment among the major AI players in the world. Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**

50. Ans: A

Exp:

- India invited **Ethiopia** to collaborate on integrating the **Unified Payment Interface (UPI)** with **Ethiopia's Ethswitch**. **Ethswitch** is a payment platform infrastructure in Ethiopia. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The India-Ethiopia JTC is a bilateral forum that meets periodically to review and enhance trade and investment relations between the two countries.
- India urged Ethiopia to explore settling trade transactions in the local currency for enhanced bilateral trade and conservation of foreign exchange.
- Health and pharmaceuticals, automobiles, textiles, infrastructure projects, food, and agro-processing are identified as key sectors for mutual investments.
- **India is one of the largest sources** of long-term concessional credit to Ethiopia, with over for sectors such as **rural electrification, sugar industry and railways. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

51. Ans: A

Exp:

- The **World Local Production Forum (WLPF)** is a platform initiated by the **World Health Organization (WHO)** with the goal of increasing access to medicines and **health technologies. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It provides a global platform to discuss key challenges in promoting local production and technology transfer.
- The **Local Production and Assistance (LPA) Unit** serves as the WLPF Secretariat. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It promotes **sustainable local production** capacity to **improve access to quality, safe and effective health products and technologies.**
 - ◆ This forum provides **Member States** and the **global community** with a regular platform to shape strategies for **sustainable local production (and not eco-friendly production) of quality-assured health products. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ Here sustainable production is basically trying to **maintain the supply of medicines and health technology.**
 - **Eco-friendly technologies** are those technologies which basically protect the **environment** from **emission of gasses and liquids or solid wastes** which has not been considered in WLPF.

52. Ans: A

Exp:

Loss and Damage Fund:

- The '**Loss and Damage**' (**L&D**) fund is a financial mechanism designed to address the irreversible consequences of climate change that cannot be avoided or mitigated through adaptation efforts.



- This fund recognizes and aims to compensate for the real losses incurred by communities, countries, and ecosystems due to the impacts of climate change. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **After intense negotiations at COP 27**, representatives of the **UNFCCC's** member states agreed to set up the L&D fund. Additionally, a Transitional Committee (TC) was established to figure out how the new funding mechanisms under the fund would operate. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The TC was tasked with preparing recommendations for countries to consider, deliberate on, and potentially adopt by COP 28.

53. Ans: C

Exp:

India-US Relation:

- The **2+2 meetings** have been held **annually** with the US leaders since 2018. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The 2+2 meetings **signify the participation of two high-level representatives**, Ministers holding **Foreign and Defence portfolios**, from each of the two countries who aim to enhance the scope of dialogue between them.
- Over the years, the strategic bilateral relationship with its partners, including the dialogues held in the 2+2 format, has **produced tangible and far-reaching results** for India.
- India and the US have four foundational defense agreements:
 - ◆ Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geospatial Intelligence (**BECA**).
 - ◆ General Security of Military Information Agreement (**GSOMIA**).
 - ◆ Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (**LEMOA**).
 - ◆ Communication Compatibility and Security Agreement (**COMCASA**). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

54. Ans: B

Exp:

Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC):

- The **Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)** is a permanent, intergovernmental organization, created at the Baghdad Conference in 1960. It is headquartered in Vienna, Austria. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- OPEC membership is **open to any country** that is a **substantial exporter of oil** and which shares the ideals of the organization.
- **Ecuador** suspended its membership in December 1992, rejoined OPEC in October 2007, but decided to withdraw its membership of OPEC effective 1 January 2020. **Indonesia** suspended its membership in January 2009, and reactivated it again in January 2016, but decided to suspend its membership once more at the 171st Meeting of the OPEC Conference on 30 November 2016. **Gabon** terminated its membership in January 1995. However, it rejoined the Organization in July 2016. **Qatar** terminated its membership on 1 January 2019. This means that, currently, the Organization has **a total of 13 Member Countries**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- With the addition of another 11 allied major oil-producing countries including Russia, the grouping is known as OPEC+. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

55. Ans: A

Exp:

Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI)

- The **Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI)** is a partnership forum that aims to **contribute to long-term global and regional security** by **offering non-NATO countries** in the **broader Middle East region** the opportunity to cooperate with NATO. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates** currently participate in the Initiative. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The Istanbul Cooperation Initiative was **established at the 2004 NATO Summit** in Istanbul to promote security cooperation on a bilateral basis between NATO and partner countries in the broader Middle East region.
- Currently, **four countries participating in the Gulf Cooperation Council – Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)** – have joined the Initiative, while Oman and Saudi Arabia participate in selected activities within the ICI framework.
- Initial consultations were held with members of the Gulf Cooperation Council, but the **Initiative is open to all interested countries in the Middle East** that support the objectives and principles of the ICI.
- Activities under the **Initiative range from defence planning and defence budgeting to the fight against terrorism**, the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and civil preparedness.

- The Initiative is **based on a foundation of six core principles:** non-discrimination, self-differentiation, two-way engagement, non-imposition, diversity and complementarity to other international initiatives in the region.

56. Ans: B

Exp:

- Recently, the **Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders' Summit 2023** took place in San Francisco, United States.
 - ◆ The APEC 2023 summit's theme is "Creating a Resilient and Sustainable Future for All".
- APEC reaffirmed their commitment to free, fair, and open trade and investment, and to advancing inclusive and sustainable growth in the region.
- **The summit concluded with the adoption of the Golden Gate Declaration.**
 - ◆ The declaration underscores the commitment to creating a resilient and sustainable future for all member economies. **Hence, option B is correct.**

57. Ans: A

Exp:

World Meteorological Organisation (WMO):

- **As a specialized agency of the United Nations, WMO is dedicated to international cooperation and coordination on the state and behaviour of the Earth's atmosphere, its interaction with the land and oceans, the weather and climate it produces, and the resulting distribution of water resources. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It has a **membership of 192 Member States and Territories.**
- **India is also a member of WMO. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

58. Ans: D

Exp:

India-Australia Relations:

- Australia and India concluded the **Mutual Logistic Support Arrangement (MLSA) in 2020** during the virtual summit between Australia's former Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The agreement **facilitates sophisticated logistic cooperation, enabling increasingly complex military engagement, and greater combined responsiveness to regional humanitarian disasters. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- Engagement between the **Royal Australian Navy and the Indian Navy** has advanced significantly through the **key bilateral exercise, AUSINDEX. In 2019**, the third edition of the biennial exercise saw Australia send over 1000 Australian personnel to India, including five ships, Australian Army forces and RAAF aircraft. In the subsequent exercise held in **Australia in 2021**, India reciprocated sending two ships to participate in an activity, reduced in scope due to Australian COVID restrictions. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- In **June 2020, Australia and India upgraded their Secretaries' 2+2 dialogue** (Defence and Foreign Affairs) **to the Ministerial level.** Ministers from the two countries meet regularly to engage on the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

- Recently, the **2nd India-Australia 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue was held in New Delhi, India**, where foreign Affairs Ministers and Defense Ministers of both countries attended the Meeting. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

59. Ans: B

Exp:

Voice of the Global South Summit (VOGSS):

- India recently concluded its second '**Voice of the Global South Summit**' (VOGSS), held virtually. This summit follows the inaugural summit in **January 2023**, signaling India's commitment to fostering solidarity among nations and **consolidating its leadership in the Global South.**
- The inaugural session centered around '**Together, for Everyone's Growth, with Everyone's Trust**', while the concluding session emphasized '**Global South: Together for One Future.**' **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Global South Center of Excellence 'DAKSHIN':** The Indian PM inaugurated this initiative, aimed at **fostering collaboration among developing nations** by serving as a knowledge repository and think tank. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

60. Ans: A

Exp:

International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO):

- The **International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) is an intergovernmental organization** promoting the **sustainable management and conservation of tropical forests** and the **expansion and diversification of international trade in tropical timber** from sustainably managed and legally harvested forests. **Hence Statement 1 is correct.**



- ITTO was established under the **International Tropical Timber Agreement 1983 (ITTA 1983)**, negotiated under the auspices of the **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- **Members:**
 - ◆ It has **75 countries**, including India. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.
 - ◆ Its members manage about **80% of the world's tropical forests** and are responsible for **90% of the global tropical timber trade**.

61. Ans: B

Exp:

About International Labor Organization :

- It is the only tripartite United Nation (UN) agency. It brings together governments, employers and workers of 187 member States (India is a member), to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - ◆ It received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1969.
- It was established in 1919 by the Treaty of Versailles as an affiliated agency of the League of Nations and became the first affiliated specialized agency of the UN in 1946. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

62. Ans: D

Exp:

About Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC):

- The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation was founded in **1989**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- **Member Nations of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) are**
 - ◆ Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, Vietnam and the United States.
 - ◆ India is not a member of this organization.
 - ◆ **India is not a member of APEC. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

63. Ans: B

Exp:

Washington Treaty – or North Atlantic Treaty:

- The **Washington Treaty – or North Atlantic Treaty** – forms the basis of the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization – or NATO**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- The Treaty was signed in **Washington D.C. on 4 April 1949 by 12 founding members**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- The Treaty derives its authority from **Article 51 of the United Nations Charter**, which reaffirms the inherent right of independent states to individual or collective defense.
- **Collective defense** is at the heart of the Treaty and is enshrined in Article 5. It commits members to protect each other and sets a spirit of solidarity within the Alliance. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
- The **Treaty is short** – containing **only 14 articles** – and provides for in-built flexibility on all fronts.
- Despite the changing security environment, the **original Treaty** has never had to be **modified** and each Ally has the possibility to implement the text in accordance with its capabilities and circumstances.

64. Ans: B

Exp:

India's Energy Conservation Building Code, 2017:

- The International Energy Agency is an **autonomous Intergovernmental Organisation** established in **1974 in Paris, France**. Hence, **Statement 1 is correct**.
- IEA mainly focuses on its energy policies which include economic development, energy security and environmental protection. These policies are also known as the 3 E's of IEA.
- India became an **Associate member of IEA in March 2017** but it was in engagement with IEA long before its association with the organization. Hence, **Statement 3 is not correct**.
 - ◆ Recently, India has inked a **Strategic Partnership Agreement** with the IEA to strengthen cooperation in global energy security, stability and sustainability.
- The World Energy Outlook Report is released by the IEA annually. Hence, **Statement 2 is correct**.
- **IEA Clean Coal Centre** is dedicated to providing independent information and analysis on how **coal can become a cleaner source of energy**, compatible with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.



65. Ans: C

Exp:

- India is Bhutan's largest trading partner and **Bhutan's major export destination. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Bhutan is **one of the few countries in the world** that has pledged to remain **carbon-neutral**, and India has been a key partner in helping Bhutan achieve this goal. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- India has provided assistance to Bhutan in areas such as **Renewable energy, forest conservation, and sustainable tourism.**

66. Ans: B

Exp:

- SCO is a permanent intergovernmental international organization.
- It's a Eurasian political, economic and military organization aiming to maintain peace, security and stability in the region. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- India and Pakistan became members in 2017. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- SCO Secretariat – Based in **Beijing** to provide informational, analytical & organizational support. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

67. Ans: D

Exp:

- **Operation Cactus 1988:** Under **Operation Cactus** the Indian Armed Forces have helped the government of Maldives in the neutralization of the coup attempt. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Operation Neer 2014:** Under Operation Neer India supplied drinking water to Maldives to deal with the drinking water crisis. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

68. Ans: C

Exp:

Belt and Road Initiative (BRI):

- **About:**
 - ◆ The BRI, represents a **multifaceted development strategy aimed at enhancing global connectivity and cooperation.**
 - ◆ It was launched in 2013 and aims to link Southeast Asia, Central Asia, the Gulf region, Africa and Europe with a network of land and sea routes. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The project was first named the '**One Belt, One Road**' but renamed as the BRI to convey a more open and inclusive initiative as opposed to a Chinese-dominated one.

- ◆ The initiative includes two principal components: the **Silk Road Economic Belt and the Maritime Silk Road.**

● **Routes of BRI:**◆ **Silk Road Economic Belt:**

- This segment of the BRI is dedicated to improving connectivity, infrastructure, and **trade links across Eurasia through a network of overland transportation routes. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

◆ **Maritime Silk Road:**

- This component emphasizes maritime connections and cooperation in the form of ports, shipping routes, and maritime infrastructure projects.

- It begins via the South China Sea going towards Indo-China, South-East Asia and then around the Indian Ocean thus reaching Africa and Europe.

● **Geographic Corridors:**

- The land-based Silk Road Economic Belt envisions six key corridors for development:

- **China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).**
- New Eurasian Land Bridge Economic Corridor.
- China-Indochina Peninsula Economic Corridor.
- China-Mongolia-Russia Economic Corridor.
- China-Central Asia-West Asia Economic Corridor.
- China-Myanmar Economic Corridor.

69. Ans: A

Exp:

- The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a significant economic agreement between ASEAN members and Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partners. RCEP is the **world's largest trading bloc.** It is designed to promote economic integration, trade liberalization, and cooperation among member nations. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- RCEP member nations represent over **30% of the global Gross Domestic Product (GDP).** The trading bloc covers about one-third of the world's population. It has the potential to significantly impact global trade. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- The RCEP negotiations began in 2012. It was officially signed in November 2020, marking a major milestone in regional trade. It was entered into force on January 1, 2022. India was a founding member of the RCEP. In 2019, India decided to withdraw from the RCEP negotiations. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

70. Ans: A

Exp:

- The **World Trade Organization (WTO)'s Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement** ensures that **traded products between WTO members do not spread pests and diseases**, and that food products do not contain harmful substances or pathogens.
- The **"SPS Agreement"** entered into force with the establishment of the **WTO on 1 January 1995**.
 - ◆ WTO has 164 member nations (including India and the United States). Hence, option A is correct.

71. Ans: A

Exp:

- The **International Court of Justice (ICJ)** may entertain **two types of cases: legal disputes** between States submitted to it by them (contentious cases) and requests for **advisory opinions on legal questions** referred to it by United Nations organs and specialized agencies (advisory proceedings). Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The ICJ decides disputes and offers guidance in accordance with **international law as reflected in international conventions, international custom, general principles of law** recognized by civilized nations, judicial decisions, and writings of the most highly qualified experts on international law. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- **Statement I** reflects the **duties, roles and responsibilities** of the ICJ and **Statement II** talks about the principles on which the ICJ carry out its **roles and responsibilities**. Hence, **option A is correct**.

72. Ans: A

Exp:

Group of Seven (G7):

- **About:**
 - ◆ It is an intergovernmental **organization that was formed in 1975**.
 - ◆ The bloc meets annually to discuss issues of common interest like global economic governance, international security and energy policy. Hence, **Statement 1 is correct**.

● **Member Countries:**

- ◆ The G7 countries are the **UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the US**. Hence, **Statement 2 is not correct**.
 - All the G7 countries and India are a part of G20.

● **Formal Charter/ Secretariat:**

- ◆ The G7 **does not have a formal charter or a secretariat**. The presidency, which rotates among member countries each year, is in charge of setting the agenda. Hence, **Statement 3 is not correct**.
 - Sherpas, ministers and envoys hammer out policy initiatives before the summit.

73. Ans: A

Exp:

● **About:**

- Hamas is a **Palestinian political armed group that was founded in 1987**. It's a militant group that emerged as a resistance movement against Israeli occupation. Hence, **Statement 1 is correct**.

● **History:**

- ◆ Hamas was created in 1987 as an offshoot of Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood seeking to fulfill its agenda through **violent jihad**.
 - It gained popularity as a resistance movement against Israeli occupation and Fatah.
- ◆ The United States has designated **Hamas a terror organization** since 1997. Many other countries, including Israel and most of Europe, see it the same way. Hence, **Statement 2 is not correct**.

74. Ans: A

Exp:

Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations:

● **About:**

- ◆ The **Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961)** is established to **define fundamental principles** and terms governing how countries must treat each other's diplomatic representatives.
 - It was adopted on **14th April 1961** by the **United Nations Conference on Diplomatic Intercourse and Immunities** held at the Neue Hofburg in Vienna, Austria. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.



- ◆ It entered into force on 24th April, 1964, and is nearly universally ratified, with Palau and South Sudan being the exceptions. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- ◆ It aims to foster friendly relations and maintain effective communication channels between nations.
- ◆ Today, 193 countries have ratified the convention.
 - India ratified it through the **Diplomatic Relations (Vienna Convention) Act of 1972.**

75. Ans: A

Exp:

- In 1992, India established full **diplomatic relations with Israel**, marking a significant shift. Despite this, India continued to voice support for the Palestinian cause. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**
- India's official position on the Israel-Palestine conflict remains unchanged, advocating for a **two-state solution with Israel and Palestine** as good neighbors. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- In 2017, **India** voted against the U.S. and Israel for an attempt to declare unilaterally all of Jerusalem as the Israeli capital. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct.**

76. Ans: B

Exp:

- The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) is a multilateral treaty aimed at banning all nuclear explosions, whether for military or peaceful purposes.
 - ◆ The roots of the CTBT can be traced back to the Cold War era when the United States and the Soviet Union were engaged in a nuclear arms race, conducting numerous nuclear tests.
- The CTBT was negotiated at the **Conference on Disarmament in Geneva in 1994.** Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ In 1996, the United Nations adopted the CTBT, which imposed a complete ban on nuclear weapons testing, closing the gaps left by previous treaties.
- It has been signed by 187 nations and ratified by 178. However, the treaty cannot formally enter into force until it is ratified by 44 specific nations. Eight of these nations have yet to ratify the treaty:
 - ◆ **China, India, Pakistan, North Korea, Israel, Iran, Egypt and the US.** Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

77. Ans: C

Exp:

- **94 countries (Members of ISA) have signed and ratified the ISA Framework Agreement**, but a total of 116 countries have signed the ISA Framework Agreement (not all countries ratify the agreement).
 - ◆ **Singapore has ratified the International Solar Alliance**, signifying the decision to join collective efforts on climate action. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- **Observer Status to International Solar Alliance:**
 - ◆ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has granted Observer Status to the International Solar Alliance (ISA). Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ It will help provide for regular and well-defined cooperation between the Alliance and the United Nations that would benefit global energy growth and development.
- **The Assembly of the ISA is the apex decision-making body** which comprises of representatives from each Member Country. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ The Assembly deliberates matters of substance such as the selection of the Director General, achievement of ISA objectives, its functioning, approval of the operating budget and more.

78. Ans: C

Exp:

Asian Development Bank (ADB):

- **About:**
 - ◆ ADB is a **regional development bank established in 1966** with the objective of promoting social and economic development in Asia and the Pacific.
 - It has **68 members**; 49 are from within Asia and the Pacific and 19 outside. **India is a founding member.** Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ ADB assists its members and partners by providing loans, technical assistance, grants, and equity investments to promote social and economic development.
 - ◆ As of 31st December 2022, **ADB's five largest shareholders are Japan and the US** (each with 15.6% of total shares), **China** (6.4%), **India** (6.3%), and **Australia** (5.8%).
 - ◆ It is headquartered in **Manila, Philippines.** Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ It serves as **Secretariat to the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC).** Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**



79. Ans: C

Exp:

- **The Quad is an informal strategic dialogue among India, Australia, the US, and Japan** that share common values and interests in the Indo-Pacific region. It is not a formal alliance, a regional organization, or a multilateral forum with binding commitments or obligations. It is a flexible platform for cooperation and consultation on various issues of mutual concern and benefit. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The idea of Quad was **first mooted by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2007**. However, it came into being in 2017. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Quad is the grouping of four democracies – **India, Australia, the US, and Japan** which aims to ensure and support a “free, open and prosperous” Indo-Pacific region. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

80. Ans: A

Exp:

Recently, the **Prime Minister (PM) of India** attended the 20th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-India Summit and the **18th East Asia Summit (EAS) in Jakarta, Indonesia**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

- Members of ASEAN: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. **India is not a member of ASEAN**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **East Asia Summit (EAS):**
 - ◆ The EAS was established in 2005 as an Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-led initiative. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ The EAS is the **only leader-led forum in the Indo-Pacific** that brings together all key partners to discuss political, security and economic issues of strategic importance.
 - ◆ The idea of an East Asia Grouping was first proposed by then **Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad in 1991**.
 - ◆ The first summit was held in **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 14 December 2005**.
- **Members:**
 - **The EAS comprises 18 members:** the 10 ASEAN countries and eight dialogue partners (Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russia and the United States).

81. Ans: A

Exp:

India's Socio Economic Performance in Comparison to G20 Nations

Recently, India hosted the **18th G20 Summit** in New Delhi under the **theme 'One Earth, One Family, One Future.'** **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- As **India handed over the G20 Presidency of 2024 to Brazil**, it was essential to evaluate its **socioeconomic performance in comparison to fellow G20 nations.**, Unfortunately, **India's recent performance in key socioeconomic indicators lagged behind its G20 counterparts**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

What is the Status of India's Progress on Various Metrics in Comparison to G20 Members?

- **Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita:**
 - ◆ **GDP per capita is the sum of gross value added by all resident producers in the economy divided by mid-year population.**
 - ◆ In 1970, India ranked 18th out of 19 regions analysed (Russia excluded), with a GDP per capita of USD 111.97.
 - By 2022, **India's GDP per capita had increased to USD 2,388.62** but remained at the **bottom among the 19 regions**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

82. Ans: A

Exp:

India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC)

- The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) Project was signed at the **G20 Summit** in New Delhi, which holds significant geopolitical and economic implications for India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It aims to enhance transportation efficiency, reduce costs, increase economic unity, generate employment, and lower **Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- India, the US, Saudi Arabia, UAE, the **European Union**, Italy, France, and Germany are the only signatory countries. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- The costs for development are estimated to be substantial, and funding sources need to be identified. **Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**



83. Ans: B

Exp:

- Ahead of **World Patient Safety Day (17th September, 2023)**, the **World Health Organization (WHO)** released the first-ever **Patient Safety Rights Charter**, focusing on **safeguarding patients in healthcare contexts**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The theme for World Patient Safety Day 2023 is 'Engaging patients for patients safety'. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- WHO began functioning on 7th April, 1948 – a date now being celebrated every year as World Health Day. Hence **statement 3 is not correct**.

84. Ans: C

Exp:

- **Five Eyes Alliance:**
 - ◆ The Five Eyes is an intelligence alliance comprising nations including Australia, **Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the US**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - ◆ These countries are parties to the **multilateral UK-USA Agreement**, a treaty for joint cooperation in signals intelligence. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

85. Ans: B

Exp:

- **Asia Pacific Forum on Human Rights:**
 - ◆ It was founded in 1996. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
 - ◆ It aims to address significant human rights challenges in the Asia-Pacific region. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
 - ◆ The APF has 17 full members and eight associate members.
 - ◆ To be admitted as a full member, a National Human Rights Institution must fully comply with the minimum international standards set out in the Paris Principles.
 - ◆ Form partnerships with various international agencies, governments, and non-government organizations. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
 - Collaborates with organizations such as **OHCHR, UNDP, UN Women, and UNFPA**.

86. Ans: A

Exp:

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP):

- It is a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the ten member states of the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam) and its five FTA partners (Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand and Republic of Korea).
- Hence, **option A is correct**.

87. Ans: D

Exp:

China-Nepal Relations:

- Nepal declined **China's invitation to join China's Global Security Initiative (GSI)**, advocating that joint security is not in the interest of Nepal to maintain a strategic balance between India, China and the US. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- Nepal has expressed interest in China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), aiming to improve infrastructure connectivity and trade facilitation. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

88. Ans: D

Exp:

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA):

- **About:**
 - ◆ It is a subsidiary organ of the **UN General Assembly** and works as a sexual and reproductive health agency. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - ◆ The **UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)** establishes its mandate.
- **Establishment:**
 - ◆ It was established as a trust fund in 1967 and began operations in 1969.
 - ◆ In 1987, it was **officially renamed the United Nations Population Fund** but the original abbreviation, 'UNFPA' for the **United Nations Fund for Population Activities** was retained.
- **Objective:**
 - ◆ UNFPA works directly to tackle **Sustainable Development Goals** on health (**SDG3**), education (**SDG4**) and gender equality (**SDG5**).
- **Fund:**
 - ◆ UNFPA is not supported **by the UN budget, instead, it is entirely supported by voluntary contributions** of donor governments, intergovernmental organizations, the private sector, foundations and individuals. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.



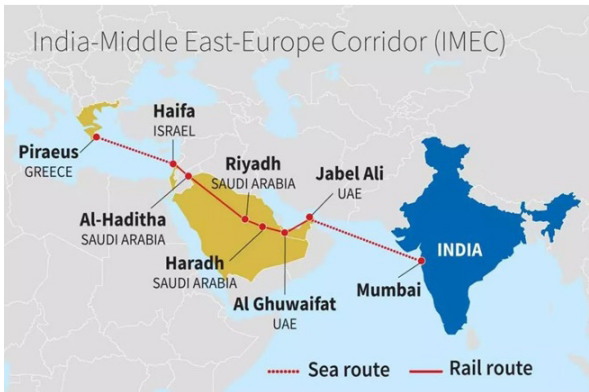
89. Ans: C

Exp:

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

● **About:**

- ◆ The proposed IMEC will consist of **Railroad, Ship-to-Rail networks** and Road transport routes extending **across two corridors**, that is,
 - **The East Corridor** – connecting **India to the Gulf**,
 - **The Northern Corridor** – connecting the **Gulf to Europe**.



● **Signatories:**

- ◆ India, the U.S., Saudi Arabia, UAE, the European Union, Italy, France, and Germany.
- China is not a signatory to the IMEC. **Hence, option C is the correct answer**

● **Ports to be Connected:**

- ◆ **India:** Mundra (Gujarat), Kandla (Gujarat), and Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (Navi Mumbai).
- ◆ **Middle East:** Fujairah, Jebel Ali, and Abu Dhabi in the UAE as well as Dammam and Ras Al Khair ports in Saudi Arabia.
 - **Railway line will connect Fujairah port (UAE) to Haifa port (Israel) via:** Saudi Arabia (Ghuwaifat and Haradh) and Jordan.
- ◆ **Israel:** Haifa port.
- ◆ **Europe:** Piraeus port in Greece, Messina in South Italy, and Marseille in France.

90. Ans: C

Exp:

- Ahead of **World Patient Safety Day (17th September, 2023)**, the **World Health Organization (WHO)** released the first-ever **Patient Safety Rights Charter**, focusing on **safeguarding patients in healthcare contexts**.

- WHO advocates transitioning from a **blame-oriented approach to a system-based perspective**, focusing on understanding the underlying systemic errors in medical care.
- The **theme for World Patient Safety Day 2023 is 'Engaging patients for patient safety'**. Hence, **option C is correct**.

91. Ans: B

Exp:

United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO):

- The UNWTO is an **intergovernmental organization based in Madrid, Spain, and has 159 Member States**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- UNWTO promotes tourism as a **driver of economic growth, inclusive development, and environmental sustainability** and offers leadership and support to the sector in advancing knowledge and tourism policies worldwide. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- The General Assembly is the principal gathering of the World Tourism Organization. It **meets every two years** to approve the budget and programme of work and to debate topics of vital importance to the tourism sector. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

92. Ans: C

Exp:

Recently, the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister revived the debate over the **Katchatheevu**, a longstanding point of contention **between India and Sri Lanka**, particularly with regard to fishing rights and sovereignty over the uninhabited island.



● **Historical Background:**

- ◆ Katchatheevu is a **285-acre uninhabited speck in the Palk Strait, between India and Sri Lanka**, an island located about 14 nautical miles off Rameswaram, India.
- ◆ In 1974, **Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi of India and Sirima R.D. Bandaranaike of Sri Lanka** signed an agreement that **recognized Katchatheevu as part of Sri Lanka's territory**, resulting in a change of ownership. **Hence, statement I and Statement II are incorrect.**
 - The agreement also allowed **Indian fishermen to fish around the island, dry their nets on it, and permitted Indian pilgrims to visit the Catholic shrine located on the island.**

● **Fishing Rights and Livelihood:**

- ◆ Fisherfolk from both India and Sri Lanka have historically used Katchatheevu for fishing. Though this feature was acknowledged in the 1974 agreement, the supplemental pact was signed in 1976.
- The 1976 agreement was aimed at **defining maritime boundaries and exclusive economic zones for both countries**, while also imposing restrictions on fishing vessels and fishermen from either nation, **prohibiting fishing in each other's waters without explicit permission** from either of the two countries.

93. Ans: B

Exp:

● **About:**

- ◆ India was the first country to recognise **Bangladesh as a separate** and independent state and established diplomatic relations with the country immediately after its **independence in December 1971. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

● **Economic Cooperation:**

- ◆ **Bangladesh is India's biggest trading partner in the subcontinent.** India's export to Bangladesh stood at **USD 8 billion during April –November 2022.**
- ◆ Bangladesh and India in **July 2023** launched a **trade transaction in rupees**, a move aimed at **reducing dependence on the US dollar** and strengthening regional currency and trade. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

● **Defence Cooperation:**

- ◆ India and Bangladesh share 4096.7 km. of border; the **longest land boundary that India shares with any of its neighbors. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - Assam, West Bengal, Mizoram, Meghalaya, and Tripura share borders with Bangladesh.
- ◆ The two also conduct Joint Exercises - **Army (Exercise Sampriti) and Navy (Exercise Bongosagar)**

94. Ans: B

Exp:

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN):

● **About:**

- ◆ It is a **regional grouping that promotes economic, political, and security cooperation.**
- ◆ It was established in **August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand** with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) by the founding members of ASEAN, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.
- ◆ Its chairmanship rotates annually, based on the alphabetical order of the English names of Member States. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ◆ ASEAN countries have an estimated 666.19 million people and a combined **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** of **USD 3.2 Trillion.**
- ◆ Commodity trade between India and ASEAN region has reached 98.39 billion in the period April 2021- February 2022. India's main trading ties are with Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam and Thailand.

● **ASEAN-India Business Council (AIBC):**

- ◆ The ministers acknowledged **AIBC's** endeavors throughout 2023, including the 5th ASEAN-India Business Summit held in Kuala Lumpur in March, 2023.
- ◆ AIBC is an organization formed by the Governments of **ASEAN and India in 2005** with the aim to foster **closer business linkages and provide an industry perspective** to the broadening and deepening of economic linkages between ASEAN and India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

● **AITIGA Review - A Key Agenda:**

- ◆ A pivotal point of this year's meeting was the thorough review of the **ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA)**, originally signed in 2009. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**



- ◆ The discussions were preceded by a **meeting of the AITIGA Joint Committee, which deliberated** on the review's roadmap.
- ◆ The Term of Reference and Work Plan for AITIGA Review Negotiations were **finalized during this process**.

95. Ans: C

Exp:

- The theme for 15th BRICS Summit is **"BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism"**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- BRICS marked this summit by increasing its membership from **five to eleven countries**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- **Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Ethiopia, and Argentina** joined the BRICS fold, amplifying the group's representation across the **Middle East, Africa, and South America**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

96. Ans: A

Exp:

- **China** administers **Aksai Chin** as part of its **Xinjiang region**, while **India** considers it part of its **union territory of Ladakh**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The **India-China border** is divided into three sectors i.e., **western sector covers Ladakh, middle sector covers Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, eastern sector covers Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- The **Shimla agreement of 1914** demarcated the boundary between **Tibet and North East India** and signed by **British India and Tibet** but not by the **Chinese officials**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

97. Ans: a

Exp:

- The B20 is the **official G20 dialogue forum involving the global business community**.
 - ◆ Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- B20 plays a leading role in mobilizing global business leaders' perspectives on global economic and trade governance.
 - It represents the unified voice of the entire G20 business community.
- Each year, a **B20 Chair is appointed by the G20 Presidency**, supported by a B20 Sherpa and secretariat.
 - Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

- The theme for the B20 India is **R.A.I.S.E. This stands for Responsible, Accelerated, Innovative, Sustainable, Equitable Businesses**.

◆ Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

98. Ans: C

Exp:

Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

● About:

- ◆ The ECOWAS, also known as CEDEAO in French, is a regional **intergovernmental organization established in 1975**.
- ◆ Created through the **Lagos Treaty**, ECOWAS aims to foster **economic integration, cooperation, and development among West African nations**.
- ◆ The Secretariat, headquartered in **Abuja, Nigeria**.
 - Hence, **both statements 1 and 2 are correct**.

● Member States:

- ECOWAS consists of 15 member states: **Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Senegal, and Togo**.

99. Ans: B

Exp:

India-Israel Relations:

● Diplomatic:

- ◆ Though India officially **recognized Israel in 1950**, both countries established full diplomatic ties only on **29th January 1992**.
- ◆ As of December 2020, India was among **164 United Nations (UN) member states** to have diplomatic ties with Israel.

● Economic and Commercial:

- ◆ Trade between India and Israel has increased from USD 5 billion before the **Covid-19 pandemic** to about USD 7.5 billion till 2023 January.
 - Trade in diamonds constitutes about 50% of bilateral trade.
- ◆ India is Israel's **third-largest trade partner in Asia and seventh largest globally**.
- ◆ India is also in dialogue with Israel for concluding a **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)**.

● Defence:

- ◆ India is one of the **largest importers of weapons from Israel**, contributing to about 40% of its annual arms exports.



- ◆ The Indian armed forces have inducted a **wide array of Israeli weapon systems over the years**, which range from Phalcon **AWACS (Airborne Warning And Control Systems)** and Heron, Searcher-II and Harop drones to Barak anti-missile defence systems and Spyder quick-reaction anti-aircraft missile systems.

- At the **15th Joint Working Group (JWG 2021)** meeting on Bilateral Defence Cooperation, countries agreed to form a Task Force to formulate a comprehensive Ten-Year Roadmap to identify new areas of cooperation.

- **Agriculture:**

- ◆ In May 2021, “a **three-year work program agreement**” for development in agriculture cooperation, was signed.
- ◆ The programme aims to grow existing Centres of Excellence (CoE), establish new centers, increase CoE’s value chain, bring the Centres of Excellence into the self-sufficient mode, and encourage private sector companies and collaboration.

- **Science & Technology:**

- ◆ In recent years, multiple MoUs have been signed between Israel’s Start-Up National Central and Indian entrepreneurship centres like **iCreate and TiE (Technology Business Incubators)**.
- ◆ In 2022, the two countries recently widened the scope of the **India-Israel Industrial R&D and Innovation Fund (I4F)** to include sectors like renewable energy and **ICT (Information and Communication Technology)** through increased participation of academia and business entities. **Hence, option B is correct.**

100. Ans: B

Exp:

- CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) is a **3,000-km long route of infrastructure projects connecting China’s northwest Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and the Gwadar Port** in the western province of Balochistan in Pakistan. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It is a bilateral project between Pakistan and China, intended to **promote connectivity across Pakistan with a network of highways, railways, and pipelines** accompanied by energy, industrial, and other infrastructure development projects. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- It will pave the way for **China to access the Middle East and Africa from Gwadar Port**, enabling China to access the Indian Ocean and in return China will support development projects in Pakistan to overcome the latter’s energy crises and stabilizing its faltering economy.

- CPEC is a part of the **Belt and Road Initiative**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

101. Ans: D

Exp:

Arab League

Recently, the Arab League has re-admitted **Syria into the organization**, after a suspension over a decade. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- Syria was **suspended from the Arab League in 2011** after it violently cracked down on anti-government protests.

- The Arab League accused Syria of not **complying with a peace plan that called for a withdrawal of military forces**, the release of political prisoners, and the start of a dialogue with opposition groups.

- **Arab League, also called League of Arab States (LAS)**, is an intergovernmental pan-Arab organisation of **all Arab states in the Middle East and North Africa**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- ◆ **Currently, there are 22 Arab countries:** Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

- It was formed in Cairo, Egypt on 22nd March 1945, following the adoption of the **Alexandria Protocol in 1944**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**



102. Ans: a

Exp:

- A recent study, "**The Race to Net Zero: Accelerating Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific**," by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) has revealed that most countries in Asia and the Pacific are inadequately equipped to manage the growing threats posed by extreme weather events and natural disasters. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- UNESCAP is the **regional development arm of the United Nations for the Asia-Pacific region**. Its headquarters is located at Bangkok in Thailand. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Asia-Pacific region is responsible for **more than half of the world's greenhouse gas emissions**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

103. Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** is a regional intergovernmental organisation that promotes cooperation between its member states in the areas of security, economy, and culture.
- Prior to the creation of SCO in 2001, **Kazakhstan**, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and **Tajikistan** were members of the Shanghai Five.
 - ◆ Following the accession of **Uzbekistan to the organisation in 2001**, the Shanghai Five was renamed the SCO.
 - ◆ India and **Pakistan became members in 2017**.
 - ◆ Observer States: Iran and Belarus
 - **Iran will be the newest member of SCO** when it joins the forum in 2023 under the chairmanship of India.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

104. Ans: B

Exp:

- More than **80 global organizations** have joined forces in a consortium dedicated to promoting consumer-centric financial innovation. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Leading the way is the **Financial Conduct Authority (FCA)**, a prominent regulatory body in the United Kingdom, currently serving as the chair of the GFIN. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- From India, International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), Reserve Bank of India, Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority are its members. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

105. Ans: C

Exp:

Rasht-Astara Railway and INSTC

Recently, **Russia and Iran** have signed a deal to build an Iranian railway line, the **Rasht-Astara railway as part of an International North–South Transport Corridor (INSTC)**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The Rasht-Astara railway is seen as an important link in the corridor, **intended to connect India, Iran, Russia, Azerbaijan** and other countries via railways and sea – a route that Russia says can rival the **Suez Canal as a major global trade route**.



Rash Astra Railway:

- It is a 162-kilometer railway that will connect the city of **Rasht (Iran) near the Caspian Sea**, to Astara (Azerbaijan) **on the border with Azerbaijan**. The new connection will shave four days off that traveling time frame.
- The railway along the Caspian Sea coast would **help to connect Russian ports on the Baltic Sea with Iranian ports in the Indian Ocean and the Gulf**.
- **International North–South Transport Corridor:**
 - ◆ It is a 7,200-kilometer **Multi-Mode Transit System** that connects ship, rail, and road routes for moving cargo between India, Iran, Azerbaijan, Russia, Central Asia, and Europe. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ It was launched on **12th September 2000** in St. Petersburg, by Iran, Russia and India for the purpose of promoting transportation cooperation among the Member States.

- ◆ Since then, INSTC membership has expanded to include 10 more countries – Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, Syria, Belarus, and Oman.
- Bulgaria has been included as an observer state. The Baltic countries like **Latvia and Estonia have also expressed willingness** to join.

106. Ans: A

Exp:

- UNHCR is the United Nations agency responsible for protecting and supporting refugees worldwide. The headquarters of the UNHCR is in **Geneva, Switzerland**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- India is **not a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol**, the key legal documents pertaining to refugee protection. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

107. Ans: A

Exp:

- International Council of Museums, which is a **non-governmental organization (NGO)** dedicated to the **promotion and protection of natural and cultural heritage** around the world. It **was established in 1946** and is headquartered in Paris, France.
- ICOM serves as a **global network for museum professionals, fostering collaboration and exchange of knowledge** and best practices in the museum field. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The **ICOM Red Lists of Cultural Objects at Risk** are valuable tools developed by the International Council of Museums (ICOM) to combat the illicit trafficking of cultural objects. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

108. Ans: D

Exp:

- The contaminants **diethylene glycol** and **ethylene glycol**, found in the samples of cough syrup being exported from India. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** identified contaminated **Indian-manufactured syrups** linked to deaths in **Gambia, Uzbekistan, Micronesia, and Marshall Islands**.
- The decision to implement mandatory testing stems from the discovery of **contaminated cough syrups** that led to the tragic deaths of **children in Gambia and Uzbekistan**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

109. Ans: C

Exp:

- India supports the **sovereignty and integrity** of all countries and emphasized the shared priority of **reforming international institutions** to amplify the voice of the **Global South**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- One of the **12-point formula** of India in **Forum for India–Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) Summit** is:
- India will support the development of the **small- and medium-scale enterprise** sector in each **Pacific Island nation**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- India will establish a **super-specialty cardiology hospital in Fiji, introduce dialysis units and sea ambulances in all 14 PICs, and establish Jan Aushadhi Centres** to provide affordable medicines.

110. Ans: B

Exp:

India's Relations with Singapore:

● **Background:**

- ◆ The close ties between **India and Singapore** have a history rooted in strong **commercial, cultural and people-to-people links across a millennium**.
- ◆ The more modern relationship is attributed to Sir Stamford Raffles who, in 1819, established a trading station in Singapore on the route of the Straits of Malacca which later became a **crown colony and governed from Kolkata till 1867**.
- After independence, **India was one of the first countries to recognize Singapore in 1965**.

● **Trade and Economic Cooperation:**

- ◆ **Singapore is among India's largest trade and investment partners in ASEAN** and accounted for 27.3 % of our overall trade with ASEAN in 2021-22. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- Singapore is also the leading source of **Foreign Direct Investment into India**.
- ◆ The **Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)** between India and Singapore was signed in 2005. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- India and Singapore have also collaborated on several initiatives to promote trade and investment, such as the India-Singapore Business Forum and the India-Singapore CEOs Forum.



- ◆ Recently, India's **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** and **Singapore's PayNow** have been integrated in February 2023 to enable faster Remittances between the two countries.
- **Defence and Security Cooperation:**
 - ◆ Both countries share common concerns about regional stability and maritime security in the Indo-Pacific region.
 - In 2015, they elevated their relationship to a **Strategic Partnership on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.**
 - ◆ They have also signed several agreements to enhance their defence ties, such as the **Defence Cooperation Agreement (2003)** and the **Naval Cooperation Agreement (2017).**
 - **Military Exercises:**
- **Navy:** SIMBEX
- **Air Force:** SINDEX
- **Army:** Bold Kuruksheetra
 - **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

111. Ans: C

Exp:

Main Climate Wishlist of the G7:

- **Global Peak in Emissions by 2025:**
 - ◆ The G7 emphasized the need for a **global peak in emissions by 2025.**
 - While this is not mandated under the **Paris Agreement**, achieving it is not implausible.
 - ◆ Developed countries are witnessing a **decline in emissions**, although not at the required pace while developing countries' emissions are still increasing.
 - ◆ If all countries only fulfill their existing commitments, emissions in 2030 would be about **11% higher than 2010 levels.**
- **Ending Fossil Fuel Use:**
 - ◆ The G7 does not set a specific deadline for **ending fossil fuel use** but commits to accelerating the **phase-out of "unabated fossil fuels"** in line with 1.5 degree Celsius trajectories.
- They aim to eliminate **"inefficient fossil fuel subsidies"** by 2025 or earlier without specifying the definition of "inefficient subsidies." **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The G7 countries claim to have stopped financing new fossil fuel-based energy projects, except in limited circumstances.

● **Net-Zero Targets:**

- ◆ The G7 reiterates its commitment to achieve **net-zero status by 2050** and urges other major economies to do the same.
- ◆ The world as a whole must become **net-zero by mid-century to meet the 1.5-degree Celsius target.**
- ◆ China aims for **net-zero by 2060, while India has set 2070 as its target. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- ◆ Post-2050 targets of major developing countries may change with evolving technologies and cleaner energy adoption.

112. Ans: D

Exp:

- **The World Health Assembly (WHA) is the supreme decision-making body of the World Health Organization (WHO).** It is composed of delegations from all 194 member states of the WHO and meets annually in Geneva, Switzerland. The **WHA sets the policies and approves the budget for the WHO** and determines its priorities and activities. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **World Health Assembly (WHA) plays a crucial role in the appointment of the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO).** The Director-General is elected by the WHA through a process that involves nominations, consultations, and voting among member states. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

113. Ans: A

Exp:

- The 49th G7 annual summit was held in **Hiroshima, Japan** in May 2023. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The members of which are **Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States.** Russia was expelled from the G8 (thus now G7) in **2014**, following its annexation of **Crimea. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

Here are some additional details about the G7 summit in Hiroshima:

- The summit was held from May 19-21, 2023.
- The leaders of the G7 countries met to discuss a range of issues, including the war in Ukraine, the global economy, and climate change.
- The summit was hosted by Japanese Prime Minister **Fumio Kishida.**



- The guest countries of the summit were Australia, Brazil, Comoros, Cook Islands, India, Indonesia, South Korea, Ukraine, and Vietnam.
- The summit concluded with a joint statement in which the G7 leaders pledged to continue to support Ukraine and to work together to address the global challenges facing the world.

114. Ans: D

Exp:

- International Organization for Standardization (ISO) is an international standard development organization composed of representatives from the national standards organizations of member countries. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- ISO officially came into existence in 1947. Its headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) serves as the **National Standards Body of India** and participates in international and regional standardization initiatives.
 - ◆ **BIS is a member of ISO**, the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), and regional standards bodies like Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC), and the South Asian Regional Standards Organization (SARSO) within the framework of India, Brazil and South Africa (**IBSA**). Hence, statement 3 is correct.

115. Ans: A

Exp:

- The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has a total of **15 members, consisting of five permanent members, also known as the P5, and ten non-permanent members**. The permanent members possess veto power, allowing them to block any substantive resolution put forth in the Security Council. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- **India has been a non-permanent member of the Council during 1950-51, 1967-68, 1972-73, 1977-78, 1984-85, 1991-92, 2011-12** and for the 8th time, entered the UNSC in 2021 and was on the council for the term 2021 – 22. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), often referred to as **the P5, are US, Russia, France, China and the UK**. These five countries have permanent seats on the Security Council and possess veto power, which allows them to block any substantive resolution brought before the council. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

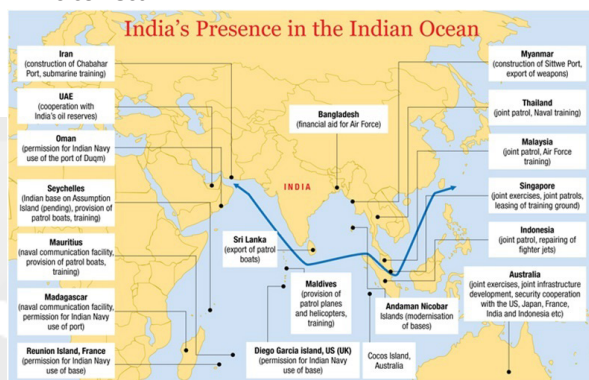
116. Ans: C

Exp:

6th Indian Ocean Conference

Improving and enhancing connectivity in the Indian Ocean region emerged as a top priority during the **6th Indian Ocean Conference held in Dhaka, Bangladesh**.

- The conference, with the theme "**Peace Prosperity and Partnership for a Resilient Future**," brought together delegates from over 25 countries to discuss ways to promote **economic development while maintaining peace and stability in the region**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.



- **Indian Ocean Conference:** Indian Ocean Conference is a flagship consultative forum of the Indian Ocean countries to deliberate upon the prospects of regional cooperation for **Security and Growth for All in Region (SAGAR)**. This process began in 2016. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

117. Ans: C

Exp:

I2U2 Quad:

- I2U2 is a new grouping formed by **India, Israel, the UAE, and the US**. It is also referred to as the **West Asian Quad**. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- It is focused on **expanding economic and political cooperation in the Middle East and Asia**.
- The framework aims to **foster support and cooperation in infrastructure, technology and maritime security**.
 - ◆ I2U2 was initially formed in **October 2021** following the **Abraham Accords**. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
 - The Abraham Accords normalized relations between **Israel and a number of Arab Gulf countries**. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- The first virtual summit of I2U2 took place on July 14, 2022. The summit focused heavily on the **global food and energy crisis resulting from the conflict in Ukraine**.

118. Ans: A

Exp:

Persona Non Grata:

- Diplomatic tensions between **Canada and China** escalated as reciprocal expulsions of diplomats took place, with Canada **expelling a Chinese diplomat** and China declaring a Canadian diplomat **persona non grata**. Hence, option A is correct.
- The **concept of persona non grata** finds its roots in the **Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations**, a treaty signed in 1961 that **governs diplomatic relations between countries**. According to Article 9 of the convention, a country has the right to declare any member of a **diplomatic staff persona non grata "at any time and without having to explain its decision."** This designation carries diplomatic significance and signifies that the person is an **unwelcome individual** whose presence in the country is prohibited.
- The use of persona non grata is **not limited to diplomats alone**. It can also be applied to **foreign individuals who are not part of diplomatic missions** but whose entry or presence in a **country is deemed undesirable**. The Vienna Convention allows countries to exercise this right as a **means to express their discontent** with the actions of other nations. While the convention **does not establish specific criteria for declaring** someone persona non grata, historically, it has been used as a **form of diplomatic sanction or retaliation**.

119. Ans: b

Exp:

What is the ICAO?

- It is a **specialized agency of the United Nations** that was created in 1944 to promote safe, secure, and efficient air transportation around the world. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- ICAO **develops international standards and recommended practices for aviation**, including regulations for air navigation, communication, and airport operations.
- It also **works to address global aviation issues**, such as air traffic management, aviation security, and environmental protection.
- It is **headquartered in Montreal, Canada**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- India will start participating in the International Civil Aviation Organisation's (ICAO) Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSA) and the Long-Term Aspirational Goals (LTAG) from 2027. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

120. Ans: d

Exp:

- The **CPTPP is a Free trade agreement (FTA)**, which has zero tariffs, or it removes the 99% tariff on the trade of goods and services. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- At present, **Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, New Zealand, Singapore and Vietnam** are the only 11 member countries of CPTPP, **India is not a member of CPTPP**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.

121. Ans: b

Exp:

- **OPEC is established in 1960** by founding members **Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- OPEC produces about 40% of the world's crude oil and its members' exports make up around 60% of global petroleum trade. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

122. Ans: D

Exp:

- The Government of India has launched various initiatives and projects to promote economic growth and development in the country. Some of these projects have **received support from international organizations like the World Bank**.
 - ◆ **India Energy Efficiency Scale-up Program:** The development objectives of Energy Efficiency Scale-up Program for India are to scale up energy savings in residential and public sectors, strengthen Energy Efficiency Services Limited's (EESL) institutional capacity, and enhance its access to commercial financing. **It is supported by the World Bank.**
 - ◆ **Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor Project:** The Government of India and the World Bank today signed a USD 650 million agreement for faster and more efficient movement of raw materials and finished goods between the north and eastern parts of India. **It is supported by the World Bank.**
 - ◆ **Innovate in India for Inclusiveness:** The development objective of Innovate in India for Inclusiveness is to facilitate innovation in biopharmaceutical products and medical devices that address public health priorities in India. **It is supported by the World Bank.**
- Therefore, **option D is correct**



123. Ans: C

Exp:

UN Economic Social Council (ECOSOC):

- Established by the UN Charter in 1945, it is the **principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations** on economic, social and environmental issues, as well as implementation of internationally agreed development goals.
- It has **54 members, elected by the UN General Assembly** for overlapping three-year terms. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is the UN's central platform for reflection, debate and innovative thinking on **sustainable development**.
 - ◆ Each year, ECOSOC structures its work around an annual theme of global importance to sustainable development.
- **It coordinates the work of the 14 UN specialized agencies**, ten functional commissions and five regional commissions, receives reports from nine UN funds and programmes and issues policy recommendations to the UN system and to member states.
- **Few Important Bodies under the Purview of ECOSOC:**
 - ◆ International Labour Organization (ILO)
 - ◆ Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
 - ◆ World Health Organization (WHO)
 - ◆ Bretton Woods Twins (World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund)
 - ◆ United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
 - ◆ Apart from these there are various Functional and Regional Commissions, Standing Committees, Ad Hoc and Expert Bodies as well.

124. Ans: A

Exp:

Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI):

- **About:**
 - ◆ It is an Independent International Organization consisting of global partnership of national governments, **United Nations** agencies and programs, multilateral development banks and financing mechanisms, the private sector, and academic and research institutions.

- It aims to increase the resilience of infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks, thereby ensuring **sustainable development**.
- It was launched in 2019, at the **United Nations Climate Action Summit in New York**.
- CDRI is India's second major global initiative after the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - The CDRI Secretariat is based in New Delhi, India.
- **Members:**
 - ◆ Since its inception, **31 countries, 6 international organisations and 2 private sector organisations** have joined CDRI as members.
- **Initiatives:**
 - ◆ **Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS):**
 - India launched this initiative as a part of the CDRI that would focus on building capacity, having pilot projects, especially in **Small Island Developing States or SIDS**.
 - ◆ **Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator Fund:**
 - The Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator Fund is a fund supported by both the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

125. Ans: A

Exp:

- UNDEF was established in 2005 by **UN Secretary-General Kofi A. Annan** as a United Nations General Trust Fund to support democratization efforts around the world. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- UNDEF plays a unique role in complementing the UN's other work with governments to strengthen democratic governance around the world.
- India is the **fourth largest contributor** to UNDEF, having contributed over \$32 million since its inception.
- Top three donors are **US, Sweden, and Germany**. **Hence statement, 2 is not correct.**

126. Ans: C

Exp:

International Civil Aviation Organisation:

- **ICAO is a United Nations (UN) specialized agency**, established in **1944**, which laid the foundation for the standards and procedures for peaceful global air navigation.



- The **Convention on International Civil Aviation** was signed on 7th December 1944 in **Chicago (hence called Chicago Convention 1944)**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - ◆ It established the core principles permitting international transport by air, and also led to the creation of the ICAO.
 - ◆ It **covers** a wide range of issues, including the rights of aircraft in **international airspace, the registration of aircraft, safety standards, air traffic control, and environmental protection**.
- One of the objectives of ICAO is to **foster the planning and development of international air transport** so as to ensure the safe and orderly growth of international civil aviation throughout the world.
 - ◆ India is among its 193 members. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- It is **headquartered in Montreal, Canada**.

127. Ans: b

Exp:

What is OPEC+?

- Established in 1960 by founding members Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela, OPEC has since expanded and now has 13 member states.
 - ◆ **Member countries are:** Algeria, Angola, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela.
 - ◆ **Qatar terminated** its membership on 1st January 2019.
- With the addition of **another 10 allied major oil-producing countries**, the OPEC is known as **OPEC+**.
 - ◆ **OPEC+ countries include** 13 OPEC member countries, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, Russia, South Sudan and Sudan.
- All other countries except USA and China are the part of OPEC+. Hence, **option b is correct**.

128. Ans: A

Exp:

- The Group of Seven (**G7**) is an intergovernmental organisation **consisting of seven major advanced economies**:
- Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Hence **Option (a) is correct**.

- The G7, originally G8 (before Russia was uninvited), was set up in 1975 as an informal forum of leaders from the world's most advanced economies.
 - ◆ The G7's primary objective is to **foster economic growth and stability among its member countries**.
 - ◆ It serves as a forum for leaders to discuss issues of mutual concern, including **trade, economic policy, and international security**.

129. Ans: A

Exp:

- WTO came into being in 1995. The WTO is the **successor to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)** established in the wake of the Second World War. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- Its objective is to help trade flow smoothly, freely and predictably.
- It has 164 members, accounting for 98% of world trade.
- It was developed through a series of trade negotiations, or rounds, held under the GATT.
- GATT is a set of multilateral trade agreements **aimed at the abolition of quotas and the reduction of tariff duties** among the contracting nations. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- The WTO Secretariat is based in Geneva (Switzerland).
- The current set is largely the outcome of the 1986- 94 Uruguay Round negotiations, which included a major revision of the original GATT.

130. Ans: C

Exp:

- India and UAE are members of I2U2 grouping which comprises India, Israel, the UAE, and the US. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- India-UAE CEPA was signed on 18th February 2022, during the India-UAE Virtual Summit. The Agreement is expected to enter into force on 1st May 2022.
- CEPA provides an institutional mechanism to encourage and improve trade between the two countries. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

131. Ans: B

Exp:

What is MiCA?

- **About:**
 - ◆ It is a legislation approved by the European Parliament aims to bring largely unregulated cryptocurrency markets under government regulation. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.



- **Assets Covered under MiCA:**

- ◆ The MiCA legislation will apply to crypto assets, which are broadly defined as “a digital representation of a value or a right that uses cryptography for security and is in the form of a coin or a token or any other digital medium which may be transferred and stored electronically, using distributed ledger technology or similar technology”. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- **Assets Out of MiCA's Scope:**

- ◆ MiCA will not regulate digital assets that would qualify as transferable securities and function like shares or their equivalent and other crypto assets that already qualify as financial instruments under existing regulation.
- ◆ It will also exclude nonfungible tokens (NFTs). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

132. Ans: d

Exp:

What is Operation Kaveri?

- Operation Kaveri is a codename for India's evacuation effort to bring back its citizens stranded in Sudan amid intense fighting between the army and a rival paramilitary force there. **Hence, option d is the correct answer.**
- There are about 2,800 Indian nationals in Sudan, and there is also a settled Indian community of about 1,200 in the country.

133. Ans: a

Exp:

Laws on Civil Nuclear Liability:

- **International Conventions:**
 - ◆ The international nuclear liability regime consists of multiple treaties and was strengthened after the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear accident.
 - ◆ The umbrella **Convention on Supplementary Compensation (CSC)** was adopted in 1997 with the aim of establishing a minimum national compensation amount.
 - India has **ratified CSC in 2016**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **India's Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act (CLNDA) of 2010:**
 - ◆ India enacted the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act (CLNDA) in 2010 to put in place a speedy compensation mechanism for victims of a nuclear accident.

- ◆ The CLNDA provides for strict and **no-fault liability on the operator of the nuclear plant**, where it will be held liable for damage regardless of any fault on its part.

- ◆ In case the damage claims exceed ₹1,500 crore, the CLNDA expects the government to step in. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- ◆ The act also provides for **supplier liability** over and above that of the operator.

- Under this provision the operator of the nuclear plant, after paying their share of compensation has the right of recourse where the nuclear incident has resulted because of an act of supplier or his employee which includes supply of equipment or material with patent or latent defects or sub-standard services. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

134. Ans: A

Exp:

Extent of Drug Abuse in India:

- India is facing a serious challenge of **drug abuse and trafficking**, which affects the health, well-being, and security of millions of people, especially the youth.
 - ◆ The **government aims to make India “drug-free” by 2047**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- According to **World Drug Report 2022**, India has the 4th largest quantity of opium seized in 2020 at 5.2 tons, and the 3rd highest amount of morphine was also seized in the same year at 0.7 tons.
 - ◆ According to the **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**, India accounted for **7% of the global opium seizures** and **2% of the global heroin seizures** in 2019.
- India is also situated between **two major drug-producing regions, the Golden Crescent** (Iran-Afghanistan-Pakistan) **and the Golden Triangle** (Thailand-Laos-Myanmar), which makes it vulnerable to illicit drug trafficking. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Opium and cannabis are two of the most commonly cultivated and consumed drugs in India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

135. Ans: D

Exp:

- The official Indian policy is that the **Dalai Lama is a spiritual leader, and the Tibetan community in India, with more than a lakh exiles**, is not allowed to undertake any political activity. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**



- Buddhism became the predominant religion in Tibet by the 9th century AD. Tibetan Buddhism has **four major schools: Nyingma, Kagyu, Sakya, and Gelug. Gelug school became a dominant school since the 17th century.** The Dalai Lama belongs to the Gelug school.
- **Reincarnation in Tibetan Buddhism:**
 - ◆ According to Tibetan Buddhist tradition, the **spirit of a deceased lama** is reborn in a child, which secures a continuous line of succession through **successive re-embodiments.**
 - ◆ Several procedures are followed to recognize 'Tulkus' (recognised reincarnations), including the **predecessor leaving guidance regarding his reincarnation, the prospective child undergoing multiple 'tests', and other oracles and lamas with the power of divination being consulted** before the final proclamation is made. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
 - ◆ There are also procedures to iron out disputes, such as making the final decision by **divination employing the dough-ball method before a sacred image.**

136. Ans: D

Exp:

- Romania is a country located at the crossroads of **Central, Eastern, and Southeastern Europe.**
- Romania borders with:
 - ◆ **Republic of Moldova** in the north-east,
 - ◆ **Ukraine** in the north
 - ◆ **Hungary** in the north-west
 - ◆ **Serbia** in the south-west
 - ◆ **Bulgaria** in the south
- **Therefore, option D is correct.**



137. Ans: C

Exp:

- NATO, or the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, is a **political and military alliance** consisting of 31 member countries. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Finland became the **31st member of NATO** after Turkey's parliament voted to approve its application. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Sweden's path to NATO membership remains blocked by Turkey and Hungary. **Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**

138. Ans: B

Exp:

- The **Windsor framework is the latest attempt at a remedy to the political complexities** that have impacted trade and sentiments **between the EU and the UK. It will replace the Northern Ireland Protocol** - the thorniest of Brexit fallouts.
 - ◆ The Windsor framework seeks to address the trade disruptions by permitting free trade between **Great Britain and Northern Ireland** through the (introduction of) use of green and red lanes for goods flowing into Northern Ireland. Green lane goods will have fewer checks and controls, including no customs checks or rules of origin. Red lane goods under the framework will be subject to full checks and controls to preserve the EU's single market.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

139. Ans: D

Exp:

Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA):

- It was **established in 1997** and is a regional forum that seeks to build and expand understanding and mutually beneficial cooperation through a consensus-based, evolutionary and non-intrusive approach. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **IORA has 23 member states** and 9 Dialogue Partners. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Members:** Australia, Bangladesh, the Comoros, France, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

- **China is a dialogue partner** in the IORA.
- The IORA Secretariat is based in **Mauritius**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
- The association gains importance by the fact that the Indian Ocean carries half of the world's container ships, one-third of the world's bulk cargo traffic and two-thirds of the world's oil shipments.
- It is a **lifeline of international trade and transport and the Indian Ocean region is woven together by trade routes** and commands control of major sea-lanes.

140. Ans: D

Exp:

- **Japan's Asia Energy Transition Initiative:**
- Japan looks forward to supporting **India's clean energy transition** by including India in the **Asia Energy Transition Initiative (AETI)**. Hence, **option D is correct**.
- **Japan's AETI**, launched in 2021, **initially supported the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries** towards achieving **net zero emissions**, including financial assistance of USD 10 billion for **renewable energy**.

The Government of Japan announced the "Asia Energy Transition Initiative (AETI)", which includes a variety of support for realising energy transitions in Asia.

| | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support drawing roadmaps for energy transitions 2. Asian version of transition finance 3. US\$10 billion finance support (e.g.) renewable energy, energy efficiency, LNG etc. 4. Technology development and deployment, utilizing the achievement of 2 trillion yen fund (e.g.) Offshore wind power generation, Fuel-ammonia, Hydrogen etc. 5. Capacity building of decarbonisation technologies, and knowledge sharing through Asia CCUS network <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Capacity building of decarbonisation technologies for 1,000 people in Asian countries ➤ Workshops and Seminars on energy transitions | |
|--|--|

141. Ans: A

Exp:

- The G20 was formed in 1999 in the backdrop of the financial crisis of the late 1990s that hit East Asia and Southeast Asia in particular.
- It aims to secure global financial stability by involving middle-income countries.
- Together, the G20 countries include 60 % of the world's population, 80 % of global GDP, and 75 % of global trade.

- The G20 comprises Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, EU, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, UK and USA. Hence, **option A is correct**.

142. Ans: C

Exp:

- **About:**
 - ◆ According to the **1958 Geneva Convention on the High Seas**, parts of the sea that are **not included in the territorial waters or the internal waters** of a country are known as the high seas. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
 - ◆ It is the area beyond a **country's Exclusive Economic Zone** (that extends up to **200 nautical miles (370 km) from the coastline**) and where a nation has jurisdiction over living and non-living resources. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
 - ◆ No country is responsible **for the management and protection of resources on the high seas**.
- **Significance:**
 - ◆ The high seas **account for more than 60% of the world's ocean area** and cover about **half of the Earth's surface**, which makes them a hub of marine life. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
 - ◆ They are home to **around 2.7 lakh known species**, many of which are yet to be discovered.
 - ◆ They regulate the climate by playing a **fundamental role in planetary stability** by **mitigating the effects of climate change** through its **absorption of carbon** and by **storing solar radiation** and distributing heat around the globe.
- Therefore, they are fundamental to human survival and well-being.
 - ◆ Moreover, the ocean **provides many resources and services**, including seafood and raw materials, genetic and medicinal resources, air purification, climate regulation, and aesthetic, scientific and cultural services.

143. Ans: C

Expl:

- **An arm of the Arabian Sea;** between the southwestern Iran and the Arabian Peninsula.
- **Bordering Countries:** Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Oman (Musandam exclave) and Iran. Hence, **option C is correct**.



144. Ans: B

Expl:

- The IBSA is a trilateral, developmental initiative between **India, Brazil and South Africa** to promote **South-South cooperation and exchange**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- The grouping was formalised and named the **IBSA Dialogue Forum** when the Foreign Ministers of the three countries met in **Brasilia (Brazil) on 6th June 2003** and issued the **Brasilia Declaration**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

145. Ans: D

Expl:

- SCO is a permanent intergovernmental international organization created in 2001. Hence, **Statement 1 is correct**.
- The SCO is a regional intergovernmental organisation that promotes cooperation between its member states in the areas of security, economy, and culture. Hence, **Statement 3 is correct**.
- The SCO Charter was signed in 2002 and entered into force in 2003.
- India and Pakistan became members in 2017. Hence, **Statement 2 is correct**.

146. Ans: C

Exp:

India-US Commercial Dialogue:

- Recently, India and the US have launched Joint Statement on their 5th Ministerial level Commercial Dialogue, discussing **supply chain issues and agreeing on a semiconductor partnership initiative**.
- In January 2023, the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry of India and the US Trade Representative

Ambassador co-chaired the **13th Ministerial-level meeting of India – US Trade Policy Forum (TPF)** in Washington D.C.

- The Trade Policy Forum (TPF) was convened between the United States and India. The Forum resolved to take economic ties between the two countries to the **'next high level'** and exchanged views on **'potential targeted tariff reductions'**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The bilateral goods and services trade between the two countries has almost doubled since 2014, exceeding US USD 191 billion in 2022.
- The **US is India's largest exporter and trade partner**, while India is the **9th largest trading partner** for the US. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**. Both nations aim to achieve bilateral trade of USD 500 billion by 2025.
- The US is **also the third biggest investor in India with a cumulative Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflow** of USD 56,753 million from April 2000 to September 2022.

147. Ans: A

Exp:

Doha Political Declaration on LDCs

- The **5th United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5)** concluded with adoption of the **'Doha Political Declaration'** by the world leaders.
- The declaration is a key outcome of the **second part of LDC5 conference** held under the theme **"From Potential to Prosperity"** in Qatar.
- **Doha Programme of Action:**
 - ◆ It focuses on implementing the **Doha Programme of Action (DPoA)**, the 10-year plan to put the **world's 46 most vulnerable countries back on track** to achieving the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)**.
 - ◆ DPoA (2022-2031) consisted of **Six Key Focus Areas**,
 - Eradicating **Poverty**
 - Leveraging the potential of science and technology to fight against multidimensional vulnerabilities and to achieve the SDGs
 - Addressing **Climate Change**
 - Environmental Degradation
 - Recovering from **COVID-19** and building resilience against future shocks for risk-informed sustainable development.

148. Ans: A

Exp:

- The **Rome Statute is the treaty** that established the International Criminal Court (ICC). It was adopted at a diplomatic conference in Rome, Italy on 17 July 1998 and it entered into force on 1 July 2002. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ICC is an independent international organization unlike the International Court of Justice, the ICC is not part of the **United Nations** system. It looks into, issues warrant for, and prosecutes those individuals accused of the most serious crimes of concern to the world community, including genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and crimes of aggression. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

149. Ans: D

Exp:

- **Afcons**, an Indian company, has signed a contract for the largest-ever infrastructure project in **Maldives** which is the **Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP)**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The project is funded by a **grant of USD 100 million** and a **Line of Credit (LOC) of USD 400 million** from **India**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- A **line of credit** is a flexible loan from a bank or financial institution. Similar to a credit card with a set credit limit, a line of credit is a defined amount of money that can be accessed as needed.

150. Ans: D

Exp:

- The **International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol) was set up in 1923**, as a secure information-sharing platform that facilitates criminal investigation of police forces across the globe through collection and dissemination of information received from various police forces. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ It is headquartered in Lyon, France.
- Interpol has 195 member countries.
 - ◆ India became member since 15th October 1949. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- It keeps track of the movements of criminals and those under the police radar in various regions and tips off police forces which had either sought Interpol's assistance or which in its opinion will benefit from the particulars available with it.

- ◆ It aims to promote the widest possible mutual assistance between criminal police forces.

151. Ans: C

Exp:

- **Every year 21st March is marked as the United Nations' International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination** to commemorate the day in 1960 when police opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration in Sharpeville, South Africa, against apartheid "**pass laws**". **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Pass Laws** was a system **used to control the movement of Black, Indian and Coloured people in South Africa**. The pass said which areas a person was allowed to move through or be in and if a person was found outside of these areas they would be arrested. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**

152. Ans: B

Exp:

- **About Raisina Dialogue:**
 - ◆ The Raisina Dialogue is India's premier **conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics** committed to addressing the most challenging issues facing the global community.
 - ◆ The conference is **hosted by the Observer Research Foundation** in partnership **with the Ministry of External Affairs**, Government of India. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ **In 2023, it seeks to capture the state of the world through its theme of "Provocation, Uncertainty, Turbulence: Lighthouse in the Tempest?"**
 - ◆ The Dialogue is structured as a multi-stakeholder, cross-sectoral discussion, involving heads of state, cabinet ministers and local government officials, who are joined by thought leaders from the private sector, media and academia. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

153. Ans: B

Expl:

Chabahar port:

- The port of Chabahar is located in southeastern Iran in the Gulf of Oman. **Hence, statements 1 is not correct.**
- It is the only Iranian port with direct access to the ocean. **Hence, statements 2 correct.**



- It's located in the Sistan-Balochistan province on the energy-rich Iran's southern coast. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- The Chabahar port is considered a gateway to golden opportunities for trade by India, Iran and Afghanistan with central Asian countries. **Hence, statements 4 correct.**

154. Ans: A

Exp:

About MLSA:

- **Mutual Logistics Support Agreement:** Both sides agreed to continue to deepen and broaden **defence cooperation** by enhancing the scope and complexity of their military exercises and engagement activities to develop new ways to address shared security challenges. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - It will **increase military interoperability** through defence exercises and allow both militaries the reciprocal use of bases, humanitarian and disaster relief cooperation, port exercises and passage exercises.

- **India has such agreements with the US (Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement-LEMOA), France, Singapore and South Korea. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

155. Ans: A

Exp:

European Union Model:

- The **General Data Protection Regulation** focuses on a comprehensive data protection law for processing of personal data. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **In the EU, the right to privacy is enshrined as a fundamental right** that seeks to protect an individual's dignity and her right over the data she generates. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **US Model:**
 - ◆ There is **no comprehensive set of privacy rights** or principles in the US that, like the EU's GDPR, addresses the use, collection, and disclosure of data.