



drishti

Monthly Editorial Quiz (Consolidation)

**December
2024**

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Practice Question

1. Consider the following statements:
- Respite denotes awarding a lesser sentence in place of one originally awarded due to some special fact, such as the physical disability or the pregnancy of a woman offender.
 - Reprieve implies a stay of the execution of a sentence (especially that of death) for a temporary period.
 - Commutation implies reducing the period of the sentence without changing its character.
- How many of the above statements is/are **not** correct?
- Only one
 - Only two
 - All three
 - None
2. With reference to the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991, consider the following statements:
- It was enacted to freeze the status of religious places of worship as they existed on August 15, 1947.
 - The Act does not apply to historical monuments and archaeological sites, covered by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.
- Which of the statements given above is/are **not** correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
3. Consider the following statements:
- Statement-I:** National Programme for Prevention & Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD), previously known as National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) is being implemented under the National Health Mission (NHM).
- Statement-II:** In 2019, the World Health Assembly extended the WHO Global action plan for the prevention and control of NCDs 2013–2020 to 2030.
- Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?
- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.
 - Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.
 - Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect.
 - Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct.
4. Consider the following statements regarding 'Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) report 2023-24':
- The unemployment rate for 2023-24 remained unchanged at 3.2%, the same as in 2022-23.
 - It recorded a notable decline in Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR) at the national level in 2023-24 compared to 2022-23.
 - The unemployment rate for women increased from 2022-23, while for men, it saw a slight decline.
- How many of the above statements is/are **not** correct?
- Only one
 - Only two
 - All three
 - None
5. Consider the following statements with respect to 'IndiaAI Mission':
- The initial efforts focused on procuring high-performance Graphic Processing Units (GPUs) to kickstart the project.
 - Data centre GPUs are crucial for parallel operations, AI, media analytics, and 3D rendering solutions, making them essential for advanced use like cloud gaming.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
6. Consider the following statements:
- Statement-I:** Investment in cutting-edge technologies is essential to stay globally competitive, address societal challenges and unlock economic opportunities.
- Statement-II:** India aims to achieve its development objectives by 2047, the government has laid an emphasis on the role of science and technology in strategic and emerging sectors.

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

- A. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.
- B. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.
- C. Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect.
- D. Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct.
7. With reference to the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), consider the following statements:
1. The ANRF was established under the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) Act, 2023.
 2. It subsumes the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), which was established by an Act of Parliament in 2008.
 3. ANRF exclusively promotes research and innovation in private universities and colleges in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 only
- D. 1, 2, and 3
8. Consider the following Targets related to health policy:
1. Increasing life expectancy to 70 years from 67.5.
 2. Reduce fertility rate to 2.1 (Replacement levels) by 2025.
 3. Reduce infant mortality rate to 28 by 2019.
 4. Reduce Under Five Mortality to 23 by 2025.
- How many of the above is/are the part of National Health Policy (NHP), 2017?
- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All four
9. Regarding the One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) scheme, consider the following statements:
1. It seeks to provide lifelong nationwide access to scholarly research articles and journals.
 2. It will be coordinated by the Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET), which is an autonomous inter-university center under the University Grants Commission (UGC).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2
10. Consider the following statements:
1. Malnutrition refers to deficiencies, excesses, or imbalances in a person's intake of energy and nutrients.
 2. Wasting refers to low weight-for-height and occurs when a person has not had enough food to eat and/or they have had an infectious disease.
 3. Stunting refers to low height-for-age and often occurs due to insufficient calorie intake, leading to a low weight for a given height.
- How many of the statements given above is/are correct?
- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None
11. Regarding Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), consider the following statements:
1. They are also known as chronic diseases and tend to be of long duration and are the result of a combination of genetic, physiological, environmental, and behavioral factors.
 2. India has yet to develop a national non-communicable diseases (NCD) surveillance policy.
- 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
12. Consider the following statements:
- Statement-I:** IndiaAI Mission aims to establish a robust AI computing infrastructure in India to support the development and testing of AI systems.
- Statement-II:** Graphics Processing Units (GPUs) are critical for training and building large-scale AI models, essential for advanced AI applications.

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

- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

13. Regarding the Global Digital Compact, consider the following statements:

- It is a comprehensive framework for global governance of digital technology and artificial intelligence.
- It charts a roadmap for global digital cooperation to harness the immense potential of digital technology and close digital divides.
- It was adopted by world leaders during the 18th G20 Summit, in New Delhi.

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

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

14. Consider the following statements:

- Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites no longer respond to antimicrobial medicines.
- The misuse and overuse of antimicrobials in humans, animals, and plants are the main drivers in the development of drug-resistant pathogens.
- AMR is an issue exclusively associated with the global south.

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

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

15. Regarding Waqf, consider the following statements:

- It is the permanent dedication of movable or immovable properties for religious, pious, or charitable purposes as recognised by Muslim law.

- The power to list all properties declared as Waqf by conducting local investigations, summoning witnesses, and requisitioning public documents lies with the District Magistrate.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

16. Consider the following statements:

- The Immunization Programme in India was introduced in 1978 as 'The Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI)' by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- In 1985, the EPI was modified as the 'Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)' aimed at preventing mortality and morbidity in children and pregnant women against 12 vaccine-preventable diseases.
- Mission Indradhanush was launched in 2014 to reach children who missed their vaccinations under the UIP.

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

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

17. Consider the following:

Statement-I: The proliferation of data centres, driven by the increasing demand for Artificial Intelligence (AI), is significantly contributing to the world's energy consumption.

Statement-II: Training large AI models, such as GPT-3 and GPT-4, consumes substantial energy and emits considerable carbon dioxide (CO₂).

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

- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

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18. Regarding gross domestic product (GDP), consider the following statements:

1. Real GDP is a measure of an economy's output adjusted for inflation.
2. Real GDP adjusts nominal GDP so that it reflects the price levels that prevailed in a reference year, called the "base year."
3. The proceeds of off-the-books labor, some cash transactions, drug dealing, and more are not factored into GDP.

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

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

19. Consider the following statements:

1. The Defence Cyber Agency (DCyA) is a tri-service command of the Indian Armed Forces that handles cybersecurity threats.
2. The Computer Emergency Response Team-India (CERT-In), part of the Ministry of Home Affairs, is responsible for tracking, studying, and sharing information about cyber incidents.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

20. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: India has yet to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Statement-II: The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (RPWD Act) provides for the constitution of the office of the State Commissioners for Disabilities at the State level with a combination of review, monitoring, and quasi-judicial functions.

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

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

21. Consider the following statements:

1. Malnutrition refers to deficiencies, excesses, or imbalances in a person's intake of energy and nutrients.
2. Wasting refers to low weight-for-height and occurs when a person has not had enough food to eat and/or they have had an infectious disease.
3. Stunting refers to low height-for-age and often occurs due to insufficient calorie intake, leading to a low weight for a given height.

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

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

22. Which of the following are likely benefits of Internationalisation of the Rupee?

1. It will improve the demand for the rupee in international trade.
2. This can lead to increased convenience and reduced transaction costs for businesses and individuals dealing with India.
3. It can strengthen economic ties with other countries, facilitate bilateral trade agreements, and promote diplomatic relations.
4. It will lead to India becoming a world superpower surpassing the United States and China.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

23. Consider the following statements:

1. The Governor of each state notifies India's Scheduled Areas.
2. States with Scheduled Areas need to constitute a Tribal Advisory Council with up to 20 ST members.
3. The Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA), 1996 empowers gram sabhas with direct democracy, strengthening local self-governance.

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

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

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24. Consider the following statements:
1. The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is the average number of children a woman is expected to have during her reproductive years.
 2. India's TFR stands at 2.0 children per woman, which is below the replacement level of 2.1, below which the population begins to shrink in the long run.

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
25. Regarding the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), consider the following statements:
1. It has been established under the Anusandhan National Research Foundation Act, 2023 to seed, grow, and foster a culture of research and innovation throughout the country.
 2. The Prime Minister Early Career Research Grant (PMECRG) and the Mission for Advancement in High-Impact Areas - Electric Vehicle (MAHA-EV) are among its key initiatives.

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
26. Regarding the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties 29 (COP29), consider the following statements:
1. The New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG) aims to triple climate finance for developing countries to USD 300 billion annually by 2035.
 2. COP29 reached a landmark agreement to finalise the mechanisms for carbon markets, including country-to-country trading and a centralised carbon market under the UN.
 3. Over 30 countries, including the US, Germany, UK, UAE, and India endorsed the COP29 Declaration on Reducing Methane from Organic Waste.

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

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

27. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The de-dollarisation is driven by the desire to insulate the Central Banks of the Countries from geopolitical risks, where the status of the US dollar as a reserve currency can be used as an offensive weapon.

Statement-II: The dominant role of the dollar in the global economy provides the US with a disproportionate amount of influence over other economies.

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

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

28. Consider the following statements:

1. The Bretton Woods Conference, which took place in 1944, established the international monetary system that was characterized by fixed exchange rates.
2. A fixed exchange rate is a regime applied by the central bank that ties the country's official currency exchange rate to another country's currency or the price of gold.
3. The purpose of a fixed exchange rate system is to keep a currency's value within a narrow band.

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

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

29. Regarding the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF), consider the following statements:

1. SDF is a liquidity window through which the RBI will give banks an option to park excess liquidity with it.
2. It is different from the reverse repo facility in that it does not require banks to provide collateral while parking funds.

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

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

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30. Regarding the President's powers, consider the following statements:

1. Article 72 of the Indian Constitution allows the President to pardon, reduce, or change sentences, including those given by a Court Martial.
2. The President exercises this power independently without the advice of the Council of 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

31. Consider the following pairs:

Treaty	Description
1. Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)	A. Includes comprehensive prohibitions on participating in any nuclear weapon activities.
2. Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)	B. Bans all nuclear explosions, aiming to curb the development of new weapons.
3. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)	C. Aims to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and promote disarmament, though criticized as discriminatory.

Select the correct pair using the code given below:

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

32. Regarding Tropical cyclones, consider the following statements:

1. They are large-scale weather systems developing over tropical or subtropical waters, where they get organised into surface wind circulation.
2. Tropical cyclones arise in the region situated between the Tropics of Capricorn and Cancer.
3. The World Meteorological Organisation defines a 'Tropical Cyclone' as a weather system with winds exceeding gale force, a minimum of 63 kilometers per hour.

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

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

33. Regarding the Baltic Sea, consider the following statements:

1. It is part of the North Atlantic Ocean, situated in Northern Europe.
2. The Baltic Sea connects to the Atlantic Ocean through the Danish Straits.
3. It is the largest expanse of brackish water in the world.

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

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

34. Regarding the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, consider the following statements:

1. The PLI scheme was launched in 2020 to boost domestic manufacturing and employment.
2. Financial incentives under the scheme are based on a percentage of the revenue generated by companies that have been manufacturing in India for at least a decade.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

35. Regarding the FAME Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. FAME India is a part of the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan, 2013.
2. The scheme aims to eliminate petrol and hybrid vehicles completely and focuses solely on electric vehicles.
3. FAME India Phase-II, led by the Ministry of Heavy Industries focuses on electrifying public transport, promoting e-vehicles, and developing charging infrastructure.

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

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

36. Which of the following is **not** true about Large Language Models (LLMs)?

- A. LLMs are trained on vast datasets using deep learning techniques to understand and generate human-like text.
- B. LLMs rely exclusively on rule-based algorithms to generate responses.
- C. LLMs can perform a variety of tasks such as summarization, translation, and text classification.
- D. LLMs have limitations, including the potential for generating biased or inaccurate information.

37. Consider the following pairs:

Legislation

Provisions

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Environment (Protection) - Act, 1986 | Establishment of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) at the apex level. |
| 2. Public Liability Insurance - Act, 1991 | Authorised the central government to regulate industrial activity for environmental and public safety. |
| 3. Civil Liability for Nuclear - Damage Act, 2010 | Enacted to establish a compensation mechanism for nuclear accident victims, with strict liability. |

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

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

38. In the context of Oxford University Press's Word of the Year for 2024, 'brain rot' is best described as:

- A. The decline of someone's mental or intellectual abilities, often linked to consuming too much trivial or unchallenging content.

B. A rare neurological disorder caused by consuming contaminated food.

C. The process of brain tissue decomposition after death, often studied in forensic science.

D. A psychological condition resulting from long-term exposure to ultraviolet rays.

39. Regarding cooperative societies, consider the following statements:

1. In 1914, the Maclagan Committee proposed a three-tier cooperative banking system for the Centre, Province, and District levels.
2. 95th Constitutional Amendment Act of 2011, established the right to form cooperative societies as a fundamental right.

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

40. Regarding the GST Council, consider the following statements:

1. It consists of the Union Finance Minister, the Union Minister of State in charge of Revenue or Finance, and Ministers nominated by State Governments.
2. Decisions in the GST Council are taken solely by the Union Government, as it holds a majority vote on all proposals.
3. The GST Council Secretariat is staffed by officers on deputation from both the Central and State Governments.

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

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

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

1. It is a value-added tax levied on most goods and services sold for domestic consumption.
2. GST is based on the principle of destination-based consumption taxation as against the previous principle of origin-based taxation.
3. Petrol and diesel are fully covered under the GST regime and taxed uniformly across states.

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

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

42. Consider the following statements regarding the causes of food inflation in India:

1. Climate change and extreme weather events have increased the uncertainty of rainfall, directly impacting crop yields.
2. Structural weaknesses in domestic supply chains, including logistical problems, contribute to high food inflation.
3. Geopolitical conflicts, such as the Russia-Ukraine war, have minimal impact on food inflation as they do not significantly disrupt global supply chains.

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

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

43. Consider the following statements:

1. Delimitation means the process of fixing the number of seats and boundaries of territorial constituencies in each State for the Lok Sabha and Legislative assemblies.
2. Under Article 82, the Parliament enacts a Delimitation Act after every Census.
3. Under Article 170, States also get divided into territorial constituencies as per the Delimitation Act after every Census.

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

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

44. Consider the following statements:

1. Nigeria is located on the west coast of Africa.
2. Nigeria's territorial boundaries include Niger to the north, Chad and Cameroon to the east, and Benin to the west.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

45. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: In *Swadeshi Cotton Mills v. Union of India* (1981), the Supreme Court held that the Principles of Natural Justice are considered fundamental and are therefore implicit in every decision-making function.

Statement-II: Natural Justice is a common law principle that focuses on delivering justice fairly, equally, and without bias.

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

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

46. Regarding the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) (PoSH) Act, 2013, consider the following statements:

1. The Act aims to create a safe and conducive work environment for women and provide protection against sexual harassment.
2. The Act places a legal obligation on employers to prevent and prohibit sexual harassment in the workplace.
3. Employers are required to constitute an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) at each workplace irrespective of the number of employees to receive and address complaints of sexual harassment.

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

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

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47. Regarding the Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules 2024, consider the following statements:

1. It changed the definition of biodegradable plastics as materials capable of degradation by biological processes in specific environments like soil and landfill, without leaving any microplastics.
2. The rules specify the chemical tests required to confirm the absence of microplastics or determine the level of their reduction needed for elimination.

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. Regarding martial law, consider the following statements:

1. Article 34 of the Constitution of India contains a provision about Martial Law.
2. The concept of martial law has been borrowed in India from the English common law.
3. The expression 'Martial Law' has been clearly defined in Part III of the Constitution.

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

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

49. Consider the following statements regarding the Finance Commission:

1. It is a constitutional body that is established by the President of India under Article 280 of the Indian Constitution.
2. It consists of a Chairman and four other members who are appointed by the President.
3. It is set up every five years to decide the allocation of resources among states.

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

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

50. Consider the following statements:

1. It is a long, narrow, deep, endorheic lake at over 14,000 ft in Ladakh in trans-Himalays.
2. India and China have around one-third and two-thirds of it respectively.
3. Its eastern end lies in Tibet.

Which of the following lakes best matches the above description?

- A. Pangong Tso Lake
- B. Sambhar Lake
- C. Loktak Lake
- D. Pulicat Lake

51. Consider the following statements:

1. It is a regional grouping aimed to promote economic integration and shared development of the West African sub-region.
2. India has a long-standing relationship with it and was given the status of observer to the body in 2004.
3. It has also supported India's bid for a permanent United Nations Security Council seat.

Which of the following organizations best matches the above description?

- A. Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
- B. Community of Sahel-Saharan States
- C. Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)
- D. None of the above

52. Regarding Secularism, consider the following statements:

1. The term 'Secular' was added to the preamble by the forty-second Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976.
2. Article 15 enlarges the concept of secularism by prohibiting discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth.
3. Article 25 allows educational institutions maintained by different religious groups to impart religious instruction.

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

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

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53. Regarding Silicosis, consider the following statements:
1. It is a progressive lung disease caused by the inhalation of silica over a long period, characterized by shortness of breath, cough, fever, and bluish skin.
 2. It is one of the most prevalent occupational health illnesses in the world.
 3. It occurs most commonly in people working in the quarrying, manufacturing, and building construction industries.

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

- A. Only One
 - B. Only Two
 - C. All Three
 - D. None
54. Regarding the Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI), consider the following statements:
1. The PLI scheme was conceived to scale up domestic manufacturing capability, accompanied by higher import substitution and employment generation.
 2. India has stopped importing mobile phone components due to increased domestic manufacturing under the scheme.
 3. World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules prevent India from tying PLI subsidies to domestic value addition.

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

- A. Only One
 - B. Only Two
 - C. All Three
 - D. None
55. Consider the following statements:
1. Global Payments Innovation (GPI) was launched by the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) to enhance the speed and transparency of cross-border payments.
 2. Project Nexus is a global initiative designed to enhance cross-border payments by connecting multiple domestic instant payment systems (IPS).

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

56. Consider the following locations:

1. Hama
2. Homs
3. Deraa

In which of the following countries are the above locations situated?

- A. Syria
- B. Palestine
- C. Ukraine
- D. Iraq

57. Consider the following statements:

1. Absolute decoupling refers to economic growth accompanied by a decrease in emissions, achieving economic progress without harming the environment.
2. Relative decoupling occurs when GDP and emissions both grow, but GDP increases at a faster rate, indicating progress while acknowledging rising emissions.
3. India has experienced economy-wide relative decoupling since 1990, with GDP growing significantly faster than GHG emissions.

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

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

58. Regarding the Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH), consider the following statements:

1. It is a comprehensive digital platform designed to synergize and transform the skills, education, employment, and entrepreneurship landscape in India.
2. It is designed to promote the adoption of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) in the country.
3. It is also integrated with the National Institute for Entrepreneurship & Small Business Development's (NIESBUD') UdhyaKart to list products of NIESBUD's trained entrepreneurs and empower small businesses.

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

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

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59. Sathanur Dam is located on which of the following river?
- Thenpennai River
 - Mandovi River
 - Narmada River
 - None of the above
60. Consider the following statements:
Statement-I: India's strategic positioning in South Asia and proximity to a rising China drive its multi-aligned unilateral approach, as Delhi seeks to balance global partnerships rather than rely on a single alliance.
Statement-II: Unilateralism is changing the global order by creating new partnerships between countries that cooperate on specific issues in certain regions.
 Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?
- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
 - Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
 - Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
 - Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct
61. Which of the following countries are part of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) grouping?
- Afghanistan
 - Myanmar
 - Bhutan
 - Maldives
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- 1 and 2 Only
 - 1,3 and 4 Only
 - 3 Only
 - 1,2,3 and 4
62. Consider the following pairs:
- | Soil | Region |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Alluvial Soils | Northern plains |
| 2. Black Soil | Deccan Plateau |
| 3. Laterite Soil | Kerala |
- Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?
- 1 only
 - 1 and 2 only
 - 2 and 3 only
 - 1, 2 and 3
63. Regarding Subclinical Tuberculosis, consider the following statements:
- Subclinical Tuberculosis refers to a form of TB infection where individuals do not exhibit the typical symptoms of the disease, such as a persistent cough.
 - It is not possible to detect it even through imaging techniques like chest X-rays, as it may remain undetectable despite such advanced methods.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 Only
 - 2 Only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
64. Regarding Bond, consider the following statements:
- A bond could be issued by a country's government or by a company to raise funds.
 - The bond yield represents the return an investor can expect from a bond, expressed as a percentage.
 - The bond yield is fixed and remains unaffected by changes in the bond's market price.
- How many of the statements given above is/are **not** correct?
- Only One
 - Only Two
 - All Three
 - None
65. Regarding the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), consider the following statements:
- It is an intergovernmental military alliance formed in 1949 with the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty in Washington, D.C. by 12 founding member countries from Europe and North America.
 - It was established with the primary goal of providing collective defence against potential aggression, particularly from the Soviet Union during the Cold War era.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 Only
 - 2 Only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2

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66. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991, prohibits the conversion of any place of worship, either in full or in part, from one religious denomination to another.

Statement-II: The Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 seeks to maintain communal harmony by freezing the religious character of these places and preventing disputes over such conversions.

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

- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- Statement I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

67. Consider the following statements:

- India has specific laws recognising the right to disconnect from work.
- Article 38 of the Constitution mandates that “the State shall strive to promote the welfare of the people”.
- In *Ravindra Kumar Dhariwal and Ors v. Union of India* (2021), the Court read Article 14 to include ideas of inclusive equality to reasonably accommodate persons with disabilities.

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

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

68. Regarding antibiotics, consider the following statements?

- The pharmacology behind antibiotics includes destroying the bacterial cell by either preventing cell reproduction or changing a necessary cellular function.
- India is the world’s largest consumer of antibiotics.
- India’s excessive antibiotic usage is leading to a powerful never before seen mutation within bacteria.

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

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

69. Regarding the International Court of Justice (ICJ), consider the following statements:

- It settles legal disputes between states and provides advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by the UN General Assembly, and the UN Security Council.
- The Court is composed of 15 judges, who are elected for terms of office of nine years by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council.
- Its judgment is final, binding on the parties to a case, and without appeal.

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

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

70. Regarding the RBI Governor, consider the following statements:

- He holds office for periods not exceeding five years.
- He is not eligible for reappointment or extension.
- The RBI Act, 1934 does not mention any specific qualification for him.

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

- Only One
- Only Two
- All Three
- None

71. Regarding Cervical Cancer, consider the following statements:

- Cervical Cancer develops in a woman’s cervix.
- Almost all cervical cancer cases (99%) are linked to infection with high-risk Human Papillomavirus (HPV), an extremely common virus transmitted through sexual contact.
- CERVAVAC is India’s first indigenously developed quadrivalent human papillomavirus (qHPV) vaccine.

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

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

72. Consider the following statements:

1. Gross domestic product (GDP) is the value of the finished domestic goods and services produced within a nation's borders.
2. Gross national product (GNP) is the value of all finished goods and services produced by a country's citizens, both domestically and abroad.
3. While GDP is an indicator of the local or national economy, GNP represents how its nationals are contributing to the country's economy.

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

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

73. Regarding the Vice President of India, consider the following statements?

1. Article 63 provides that there shall be a Vice-President of India.
2. The Vice President is elected by an electoral college comprising members of the Rajya Sabha only.
3. Article 324 grants the Parliament the authority to oversee the conduct of elections for the office of the Vice-President of India.

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

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

74. Regarding the Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV), consider the following statement:

1. It will have three times the present payload capability compared to Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III.
2. It will also have reusability resulting in low-cost access to space and modular green propulsion systems.
3. This project will boost the Indian space ecosystem in terms of capability and capacity.

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

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

75. Regarding the opt-out policy, consider the following statements:

1. The opt-out policy allows websites to opt out of AI scanners' automated use of their text.
2. It operates on fair use principles and exceptions for text and data mining (TDM) for scientific research.

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

76. Consider the following statements about the Reserve Bank of India (RBI):

1. It manages government debt, foreign exchange, and the financial sector to ensure economic stability.
2. Since 2016, the RBI's role of controlling inflation with a target of keeping the Consumer Price Index (CPI) at 4% has been taken away.
3. Repo rates are decided by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), which includes RBI members and independent experts nominated by the Finance Ministry.

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

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

77. Which of the following best describes the Total Fertility Rate (TFR)?

- A. The average number of children born per woman during her lifetime.
- B. The number of children born per 1,000 people in a year.
- C. The difference between birth rate and death rate in a year.
- D. The total number of children a population produces annually.

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78. Consider the following statements regarding euthanasia:
1. Active euthanasia involves withdrawing life support or treatment essential to keep a terminally ill person alive.
 2. Passive euthanasia was first recognized in India in the *Aruna Shanbaug case, 2011* by the Supreme Court in 2011.
 3. The Supreme Court in 2018 held that the 'right to die with dignity' is a part of Article 21 of the Constitution of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1 and 3 only
D. 1, 2, and 3
79. Regarding the El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO), consider the following statements:
1. La Nina is characterized by the strengthening of trade winds, leading to cooler-than-average sea surface temperatures in the eastern Pacific Ocean.
 2. El Nino typically enhances monsoon activity in India, while La Nina is linked to reduced monsoon rainfall.
 3. ENSO phenomena occur in irregular cycles ranging from two to seven years and significantly impact global weather patterns.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
B. 1 and 2 only
C. 2 and 3 only
D. 1, 2, and 3
80. Regarding the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), consider the following statements:
1. The BRI was initially launched as 'One Belt, One Road' to emphasize China's central role but was later renamed to convey a more open and inclusive initiative.
 2. The Silk Road Economic Belt focuses on improving maritime connections through ports and shipping routes across Eurasia.
 3. The Maritime Silk Road component of the BRI spans the South China Sea, Indo-China, and the Indian Ocean, and extends towards Africa and Europe.

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

81. Which of the following statements regarding the Vice-President of India is/are correct?

1. To be eligible for the office of Vice-President, a person must be qualified for election as a member of the Rajya Sabha and should not hold any office of profit.
2. The Vice-President is elected by an Electoral College consisting of only members of the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

82. Which of the following statements regarding the appointment of High Court judges in India is/are correct?

1. The collegium system for appointing High Court judges was established by the *Second Judges Case* (1993) and refined in the *Third Judges Case* (1998).
2. The collegium for High Court judge appointments consists of the Chief Justice of India (CJI) and the 4 senior-most judges of the Supreme Court.
3. The Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) formalized the process of appointing High Court judges after the *Third Judges Case* (1998).

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

83. Regarding Vaikom Satyagraha, consider the following statements:

1. It was the first among the temple entry movements in India, setting the stage for similar movements nationwide.
2. It was led by Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

84. Regarding the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory body under the IRDAI Act, 1999, and comes under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance.
2. It regulates and sees to the development of the insurance industry while monitoring insurance-related activities.

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

85. Which of the following statements about Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) is/are correct?

1. A CBDC is issued by the central bank as legal tender and is backed by the central bank to ensure stability and trust.
2. CBDCs and private cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin share the same decentralized nature.
3. CBDCs are equivalent to fiat currency and can be exchanged one-to-one with physical fiat currency.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

86. Regarding de-dollarization, consider the following statements:

1. De-dollarization refers to reducing dependence on the US dollar in international trade and reserves, aiming to achieve complete elimination of its role.
2. India's use of Vostro accounts facilitates trade in local currencies, reducing reliance on third-party currencies like the dollar.
3. Central banks globally, including the Reserve Bank of India, are increasing gold reserves as part of diversifying risks associated with over-reliance on the US dollar.

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

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

87. Regarding the Indian Constitution consider the following statements:

1. Article 33 empowers Parliament to restrict or abrogate the fundamental rights of armed forces personnel to ensure discipline and proper discharge of duties.
2. Article 34 provides for imposing martial law in any part of India during an emergency declared by the President.
3. Article 35 states that only Parliament has the power to make laws to give effect to certain specified fundamental rights.

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

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

88. Regarding the regulation of over-the-top (OTT) platforms in India, consider the following statements:

1. The IT Rules 2021 establish a three-tier grievance redressal mechanism, with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting constituting the third tier.
2. The content on OTT platforms must be certified by the Central Board of Film Certification before being made available to viewers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

89. Regarding the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), consider the following statements:

1. The MPC is responsible for determining the policy repo rate required to achieve the inflation target.
2. A neutral monetary policy stance allows the MPC greater flexibility to adjust interest rates depending on prevailing economic conditions.

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3. A “withdrawal of accommodation” stance indicates a shift towards restrictive monetary policy, aimed at reducing inflationary pressures by curbing the money supply.

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

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

1. The Security Council has 15 members, of which 5 are permanent and 10 are non-permanent members, with each member holding one vote.
2. Under the UN Charter, the UNSC can impose sanctions or authorize the use of force to maintain peace and security.
3. The presidency of the Security Council is held permanently by one of the five permanent members to ensure continuity in its decision-making process.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

91. Regarding Urban Local Governments (ULGs), consider the following statements:

1. Urban Local Governments (ULGs) were constitutionalized through the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 which came into force in the year 1993.
2. The 74th Amendment Act, 1992 added Part IX-A to the Constitution.

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

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

92. Regarding the pardoning powers of the Governor, consider the following statements:

1. The Governor can pardon, reprieve, respite, remit, suspend, or commute the punishment or sentence of anyone convicted of an offence under State law.

2. The Governor has the power to pardon a death sentence in the state.

3. Unlike the President, the Governor does not have the power to grant pardon in cases involving a Court Martial.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

93. Regarding the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991, consider the following statements:

1. The Act prohibits the conversion of the religious character of any place of worship as it existed on 15 August 1947.
2. The Act provides an exemption for ancient monuments and archaeological sites of historical importance.
3. The Act mandates that disputes regarding the religious character of places of worship cannot be raised in any court of law after its enactment.

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

94. Regarding wetlands, consider the following statements:

1. Wetlands serve as ecotones, acting as transitional zones between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.
2. Wetlands are typically nutrient-poor, supporting limited aquatic biodiversity compared to lakes.
3. Excessive growth of macrophytes in wetlands can adversely affect water quality and hinder their utility.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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95. The term "Deep State," often seen in news, is best described as:
- A shadowy network of powerful individuals or entities within a country that operates independently of the elected government to influence or control state policy.
 - A geopolitical strategy employed by nations to extend their influence covertly in another country's political and economic systems.
 - An underground network of non-governmental organizations working to promote global justice and human rights.
 - A clandestine alliance of intelligence agencies aimed at combating transnational organized crime and terrorism.
96. Regarding the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, consider the following statements:
- NEP 2020 transitions from the traditional 10+2 system to a 5+3+3+4 structure, integrating Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) for children aged 3-6.
 - The policy mandates the use of English as the medium of instruction for all government schools up to Grade 5 to ensure global competitiveness.
 - It aims to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education to 50% by the year 2035.
- How many of the statements given above is/are correct?
- Only One
 - Only Two
 - All Three
 - None
97. Regarding the Akal Takht, consider the following statements:
- It was established in 1606 by Guru Arjan Dev, the 6th Guru of the Sikhs.
 - It is located in the Golden Temple complex, Punjab.
 - It is one of the five Takhts (seats of power) in Sikhism but holds the highest position due to its dual authority.
- How many of the statements given above is/are correct?
- Only One
 - Only Two
 - All Three
 - None
98. Regarding the Preamble, consider the following statements:
- In the *Kesavananda Bharati Case, 1973*, and *Union Government Vs LIC of India, 1995*, the Supreme Court held that the Preamble is an integral part of the Constitution.
 - The Preamble does not grant substantive rights and is not enforceable in the courts.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 Only
 - 2 Only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
99. Regarding the landscape fires, consider the following statements:
- Statement-I:** Landscape fires contribute significantly to air pollution by releasing particulate matter (PM2.5) and toxic gases posing severe health risks.
- Statement-II:** Landscape fires occur naturally due to lightning and extreme heat, but human activities like burning crop waste and careless disposal of cigarettes also trigger them.
- Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?
- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
 - Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
 - Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
 - Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct
100. With which of the following countries does Iran share its northern border?
- Iraq
 - Turkey
 - Azerbaijan
 - Saudi Arabia
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- 3 Only
 - 1 and 2
 - 3 and 4
 - 1,2,3 and 4

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101. Consider the following statements:

1. Current account deficit (CAD) is when the value of a country's imports of goods and services is greater than its exports.
2. CAD and fiscal deficit together make up twin deficits that can impact the stock market and investors.
3. A lower CAD can boost investor sentiment and make the country's currency more attractive to investors.

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

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

102. The World Solar Report, 2024 was released by which of the following?

- A. International Solar Alliance
- B. International Energy Agency (IEA)
- C. International Solar Energy Society (ISES)
- D. International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

103. Regarding the Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development (PARAKH), consider the following statements:

1. It has been launched as part of implementing the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020.
2. It acts as a constituent unit of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).
3. It is also tasked with holding periodic learning outcome tests like the National Achievement Survey (NAS) and State Achievement Surveys.

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

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

104. Which of the following best describes the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)?

- A. CBDC is a digital form of a country's fiat currency issued by the central bank.
- B. CBDC operates in the same decentralized manner as cryptocurrencies.

C. CBDC's value fluctuates like other cryptocurrencies due to market demand.

D. CBDC is issued by private financial institutions to simplify fiscal policies.

105. Consider the following statements:

1. The Indian Constitution empowers Parliament to regulate the manner of conducting the elections.
2. Article 151 of the constitution allows a candidate to contest the election of Lok Sabha from multiple seats.

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. Consider the following statements regarding Rare Earth Elements (REEs):

1. REEs include the 15 lanthanides along with scandium and yttrium.
2. Despite being termed "rare," REEs are relatively abundant in the Earth's crust.

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

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

1. DPI serves as a shared means to achieve multiple objectives, including improving public service delivery.
2. Effective design and implementation of DPI can accelerate the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
3. DPI is primarily focused on private-sector operations with minimal relevance to public-sector transformation.

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

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

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108. Consider the following statements regarding Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements (DTAAs):

1. DTAAs are bilateral treaties aimed at avoiding double taxation, encouraging cross-border investments, and benefiting non-resident Indians (NRIs).
2. The Most-Favored-Nation (MFN) clause ensures that favourable tax rates granted to one treaty partner are automatically extended to others under similar conditions.
3. The recent Supreme Court ruling requires formal notification for MFN benefits to take effect, overturning the earlier automatic extension practice.

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

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

109. The T+0 settlement cycle recently seen in the news is best described as:

- A. A settlement process where trades are settled on the same day the transaction takes place.
- B. A settlement process where trades are settled one day after the transaction date.
- C. A system where transactions are pre-approved before execution to reduce settlement risks.
- D. A settlement process that applies only to government securities and bonds.

110. Consider the following statements:

1. Zero Hour is the first hour of every parliamentary sitting and is governed by the Rules of Procedure of the House.
2. Question Hour is an Indian parliamentary innovation that is not mentioned in the Rules of Procedure of the House.

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

111. Regarding the One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) scheme, consider the following statements:

1. The ONOS scheme is coordinated by the Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET), an autonomous body under the University Grants Commission (UGC).

2. ONOS aims to provide access to over 13,000 high-impact journals from 30 leading international publishers.
3. The scheme primarily targets private academic institutions, excluding public universities and research centers.

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

112. Which of the following is/are features of Federalism?

1. Powers are divided between the central government (Union) and state governments.
2. A written constitution delineates the powers of different levels of government.
3. An independent judiciary interprets and enforces the Constitution to resolve disputes between different levels of government.

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

113. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDPA), passed in 2023 waives the need for consent when processing data for medical treatment during an epidemic.

Statement-II: The Supreme Court of India, in *K.S. Puttaswamy vs Union of India* (2017), recognised privacy as a fundamental right, extending its scope to "informational privacy".

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

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

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114. Regarding the National Education Policy 2020, consider the following statements:

1. It is the first national education policy of India.
2. It promotes using mother tongues or regional languages as the medium of instruction up to Grade 5, with options for Sanskrit and other languages.
3. It emphasizes support for Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs), children with disabilities, and establishing “Bal Bhavans.”

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

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

115. Consider the following statements:

1. India is a signatory of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) which grants the right to a standard of living adequate for human health and well-being.
2. Article 21 of the Indian Constitution guarantees the right to life and personal liberty, encompassing the right to health as essential for a life of dignity.

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

116. Regarding the Public Distribution System, consider the following statements:

1. It was established to address the scarcity of food by distributing food grains at affordable prices.
2. It is now governed by the National Food Security Act (NFSA) of 2013 which ensures food security for about two-thirds of India’s population, based on Census 2011 data.
3. It is jointly managed by the Central and State/UT governments.

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

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

117. The country’s external debt stock is best defined as:

- A. The total debt owed by a country to non-residents, repayable in currency, goods, or services, including public, publicly guaranteed, and private non-guaranteed debt.
- B. The total amount of money owed by the government to domestic lenders.
- C. The sum of all internal and external borrowings of a country.
- D. The aggregate of all foreign direct investments and remittances received by a country.

118. Consider the following statements:

1. In the *Kesavananda Bharati Case*, 1973 the Supreme Court emphasized the need to harmonise Fundamental Rights with the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP).
2. In the *Maneka Gandhi Case*, 1978 the Supreme Court emphasized that the right to life includes the right to live with dignity.
3. In the *Minerva Mills Case*, 1980, the Supreme Court ruled that socialism is a fundamental aspect of the Constitution’s basic structure.

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

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

119. Regarding Article 356, consider the following statements:

1. Article 356 of the Constitution of India is based on Section 93 of the Government of India Act, 1935.
2. According to Article 356, the President’s Rule can be imposed on any state of India on the grounds of the failure of the constitutional machinery.
3. During the President’s Rule, the state government is suspended, and the central government directly administers the state through the Governor.

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

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

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120. Regarding the Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), consider the following statements:

1. They are legal entities formed by a group of farmers who share common interests and goals.
2. They are registered under various legal forms, such as cooperatives, companies, trusts, or societies.
3. They aim to provide better access to finance and markets to small and marginal farmers by aggregating their produce and bargaining power.

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

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

121. Consider the following statements:

1. Antitrust laws are regulations that encourage competition by limiting the market power of any particular firm.
2. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) regulates competition in the Indian market under the Competition Act, 2002.

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

1. It is a company registered under the Companies Act, 2013, involved in various financial activities like lending, investing in securities, leasing, and insurance.
2. They offer various banking services but do not have a banking licence.
3. They cannot accept any public deposits.

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

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

123. Regarding Wealth Tax, consider the following statements:

1. It is an indirect tax that is applied to standing wealth if it exceeds the specified wealth threshold.
2. It was abolished in the Union Budget of 2016–2017 on the recommendations of the Chelliah Committee (1993) and the Kelkar Committee (2002).
3. It was replaced with an additional surcharge of 2% on those with a taxable annual income of over Rs 1 crore.

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

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

124. Consider the following statements:

1. A weaker domestic currency reduces the competitiveness of Indian exports in the global market.
2. Higher tariffs on Chinese commodities entering the United States are unlikely to have any impact on Indian exporters.

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. Regarding the most-favored-nation (MFN) status, consider the following statements:

1. MFN refers to a trade status granted by one country to another, ensuring non-discriminatory trade between them.
2. MFN is a key principle of World Trade Organization (WTO) rules.

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

1. It is not concerned with the elections of panchayats and municipalities in the states.
2. Originally the commission was a multi-member body but after the Election Commissioner Amendment Act 1989, it was made a single-member body.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

127. Regarding the Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019, consider the following statements:

1. It provides citizenship based on religion to six undocumented non-Muslim communities from Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh.
2. It exempts the members of the six communities from any criminal case under the Foreigners Act, 1946 and the Passport Act, 1920.
3. Final decisions on applications will be made by empowered committees led by the Prime Minister of India.

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

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

128. Consider the following statements:

1. Carbon pricing is a key method to combat climate change, using compliance and voluntary carbon markets.
2. Compliance markets, governed by authorities like the United Nations, set emission limits for companies, requiring those exceeding limits to buy carbon credits from eco-friendly projects or pay carbon taxes.
3. The voluntary carbon market is unregulated, enabling organizations to trade carbon credits through systems like the Clean Development Mechanism, Verra, and Gold Standard.

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

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

129. Consider the following statements:

1. The International Criminal Court (ICC) was established under the Rome Statute.
2. The Rome Statute and the ICC only address individual criminal responsibility.
3. India is a party to the Rome Statute.

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

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

130. Regarding Rajya Sabha Member, consider the following statements:

1. Every member of the Rajya Sabha enjoys a safe tenure of six years.
2. One-third of its members retire after every two years.
3. They are not entitled to contest again for the membership.

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

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

131. Regarding Tariffs, consider the following statements:

1. A tariff is a tax imposed by a government of a country on imports or exports of goods.
2. High tariffs will raise the cost for foreign producers to sell their goods in a domestic system, providing strategic advantages for local producers.
3. India has one of the lowest tariff rates in the world.

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

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

132. Regarding Remittances, consider the following statements:

1. Remittance costs are the fees charged when someone sends money internationally.
2. Remittance volumes are influenced by migration levels, employment conditions in origin countries, and the cost of remitting funds.
3. According to the World Bank, India was the top receiver of remittances in the year 2024, followed by the United States.

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

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

133. Consider the following statements:

1. Indonesia and Malaysia are the main global palm oil producers, followed by Thailand, Colombia, and Nigeria.
2. India is the second-largest consumer of edible oil globally and one of its largest importers.
3. National Mission on Edible Oil-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP), is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme aimed at raising the area under oil palm cultivation.

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

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

134. Regarding Sin Tax, consider the following statements:

1. A sin tax is imposed on goods and services, which are perceived as harmful to society.
2. The aim is to reduce or eliminate the consumption of harmful products by making them more expensive to obtain while also providing a source of revenue for governments.
3. Sin taxes are often termed regressive as they discriminate against the lower classes.

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

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

135. Regarding the Judicial activism, consider the following statements:

1. Judicial activism signifies the proactive role of the Judiciary in protecting the rights of citizens.
2. The foundation of Judicial Activism in India was laid down by Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer, Justice P.N. Bhagwati, Justice O.Chinnappa Reddy, and Justice D.A Desai.
3. The practice of Judicial Activism first originated and developed in South Korea.

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

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

136. Regarding Martial Law, consider the following statements:

1. Article 34 of the Constitution of India contains a provision in reference to Martial Law.
2. The concept of martial law has been borrowed in India from the English common law.
3. The expression 'Martial Law' has not been defined anywhere in the Constitution.

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

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

137. Regarding the proposal for simultaneous elections in India, consider the following statements:

1. The report on One Nation One Election plan submitted in 2024 was prepared by the committee chaired by Droupadi Murmu.
2. A constitutional amendment for simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies will require approval from at least half of the states.
3. No ratification by the states will be required for a constitutional amendment concerning elections to municipalities and panchayats.

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

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

138. Consider the following statements regarding the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties 29 (COP29):

1. It concluded in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
2. The New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG) aims to triple climate finance for developing countries to USD 300 billion per year by 2035.
3. India endorsed the COP29 Declaration on Reducing Methane from Organic Waste.

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

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

139. Which of the following statements accurately describes "Operation Sankalp"?

- A. A military operation conducted by India to neutralize terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.
- B. An initiative by the Indian Navy to safeguard maritime trade routes and ensure the safety of Indian vessels from potential threats in the Strait of Hormuz.
- C. A diplomatic mission to promote trade relations between India and the Maldives.
- D. An airstrike operation launched by India targeting militant camps along the Myanmar border.

140. Consider the following statements regarding exam reform recommendations:

- 1. A panel led by former ISRO chairman K. Radhakrishnan recommended improvements for national entrance exams' transparency and efficiency.
- 2. The reform committee has recommended an election-like tiered collaboration between the Centre and States in managing the security of these examinations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

141. Regarding the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF), consider the following statements:

- 1. It aims to promote natural farming as a standalone Central Sector Scheme under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare.
- 2. The Mission is designed to support farmers to reduce input cost of cultivation and dependency to externally purchased inputs

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

142. Consider the following statements:

- 1. India's share of the global economy is around 4%.
- 2. India's share in global goods exports is more than 10%.

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

143. Consider the following statements regarding the India State of Forest Report 2023:

- 1. The ISFR is brought out by the Forest Survey of India (FSI) on a biennial basis since 1987.
- 2. The Forest and Tree cover of the country is 21.76% of the geographical area of the country
- 3. Lakshadweep has the highest percentage of forest cover with respect to total geographical area.

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

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

144. Consider the following statements regarding various instruments of monetary policy:

- 1. Bank Rate is the rate at which the RBI is ready to buy or rediscount bills of exchange or other commercial papers.
- 2. Statutory Liquidity Ratio is the average daily balance that a bank is required to maintain with the Reserve Bank as a share of notified per cent of its Net demand and time liabilities (NDTL).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

145. Consider the following statements:

- 1. India ranks first in shipbuilding in the world with 45% of the global market share.
- 2. Currently, mechanised vessels involved in coastal shipping are governed by the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 while the non-mechanised vessels fall under the Coasting Vessels Act, 1838.
- 3. The Merchant Shipping Act of 1958 requires that ships flagged in India be 100% owned by Indian citizens or by companies incorporated under Indian law.

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

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

146. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: AgriStack creates a unified platform for farmers and provides them with end-to-end services across the agriculture food value chain.

Statement-II: AgriStack is a collection of technologies and digital databases that focuses on farmers and the agricultural sector.

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

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

147. Regarding the electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM), consider the following statements:

1. Launched in 2016, it is a pan-India electronic trade portal linking Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMCs) across the States.
2. It provides for contactless remote bidding and mobile-based anytime payment for which traders do not need to either visit mandis or banks for the same.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

148. Consider the following statements:

1. The CFA franc zone is an economic and monetary area bringing together France and Nordic countries.
2. The Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU) is a regional currency union of Latin America and the Caribbean countries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

149. Consider the following statements:

1. Fresh nuclear fuel (uranium dioxide) has a very small level of radioactivity, so it could be handled with no special protection measures.
2. Spent nuclear fuel is highly radioactive because of the by-products of nuclear fission, therefore special equipment and methods are required to handle it.
3. Narora Atomic Power Station is the biggest nuclear power plant in India.

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

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

150. Regarding the Competition Commission of India, consider the following statements:

1. It consists of a Chairperson and not more than 6 Members appointed by the Central Government.
2. It is the statutory duty of the Commission to eliminate practices having adverse effects on competition, promote and sustain competition, and protect the interests of consumers.
3. The Commission is also mandated to give its opinion on competition issues to the government or statutory authority.

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

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

151. Consider the following statements:

1. The repo rate is the rate at which the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) lends money to commercial banks in the event of any shortfall of funds.
2. The Marginal Standing Facility rate is a liquidity window through which the RBI will give banks an option to park excess liquidity with it.
3. Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) is a window for scheduled banks to borrow overnight from the RBI in an emergency situation when interbank liquidity dries up completely.

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

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

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152. Regarding public debt, consider the following statements:

1. Interest payments in India exceed government spending on vital areas such as education and healthcare.
2. High levels of public debt may restrict the government's capacity to enact counter-cyclical fiscal measures in times of economic downturns.
3. Persistently high deficits and debt levels can lead to lower sovereign ratings by rating agencies which can increase the cost of external commercial borrowing.

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

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

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

1. It is a value-added and indirect tax system levied on the supply of goods and services in India.
2. The GST Council includes the Union Finance Minister as Chairperson, Union Minister of State (Finance), and a finance or any other minister from each state.
3. In the *Mohit Minerals case, 2022*, the Supreme Court ruled that all the GST Council recommendations are binding.

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

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

154. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 311 ensures that no government employee can be dismissed, removed, or reduced in rank by an authority subordinate to the one that appointed them.
2. The All-India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968 specifically addresses officers' communication and conduct on social media platforms.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

155. Consider the following statements:

1. The Havana Charter for the International Trade Organisation (ITO) was drafted at the 1948 UN Conference on Trade and Employment in Havana.
2. The Havana Charter did not come into effect mainly because it was not ratified by the Indian and Chinese Parliament.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

156. India State of Forest Report 2023 is published by which of the following organisations?

- A. Forest Survey of India
- B. National Green Tribunal
- C. Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education
- D. None of the above

157. Consider the following statements regarding Kuwait:

1. Kuwait shares its eastern border with the Arabian Gulf, its southern and southwestern border with Saudi Arabia, and its northern and western border with Iraq.
2. Kuwait is geographically considered an outlet to the northeast of the Arabian Peninsula.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

158. Regarding Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, consider the following statements:

1. He led the Mahad Satyagraha in 1927, a non-violent protest against caste-based discrimination in India.
2. He participated only in the third Round Table Conference.
3. He signed the 1932 Poona pact with Mahatma Gandhi to abandon the idea of separate electorates for the depressed classes.

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

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

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

1. It allocated the three western rivers Indus, Sutlej, and Jhelum to Pakistan while three Eastern rivers Ravi, Beas, and Chenab were allocated to India.
2. Under this treaty, both countries must set up a Permanent Indus Commission, mandated to meet annually.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

160. Regarding wealth tax, consider the following statements:

1. Wealth taxes are assessed on the wealth stock, or the total amount of net wealth owned by a taxpayer.
2. In India, the wealth tax was abolished in 2015.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

161. Regarding the Election Commission of India (ECI), consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution has not prescribed the qualifications of the members of the Election Commission.
2. The salary and conditions of service of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (ECs) are equivalent to those of the Cabinet Secretary.
3. They can resign anytime but cannot be removed before the expiry of their term.

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

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

162. Regarding boundary disputes between India and China, consider the following statements:

1. The Johnson Line proposed by the British in the 1860s placed Aksai Chin in the then princely state of Jammu and Kashmir.

2. The Middle sector is the only largely undisputed area, where both India and China have exchanged maps and formally demarcated boundaries.
3. The boundary dispute in the Eastern sector is centered around the McMahon Line, which China recognizes as the official boundary.

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

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

163. Regarding Inflation, consider the following statements:

1. Consumer Price Index (CPI) is the rate at which the prices of goods and services that consumers buy for personal use increase over time.
2. Consumer Food Price Inflation (CFPI) monitors the price fluctuations of a particular selection of food items commonly consumed by households.
3. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) is utilized to monitor supply and demand dynamics in industries, manufacturing, and construction sectors.

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

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

164. Regarding Remittances, consider the following statements:

1. Remittances refer to the money that individuals working abroad send back to support their families in their home country.
2. In 2024, India received the highest-ever remittances for any country in a year, with the largest share of global remittances since 2000.
3. In recent years, remittances have even surpassed Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in low-and middle-income countries put together.

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

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

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165. Consider the following statements:

1. 25th December is celebrated as Good Governance Day every year on the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.
2. Good Governance Index (GGI) has been launched by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions to determine the status of governance in the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

166. Regarding Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), consider the following statements:

1. It aims to bring about the Blue Revolution through sustainable and responsible development of the fisheries sector in India.
2. The scheme is being implemented only in the aspirational districts of all the States and UTs.
3. Fishermen are provided with insurance coverage, financial assistance, and the facility of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to facilitate access to institutional credit.

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

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

167. Which of the following best describes a “managed float” exchange rate system?

- A. A hybrid system where exchange rates are mainly market-driven but with occasional government intervention to stabilize the currency’s value.
- B. A completely fixed exchange rate determined by the government.
- C. A system where exchange rates are determined solely by market forces.
- D. A system where exchange rates are expressed as a fixed amount of one currency required to purchase another.

168. Regarding Perseverance Rover, consider the following statements:

1. It is a robotic explorer part of the Indian Space Research Organisation’s (ISRO) Mars 2020 mission.
2. It collects rock and soil samples, encasing them in tubes for a future return to Earth.
3. A Multi-Mission Radioisotope Thermoelectric Generator, which uses heat from plutonium decay to generate electricity, acts as the power source for the rover.

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

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

169. Consider the following statements:

1. Tsunamis are giant waves caused by earthquakes or volcanic eruptions under the sea.
2. The speed of tsunami waves depends on ocean depth rather than the distance from the source of the wave.

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

170. Consider the following statements regarding the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC):

1. Its members include Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, and Iraq.
2. The GCC has launched a unified currency similar to the Euro for its member states.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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171. Regarding Disaster Management Act, 2005, consider the following statements:

1. The Act designates the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change as the nodal ministry for steering the overall national disaster management.
2. The National Executive Committee (NEC) is constituted under the act to assist the National Disaster Management Authority in the performance of its functions.
3. The Act also devotes several sections to various civil and criminal liabilities resulting from violation of provisions of the act.

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

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

172. Regarding the Union Budget, consider the following statements:

1. According to Article 122 of the Indian Constitution, the Union Budget of a year is referred to as the Annual Financial Statement (AFS).
2. It is a statement of the estimated receipts and expenditures of the Government in a financial year
3. The Budget Division of the Department of Economic Affairs in the Finance Ministry is the nodal body responsible for preparing the Budget.

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

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

173. Regarding the provisions related to education in India, consider the following statements:

1. The 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976 moved education to the state List.
2. The 86th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002 made the Right to Education a fundamental right under Article 21A for children aged 6-14 years.
3. The Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009, was amended in 2019 to eliminate the no-detention policy.

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

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

174. Consider the following statements regarding Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC):

1. A CBDC is a legal tender issued by a central bank in digital form and is exchangeable one-to-one with fiat currency.
2. CBDCs are inspired by Bitcoin but differ in being state-issued and holding 'legal tender' status.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

175. Consider the following statements regarding the Panama Canal:

1. It is a man-made waterway connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans across the Isthmus of Panama.
2. The Panama Canal uses a sophisticated lock system to manage the elevation difference between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

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

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

176. Regarding the 18th India State of Forest Report 2023, consider the following statements:

1. ISFR is brought out by the Forest Survey of India (FSI) on a biennial basis since 1987.
2. The total forest and tree cover of the country is 25.17% of the geographical area (GA) of the country.
3. Uttar Pradesh followed by Arunachal Pradesh and Chhattisgarh are the top three states having the largest forest cover Area-wise wise

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

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

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177. Regarding Ken River, consider the following statements:

1. It originates on the north-west slopes of the Kaimur hills in Madhya Pradesh.
2. It is known for the rare Sajhar stone.
3. Its major tributaries include Bawas, Dewar, Kaith, Baik, Kopra, and Bearma.

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

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

178. Regarding rare earth metals, consider the following statements:

1. India accounts for over one-third of the global rare earth possession and around 70% of its production.
2. Kazakhstan is among the richest sources of rare earths and holds 15 of the 17 known rare earth elements.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

179. Consider the following statements:

1. The McMahon line is a demarcation that separates Tibet and northeast India.
2. Radcliffe Line divided British India into India and Pakistan.
3. The Durand Line is the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

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

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

180. Consider the following:

1. It is a small mountainous country in Central Europe, known for the Alps mountains, lakes, and valleys.
2. It is a landlocked country bordered by France, Italy, Austria, Germany, and Liechtenstein.
3. It is not a member of the European Union and NATO.

Which of the following countries best matches the above description?

- A. Switzerland
- B. Finland
- C. Norway
- D. Sweden

181. Regarding the Nominal Effective Exchange Rate (NEER), consider the following statements:

1. It is a weighted average of a currency's bilateral exchange rates relative to multiple trading partner currencies.
2. It reflects nominal currency strength without accounting for inflation or price level differences between countries.
3. A fall in NEER indicates nominal appreciation, while a rise signals depreciation.

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

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

182. Which of the following best describes the concept of a "Green Economy"?

- A. An economic system that emphasizes environmental sustainability, social inclusivity, and resource efficiency while reducing carbon emissions and ecological risks.
- B. An economy focused solely on increasing agricultural productivity.
- C. A traditional economy centered on industrial growth without environmental considerations.
- D. An economic framework that prioritizes military and defense expenditures over environmental policies.

183. Regarding the Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE), consider the following statements:

1. It covers rural and urban areas of the whole of India except the villages in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, which are difficult to access.
2. It includes unincorporated non-agricultural establishments belonging to three sectors namely Manufacturing, trade, and Other Services.

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

184. Regarding the Gini Coefficient, consider the following statements:

1. It measures the degree of income equality in a population.
2. A Gini Coefficient of zero means that everyone has the same income, while a Coefficient of 1 represents a single individual receiving all the income.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

185. Regarding elephants, consider the following statements:

1. Elephants have the highest protection under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
2. The Captive Elephant (Transfer or Transport) Rules, 2024 facilitate the transport and the transfer of elephants and also specify the procedure of transfer of ownership.
3. Project Elephant was intended for the protection of elephants but did not address the issues related to captive elephants.

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

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

186. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Household Income Surveys in India are crucial for measuring inequality in India.

Statement-II: Household surveys include earnings from informal sources such as daily wage labor, small enterprises, and subsistence agriculture.

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

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

187. The Focus: LAC Programme is often seen in the news in the context of:

- A. Strengthening bilateral relations between India and Scandinavian countries.
- B. Trade promotion initiative to strengthen trade ties with Latin America.
- C. Addressing border infrastructure and connectivity issues along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).
- D. Enhancing military cooperation between India and Bangladesh.

188. Regarding Elephanta Caves, consider the following statements:

1. The rock-cut Elephanta Caves were constructed about the mid-5th to 6th centuries AD.
2. The Elephanta Caves are located in Western India on Elephanta Island which features two hillocks separated by a narrow valley.
3. The Gateway of India is an arch built in the Indo-Islamic style in the 20th century to commemorate the landing of King George V in India, to Elephanta Caves.

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

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

189. Consider the following statements:

1. The National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM) is implemented by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) and aims to achieve a production capacity of 5 million tonnes per annum of Green Hydrogen in the country by the year 2030.
2. PM Surya Ghar-Muft Bijli Yojana is a central scheme that aims to provide free electricity to one crore households in India, who opt to install rooftop solar electricity units.

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

190. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The auto production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme incentivizes companies meeting stringent domestic value addition (DVA) targets to reduce import dependence, enhance technology transfer, and advance India's green mobility goals.

Statement-II: The auto production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme aims to foster deep localisation and build robust domestic and global supply chains.

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

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

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191. Consider the following statements:

1. A Special Economic Zone (SEZ) is a geographical region that has economic laws that are more liberal than a country's domestic economic laws.
2. Asia's first Export Processing Zone (EPZ) was set up in Kandla, Gujarat in 1965.
3. All laws of India are applicable in SEZs unless specifically exempted as per the SEZ Act/ Rules.

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

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

192. Regarding the 86th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002, consider the following statements:

1. It added Article 21A under Fundamental Rights, making education a fundamental right for children aged six to fourteen, mandating free and compulsory education.
2. Article 45 was substituted to emphasize the state's responsibility to provide early childhood care and education until the age of 6.
3. Article 51A was amended to include a duty for parents or guardians to ensure educational opportunities for their children or wards between 6 and 14 years.

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

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

193. Consider the following statements:

1. It is bordered by the Caspian Sea on the east.
2. Its northern and western regions are covered by the Caucasus Mountains.
3. Mud volcanoes, often erupting with water, sand, gas, and oil, are a unique feature of this region.

Which of the following countries best matches the above description?

- A. Azerbaijan
- B. Kazakhstan
- C. Turkmenistan
- D. Georgia

194. Consider the following statements:

1. In India, the President can be removed only for 'violation of the Constitution'.
2. The Indian Constitution provides a three-step test to define what constitutes a "violation of the Constitution."

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

195. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 249 allows the Parliament to legislate on matters enumerated in the State List if the Rajya Sabha passes a resolution by a two-thirds majority.
2. Under Article 312, the Parliament is allowed to create an All India Services common to the Union and the States, if the Rajya Sabha passes a requisite resolution.
3. Resolution for the removal of the Vice-president can be introduced only in the Rajya Sabha and not in the Lok Sabha.

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

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

196. Regarding Manipur, consider the following statements:

1. The state has a sub-tropical monsoon climate.
2. The state has four river basins namely the Barak River Basin, the Manipur River basin in the Yu River basin, and a portion of the Lanye River basin.
3. The largest river in the state is the Barak River.

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

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

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197. Regarding the Governor, consider the following statements:

1. In the state universities, the Governor of the state is the ex-officio chancellor of the universities in that state.
2. Governor while acting as Chancellor and making decisions on all University matters should act only as per the aid and advice of the Council of 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

198. Global Tuberculosis Report 2024, is released by which of the following:

- A. World Health Organization (WHO)
- B. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- C. International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (IUATLD)
- D. Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria

199. The term 'AI washing' often seen in the news is best described as:

- A. The process of cleaning datasets for improved AI training accuracy.
- B. Misrepresentation or exaggeration of AI/ML application in goods and services.
- C. Using AI technology to automate mundane and repetitive tasks.
- D. A government initiative to regulate the ethical use of AI in industries.

200. Consider the following statements:

1. The middle-income trap is when a country's economic growth slows after its per capita income reaches between USD 1,100 and USD 13,000 annually.
2. The World Development Report (WDR) is released annually by the World Bank.

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. (C) | 2. (D) | 3. (B) | 4. (A) | 5. (C) | 6. (A) | 7. (A) | 8. (D) | 9. (B) | 10. (C) |
| 11. (A) | 12. (B) | 13. (B) | 14. (B) | 15. (A) | 16. (D) | 17. (A) | 18. (C) | 19. (A) | 20. (D) |
| 21. (C) | 22. (A) | 23. (B) | 24. (D) | 25. (D) | 26. (B) | 27. (A) | 28. (C) | 29. (D) | 30. (A) |
| 31. (B) | 32. (C) | 33. (C) | 34. (A) | 35. (B) | 36. (B) | 37. (B) | 38. (A) | 39. (A) | 40. (B) |
| 41. (B) | 42. (B) | 43. (D) | 44. (C) | 45. (A) | 46. (A) | 47. (A) | 48. (B) | 49. (C) | 50. (A) |
| 51. (A) | 52. (B) | 53. (D) | 54. (A) | 55. (C) | 56. (A) | 57. (C) | 58. (D) | 59. (A) | 60. (A) |
| 61. (B) | 62. (D) | 63. (A) | 64. (A) | 65. (C) | 66. (A) | 67. (A) | 68. (C) | 69. (C) | 70. (B) |
| 71. (D) | 72. (C) | 73. (A) | 74. (D) | 75. (C) | 76. (B) | 77. (A) | 78. (B) | 79. (A) | 80. (B) |
| 81. (C) | 82. (B) | 83. (A) | 84. (D) | 85. (A) | 86. (B) | 87. (B) | 88. (A) | 89. (D) | 90. (A) |
| 91. (D) | 92. (B) | 93. (D) | 94. (B) | 95. (A) | 96. (B) | 97. (B) | 98. (C) | 99. (B) | 100. (A) |
| 101. (C) | 102. (A) | 103. (D) | 104. (A) | 105. (A) | 106. (C) | 107. (B) | 108. (C) | 109. (A) | 110. (D) |
| 111. (A) | 112. (D) | 113. (B) | 114. (B) | 115. (D) | 116. (C) | 117. (A) | 118. (A) | 119. (C) | 120. (D) |
| 121. (C) | 122. (B) | 123. (A) | 124. (D) | 125. (C) | 126. (A) | 127. (A) | 128. (C) | 129. (B) | 130. (B) |
| 131. (A) | 132. (A) | 133. (C) | 134. (C) | 135. (A) | 136. (C) | 137. (D) | 138. (A) | 139. (B) | 140. (C) |
| 141. (B) | 142. (A) | 143. (B) | 144. (A) | 145. (B) | 146. (A) | 147. (C) | 148. (D) | 149. (A) | 150. (C) |
| 151. (A) | 152. (C) | 153. (B) | 154. (A) | 155. (A) | 156. (A) | 157. (C) | 158. (A) | 159. (B) | 160. (C) |
| 161. (B) | 162. (A) | 163. (C) | 164. (C) | 165. (B) | 166. (B) | 167. (A) | 168. (A) | 169. (C) | 170. (D) |
| 171. (A) | 172. (B) | 173. (B) | 174. (C) | 175. (D) | 176. (B) | 177. (C) | 178. (B) | 179. (C) | 180. (A) |
| 181. (B) | 182. (A) | 183. (D) | 184. (C) | 185. (B) | 186. (A) | 187. (B) | 188. (C) | 189. (C) | 190. (A) |
| 191. (C) | 192. (D) | 193. (A) | 194. (A) | 195. (C) | 196. (D) | 197. (A) | 198. (A) | 199. (B) | 200. (C) |

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Practice Explanation

1. (C)

Explanation:

- **Respite** denotes awarding a **lesser sentence** in place of **one originally awarded** due to some **special fact**, such as the **physical disability** of a convict or the **pregnancy** of a **woman offender**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- **Reprieve** implies a **stay of the execution of a sentence** (especially that of death) for a temporary period. Its purpose is to **enable the convict** to have time to seek **pardon or commutation** from the President. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- **Commutation** denotes the **substitution of one form of punishment** with a **lighter form of punishment**. For example, a **death sentence** may be **commuted to rigorous imprisonment**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.
- **Remission** implies **reducing the period of the sentence** without changing its character. For example, a sentence of rigorous imprisonment for five years may be remitted to rigorous imprisonment for one year.

2. (D)

Explanation:

- **Places of Worship Act of 1991:**
 - ◆ It was enacted to **freeze the status of religious places of worship** as they existed on **August 15, 1947**, and prohibits the **conversion of any place of worship** and ensures the maintenance of their religious character. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
 - ◆ The Act does not **apply to ancient and historical monuments, archaeological sites, and remains** covered by the **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
 - ◆ It also excludes cases that have already been settled or resolved and disputes that have been resolved by mutual agreement or conversions that occurred before the Act came into effect.
 - ◆ The Act does not extend to the specific place of worship known as **Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid in Ayodhya**, including any legal proceedings associated with it.

3. (B)

Explanation:

- **National Programme for Prevention & Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD)**, previously known as National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) is being implemented under the **National Health Mission (NHM)**. Hence, **statement-I is correct**.

- In 2019, the **World Health Assembly** extended the **WHO Global action plan for the prevention and control of NCDs 2013–2020 to 2030** and called for the development of an Implementation Roadmap 2023 to 2030 to accelerate progress on preventing and controlling NCDs. Hence, **statement-II is correct**.

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

4. (A)

Explanation:

Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) report 2023-24:

- The unemployment rate for 2023-24 **remained unchanged** at **3.2%**, the same as in **2022-23**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- This marks the first time since the inception of the **PLFS** in **2017-18** that the unemployment rate has not shown a year-on-year decline.
- It showed a **significant increase** in **Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR)** to **60.1%** in **2023-24** from **57.9%** in **2022-23** at national level. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- The **unemployment rate for women rose to 3.2%** (up from 2.9% in 2022-23), while for men, it slightly decreased to **3.2%** from **3.3%**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

5. (C)

Explanation:

- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** has been allocated **Rs 551.75 crore** in the Union Budget 2024-25 to enhance AI infrastructure, including the procurement of **high-performance Graphic Processing Units (GPUs)**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The procurement will provide **Indian startups** with essential **computing power**, addressing a gap in the current market.
- Data centre **GPUs** are crucial for parallel operations, **AI, media analytics**, and **3D rendering solutions**, making them essential for advanced use cases like **machine learning, modelling, and cloud gaming**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

6. (A)

Explanation:

- Investment in **cutting-edge technologies** is essential to stay **globally competitive**, address **societal challenges** and unlock economic opportunities. Hence, **statement-I is correct**.

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- India aims to achieve its **development objectives by 2047**, the government has laid an emphasis on the **role of science and technology** in strategic and emerging sectors. Hence, **statement-II is correct.**

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

7. (A)

Explanation:

- The Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) was established with the **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) Act, 2023**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- The **ANRF aims to seed, grow and promote research and development (R&D)** and foster a culture of research and innovation throughout India's universities, colleges, research institutions, and R&D laboratories.
- The **Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), created in 2008**, has been subsumed in ANRF. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- ANRF will act as an apex body to provide high-level strategic direction of scientific research in the country as per recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP).
- The ANRF is designed to promote **research and development (R&D)** across all **universities, colleges, research institutions, and R&D laboratories** in India, regardless of whether they are public or private. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct.**
- Additionally, it fosters collaborations among industry, academia, government departments, and research institutions to create a comprehensive research ecosystem.

8. (D)

Explanation:

National Health Policy (NHP), 2017:

- The **National Health Policy 2017** is the latest policy, succeeding those of **1983** and **2002**.
- It aims to achieve universal health coverage and ensure the **delivery of quality healthcare services** to all at an affordable cost.
- Targets set under the NHP 2017:
 - ◆ Increasing life expectancy to 70 years from 67.5. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ Reduce fertility rate to 2.1 (Replacement levels) by 2025. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ Reduce infant mortality rate to 28 by 2019. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ Reduce Under Five Mortality to 23 by 2025. Hence, **statement 4 is correct.**

9. (B)

Explanation:

One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) Scheme:

- It aims to provide nationwide access to scholarly research articles and journals **for three years**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct.**
- It will be coordinated by the **Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET)**, which is an autonomous inter-university center under the University Grants Commission (UGC). Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

10. (C)

Explanation:

- **Malnutrition** refers to deficiencies, excesses, or imbalances in a person's intake of energy and nutrients. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- **Wasting** refers to low weight-for-height and occurs when a person has not had enough food to eat and/or they have had an infectious disease. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
- **Stunting** refers to low height-for-age and often occurs due to insufficient calorie intake, leading to a low weight for a given height. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**

11. (A)

Explanation:

Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs):

- They are also known as **chronic diseases** and tend to be of long duration and are the result of a combination of genetic, physiological, environmental, and behavioral factors. Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
- India has a **national non-communicable diseases (NCD) surveillance policy**, with screening for NCD risks at the community level, aimed at preventive and promotive pathways for NCD care and treatment pathways. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct.**

12. (B)

Explanation:

- **IndiaAI Mission** aims to establish a robust AI computing infrastructure in India to support the development and testing of AI systems. Hence, **statement I is correct.**
 - ◆ The Mission aims to enhance data quality and develop indigenous AI technologies. It focuses on attracting top talent, fostering industry collaboration, supporting impactful AI startups, and promoting ethical AI practices.
- **Graphics Processing Units (GPUs)** are critical for training and building large-scale AI models, essential for advanced AI applications. Hence, **statement II is correct.**

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- ◆ **Data centre** GPUs are crucial for parallel operations, AI, media analytics, and 3D rendering solutions, making them essential for advanced use cases like machine learning, modelling, and cloud gaming.

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

13. (B)

Explanation:

Global Digital Compact:

- The Global Digital Compact is a **comprehensive framework** for global governance of digital technology and artificial intelligence. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- It charts a roadmap for **global digital cooperation** to harness the immense potential of digital technology and close digital divides. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- On 22 September 2024, world leaders convened in New York for the Summit of the Future, where they adopted a Pact for the Future that includes a Global Digital Compact. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

14. (B)

Explanation:

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR):

- **Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)** occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites no longer respond to antimicrobial medicines. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The misuse and overuse of antimicrobials in humans, animals, and plants are the main drivers in the development of drug-resistant pathogens. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- AMR affects countries **in all regions** and at all income levels. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
 - ◆ Its drivers and consequences are exacerbated by poverty and inequality, and low- and middle-income countries are most affected.

15. (A)

Explanation:

Waqf:

- It is the **permanent dedication** of movable or immovable properties for religious, pious, or charitable purposes as recognised by Muslim law. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
 - ◆ The proceeds from Waqf typically fund educational institutions, graveyards, mosques, and shelter homes.
- The power to list all properties declared as Waqf by conducting local investigations, summoning witnesses, and requisitioning public documents lies with the **survey commissioner**. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
 - ◆ In the **Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024** the Survey Commissioner has been replaced by the Collector, granting him powers to conduct surveys of waqf properties.

16. (D)

Explanation:

- The Immunization Programme in India was introduced in 1978 as '**The Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI)**' by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- In 1985, the EPI was modified as the '**Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)**' aimed at preventing mortality and morbidity in children and pregnant women against 12 vaccine-preventable diseases. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- **Mission Indradhanush** was launched in 2014 to reach children who missed their vaccinations under the UIP. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

17. (A)

Explanation:

- The **carbon footprint** of artificial intelligence is the amount of greenhouse gas emissions that are generated by the creation, training, and use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) systems.
- The proliferation of data centres, driven by the increasing demand for AI, is significantly contributing to the world's energy consumption. Hence, statement I is correct.
 - ◆ By 2025, it's estimated that the IT industry, fueled by AI advancements, could consume up to 20% of all electricity produced globally and emit approximately 5.5% of the world's carbon emissions.
- Training large AI models, such as GPT-3 and GPT-4, consumes substantial energy and emits considerable carbon dioxide (CO₂). Hence, statement II is correct.
 - ◆ Research indicates that training a single AI model can emit CO₂ equivalent to several cars over their lifetimes.
- Hence, option A is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement I.

18. (C)

Explanation:

Gross Domestic Product (GDP):

- Real GDP is a measure of an economy's output adjusted for inflation. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Real GDP adjusts **nominal GDP** so that it reflects the price levels that prevailed in a reference year, called the "base year. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The proceeds of off-the-books labor, some cash transactions, drug dealing, and more are not factored into GDP. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

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19. (A)**Explanation:**

- **Defence Cyber Agency (DCyA)** is a tri-service command of the **Indian Armed Forces** responsible for handling cybersecurity threats. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Computer Emergency Response Team - India (CERT-In)** comes under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** responsible for collecting, analyzing, and disseminating information on cyber incidents, as well as issuing alerts on cybersecurity threats. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

20. (D)**Explanation:**

- India has ratified the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** on October 1, 2007. **Hence, statement I is not correct.**
- Parliament passed the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 (RPWD Act)** that came into force on April 19, 2017, to replace the earlier Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.
 - ◆ RPWD Act, 2016 provision for the constitution of the office of the State Commissioners for Disabilities at the State level with a combination of review, monitoring, and quasi-judicial functions to ensure effective implementation of the disability law. **Hence, statement II is correct.**

21. (C)**Explanation:**

- **Malnutrition** refers to deficiencies, excesses, or imbalances in a person's intake of energy and nutrients. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Wasting** refers to low weight-for-height and occurs when a person has not had enough food to eat and/or they have had an infectious disease. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Stunting** refers to low height-for-age and often occurs due to insufficient calorie intake, leading to a low weight for a given height. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

22. (A)**Explanation:****Internationalisation of the Rupee:**

- It will **improve the demand** for the rupee in international trade. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- This can lead to **increased convenience** and reduced transaction costs for businesses and individuals dealing with India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It can **strengthen economic ties** with other countries, facilitate bilateral trade agreements, and promote diplomatic relations. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

- The rupee's internationalization is crucial **but not enough** for India to become a superpower. Achieving this requires strong economic growth, technological innovation, a robust defense, world-class infrastructure, political stability, and strategic global partnerships. **Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**

23. (B)**Explanation:**

- The **President of India** notifies India's Scheduled Areas. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- States with Scheduled Areas need to constitute a **Tribal Advisory Council** with up to 20 ST members. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA), 1996** empowers gram sabhas, granting them substantial authority through direct democracy, prioritizing Local Self-Governance. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

24. (D)**Explanation:**

- The **Total Fertility Rate (TFR)** is the average number of children a woman is expected to have during her reproductive years. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has seen a steady decline in recent decades.
 - ◆ As per NFHS-5 (2019-21), India's TFR stands at 2.0 children per woman, which is below the replacement level of 2.1, below which the population begins to shrink in the long run. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

25. (D)**Explanation:****Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF):**

- It has been established under the **Anusandhan National Research Foundation Act, 2023** to seed, grow, and foster a culture of research and innovation throughout the country. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Prime Minister Early Career Research Grant (PMECRG) and the Mission for Advancement in High-Impact Areas - Electric Vehicle (MAHA-EV) Mission are its first two initiatives. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ **PMECRG** features a flexible budget and innovative initiatives aimed at simplifying research processes, promoting high-quality work, and positioning India as a global leader in science and technology.
 - ◆ **MAHA-EV Mission** aims to develop key EV technologies to reduce import dependency, foster domestic innovation, and establish India as a global leader in the EV sector, aligning with the government's Atma Nirbhar Bharat vision.

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26. (B)**Explanation:****United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties 29 (COP29):**

- The **New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG)** aims to triple climate finance for developing countries to USD 300 billion per year by 2035 from the previous goal of USD 100, with developed countries taking the lead. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- COP29 reached a landmark agreement to finalise the mechanisms for carbon markets, including country-to-country trading (Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement) and a centralised carbon market under the United Nations (UN) (Article 6.4 of the Paris Agreement). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Over 30 countries, including the US, Germany, UK, and UAE, endorsed the COP29 Declaration on Reducing Methane from Organic Waste (**India is not a signatory**). **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The declaration targets the waste sector's methane emissions, which contribute to 20% of global methane emissions. It focuses on five priority areas: Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), regulation, data, finance, and partnerships.
 - ◆ This builds on the **Global Methane Pledge (India is not a signatory)** to reduce global methane emissions by 30% by 2030, addressing methane from agriculture, waste, and fossil fuels.

27. (A)**Explanation:**

- **De-dollarisation** refers to reducing the dollar's dominance in global markets. It is a **process of substituting the US dollar** as the currency used for Trading oil and/ or other commodities, Buying US dollars for the forex reserves, Bilateral trade agreements, Dollar-denominated assets.
- The de-dollarisation is driven by the desire to **insulate the Central Banks** of the Countries from geopolitical risks, where the status of the US dollar as a reserve currency can be used as an offensive weapon. **Hence, statement-I is correct.**
- The dominant role of the dollar in the global economy provides the US with a disproportionate amount of influence over other economies. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
- Hence, option A is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement I.

28. (C)**Explanation:**

- The **Bretton Woods Conference**, which took place in 1944, established the international monetary system that was characterized by fixed exchange rates. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- A **fixed exchange rate**, also called pegged exchange rate, is a regime applied by a government or central bank that ties the country's official currency exchange rate to another country's currency or the price of gold. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The purpose of a fixed exchange rate system is to keep a currency's value within a narrow band. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

29. (D)**Explanation:****Standing Deposit Facility (SDF):**

- The **Standing Deposit Facility (SDF)** is a liquidity window through which the RBI will give banks an option to park excess liquidity with it. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is different from the reverse repo facility in that it does not require banks to provide collateral while parking funds. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

30. (A)**Explanation:**

- **Article 72** of the Indian Constitution gives the President of India the power to grant pardons, remit or commute sentences, grant respites or remissions of punishment, or relieve the sentence of any person convicted of an offense in cases where:
 - ◆ The punishment is by a Court Martial. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The sentence involves capital punishment (death sentence).
 - ◆ The conviction is for offenses under Union laws.
- The President **cannot exercise** this power independently. Decisions must align with the advice of the Council of Ministers. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

31. (B)**Explanation:**

- **Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT):** The NPT entered into force in 1970 to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and promote disarmament.
 - ◆ However, it has faced criticism for being discriminatory, creating a divide between nuclear-armed and non-nuclear states.
- **Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT):** Though not yet fully in force, the CTBT bans all nuclear explosions, aiming to curb the development of new weapons.
- **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW):** TPNW includes a comprehensive set of prohibitions on participating in any nuclear weapon activities.
 - ◆ These include undertakings not to develop, test, produce, acquire, possess, stockpile, use, or threaten to use nuclear weapons.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

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32. (C)

Explanation:

Tropical cyclones:

- They are **large-scale weather systems** developing over tropical or subtropical waters, where they get organized into surface wind circulation. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Tropical cyclones develop in the region between the Tropics of Capricorn and Cancer. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **World Meteorological Organization** defines a 'Tropical Cyclone' as a weather system with winds exceeding gale force and a minimum of 63 kilometers per hour. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

33. (C)

Explanation:

Baltic Sea:

- It is part of the **North Atlantic Ocean**, situated in Northern Europe. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Baltic Sea **connects to the Atlantic Ocean** through the Danish Straits. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It is the **largest expanse of brackish water** in the world. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**



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34. (A)**Explanation:****Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme:**

- Launched in March 2020, the PLI scheme was conceived to **scale up domestic manufacturing capability**, accompanied by higher import substitution and employment generation. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **The scheme is currently active in 14 key sectors:** mobile manufacturing, manufacturing of medical devices, automobiles and auto components, pharmaceuticals, drugs, specialty steel, telecom & networking products, electronic products, white goods (ACs and LEDs), food products, textile products, solar PV modules, advanced chemistry cell (ACC) battery, and drones and drone components.
- Under the PLI scheme, Domestic and Foreign companies receive financial rewards for manufacturing in India, based on a **percentage of their revenue** over up to five years. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

35. (B)**Explanation:****Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric and Hybrid Vehicles in India (FAME) Scheme:**

- FAME India is a part of the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan, 2013. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The scheme **covers Hybrid and electric technologies** like Mild Hybrid, Strong Hybrid, Plug-in Hybrid and Battery Electric Vehicles. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **FAME India Phase-II**, led by the Ministry of Heavy Industries focuses on electrifying public transport, promoting e-vehicles, and developing charging infrastructure. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

36. (B)**Explanation:****Large Language Models (LLMs):**

- LLMs are **trained on vast datasets** using deep learning techniques to understand and generate human-like text.
- LLMs do not rely exclusively on rule-based algorithms; they are **powered by deep learning architectures** such as transformers, which enable them to learn patterns and context from data, not fixed rules.

- LLMs can perform a variety of tasks such as summarization, translation, and text classification.
- LLMs have limitations, including the potential for generating biased or inaccurate information.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

37. (B)**Explanation:**

- **Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981** provides for the establishment of a **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** at the apex level and State Pollution Control Boards at the state level to advise the government on any matter concerning the improvement of the quality of the air and prevention, control and abatement of air pollution. **Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
- ◆ **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986:** Authorised the central govt to take relevant measures and **regulate industrial activity** for environmental and public safety.
- **Public Liability Insurance Act of 1991:** Provides public liability insurance for **providing immediate relief** to the persons affected by an accident occurring while handling any hazardous substance. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- **Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act 2010 (CLNDA):** India enacted the CLNDA in 2010 to put in place a **speedy compensation mechanism** for victims of a nuclear accident. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**
- ◆ It 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.

38. (A)**Explanation:****'Brain Rot':**

- 'Brain rot' is a term Oxford University Press (OUP) has announced as its **Word of the Year for 2024.**
- ◆ It is "the supposed **deterioration of a person's mental** or intellectual state, especially viewed as the result of overconsumption of material (now particularly online content) considered to be trivial or unchallenging."
- It further adds that the phrase is also "something characterized as likely to lead to such deterioration."

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39. (A)**Explanation:****Cooperative Societies:**

- In 1914, the **Maclagan Committee** proposed a three-tier cooperative banking system for the Centre, Province, and District levels. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **97th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2011**, established the right to form cooperative societies as a fundamental right (Article 19). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The **95th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2009**, extended the reservation of seats for the Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) and the representation of the Anglo-Indians in the Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies.

40. (B)**Explanation:****GST Council:**

- The GST Council consists of the Union Finance Minister, the Union Minister of State in charge of Revenue or Finance, and Ministers nominated by State Governments. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The GST Council was set up as per **Article 279A** of the Constitution.
- Decisions in the GST Council are **not taken solely by the Union Government**. Instead, votes are weighted: the Central Government has a one-third weight, while State Governments collectively have a two-thirds weight. A proposal requires at least three-fourths of the total weighted votes to pass. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The GST Council Secretariat is staffed by officers on deputation from both the Central and State Governments. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

41. (B)**Explanation:****Goods and Services Tax (GST):**

- The Goods and Services Tax (GST) is a value-added tax levied on most goods and services sold for domestic consumption. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- GST is based on the principle of destination-based consumption taxation as against the previous principle of origin-based taxation. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- Petrol and diesel are **not covered under** the GST (Goods and Services Tax) regime. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ Petrol and diesel are **not under GST** because states and the central government rely on their taxes for revenue and **need flexibility** to manage prices.

42. (B)**Explanation:****Causes of Food Inflation in India:**

- **Climate change** and extreme weather events have increased the uncertainty of rainfall, directly impacting crop yields. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Structural weaknesses** in domestic supply chains, including logistical problems, contribute to high food inflation. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Geopolitical conflicts**, such as the Russia-Ukraine war, exacerbate food inflation through global supply disruptions. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ For example, Before the conflict, Ukraine was a major exporter, accounting for approximately **10% of global wheat exports** and 17% of corn exports.
 - The war has severely disrupted these exports, leading to **reduced global supply** and increased prices.

43. (D)**Explanation:**

- **Delimitation** means the process of fixing the number of seats and boundaries of territorial constituencies in each State for the Lok Sabha and Legislative assemblies. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Under **Article 82**, the Parliament enacts a Delimitation Act after every Census. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Under **Article 170**, States also get divided into territorial constituencies as per the Delimitation Act after every Census. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

44. (C)**Explanation:****Nigeria:**

- Nigeria is located on the **west coast** of Africa. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Its territorial boundaries include Niger to the north, Chad and Cameroon to the east, and Benin to the west. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Nigeria is the most populous African Country.

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45. (A)

Explanation:

Principles of Natural Justice:

- In *Swadeshi Cotton Mills v. Union of India* (1981), the Supreme Court held that the Principles of Natural Justice are considered fundamental and are therefore implicit in every decision-making function. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- Natural Justice is a common law principle that focuses on delivering justice fairly, equally, and without bias. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
 - ◆ It has been derived from the words 'jus-naturale' and 'lex-naturale' which emphasize the principles of natural justice, natural law, and equity.
- Hence, option A is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement I.

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46. (A)

Explanation:

Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) (PoSH) Act, 2013:

- The POSH Act, 2013 is a legislation enacted by the Government of India in 2013 to address the issue of sexual harassment faced by women in the workplace.
 - ◆ The Act aims to create a safe and conducive work environment for women and provide protection against sexual harassment. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Act places a legal obligation on employers to prevent and prohibit sexual harassment in the workplace. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Employers are required to constitute an **Internal Complaints Committee (ICC)** at each workplace with 10 or more employees to receive and address complaints of sexual harassment. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The Complaints Committees have the powers of civil courts for gathering evidence.

47. (A)

Explanation:

Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules 2024:

- **Biodegradable plastics** are now defined as materials capable of degradation by biological processes in specific environments like soil and landfill, without leaving any microplastics. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **rules do not specify** which chemical tests can establish the absence of microplastics or the extent to which microplastics must be reduced for elimination. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

48. (B)

Explanation:

Martial Law:

- **Article 34** of the Constitution of India contains a provision about Martial Law. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The concept of martial law has been borrowed in India from the English common law. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The expression 'Martial Law' has not been defined anywhere in the Constitution. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

49. (C)

Explanation:

Finance Commission:

- It is a constitutional body that is established by the President of India under Article 280 of the Indian Constitution. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It consists of a Chairman and four other members who are appointed by the President. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It is set up every five years to decide the allocation of resources among states. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

50. (A)

Explanation:

Pangong Lake:

- It is a **tectonic lake formed** when India came out of Gondwanaland and pressed against Asia to create a Himalayan mountain range while occupying the space that originally was the Tethys Ocean.
- Pangong Tso is a **long, narrow, deep**, endorheic lake at over 14,000 ft in Ladakh in trans-Himalays.
- India and China have around **one-third and two-thirds** of Pangong Tso Lake respectively.
- The eastern end of Pangong Tso lies in Tibet.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

51. (A)

Explanation:

Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS):

- ECOWAS is a **regional grouping** aimed at promoting economic integration and shared development of the West African sub-region.
 - ◆ It was established in May 1975 by 15 West African countries in Lagos, Nigeria.
- India has a **long-standing relationship** with ECOWAS and was given the status of observer to the body in 2004.
 - ◆ In 2006, India gave the grouping a line of credit (LoC) worth USD 250 million.
- ECOWAS has also **supported India's bid** for a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

52. (B)

Explanation:

Secularism:

- The term 'Secular' was added to the preamble by the **forty-second Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Article 15** enlarges the concept of secularism to the widest possible extent by prohibiting discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Article 28** allows educational institutions maintained by different religious groups to impart religious instruction. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ **Article 25** provides 'Freedom of Conscience', that is, all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right to freely profess, practice and propagate religion.

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53. (D)**Explanation:****Silicosis:**

- It is a **progressive lung disease** caused by the inhalation of silica over a long period, characterized by shortness of breath, cough, fever, and bluish skin. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is one of the most prevalent occupational health illnesses in the world. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It occurs most commonly in people working in the quarrying, manufacturing, and building construction industries. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

54. (A)**Explanation:****Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI):**

- The PLI scheme was conceived to **scale up domestic manufacturing capability**, accompanied by higher import substitution and employment generation. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The subsidy in the scheme for Mobile and allied Component Manufacturing is paid **only for finishing the phone in India**, not on how much value is added by manufacturing in India, turning out that very little apart from assembly is done in India.
 - ◆ Thus **India still imports** much of the mobile phone components. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules prevent India from tying PLI subsidies to domestic value addition. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ Although India's aspiration to make chips is sound, chips are complex components.
 - ◆ The absence of significant domestic value addition likely stems from these constraints.

55. (C)**Explanation:**

- The **Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT)** launched the Global Payments Innovation (GPI) to enhance the speed and transparency of cross-border payments. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It allows for **real-time tracking** of payments and ensures that funds are transferred within a day.
- **Project Nexus** is conceptualised by the Innovation Hub of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS).
 - ◆ It is a global initiative designed to enhance cross-border payments by connecting multiple domestic instant payment systems (IPS). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- ◆ The project aims to create a standardized platform that links domestic Fast Payment Systems (FPSs) globally, allowing for near-instantaneous cross-border payments.
- ◆ The founding members of Project Nexus include India and four Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries: Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand.

56. (A)**Explanation:****Syria:**

- **Hama, Homs, and Deraa** are cities located in Syria.
 - ◆ Recently, the cities of Hama, Homs, and Deraa have been significant flashpoints in the ongoing Syrian conflict.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

**57. (C)****Explanation:**

- **Absolute decoupling** refers to economic growth accompanied by a decrease in emissions, achieving economic progress without harming the environment. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Relative decoupling** occurs when GDP and emissions both grow, but GDP increases at a faster rate, indicating progress while acknowledging rising emissions. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- India has experienced **economy-wide relative decoupling** since 1990, with GDP growing significantly faster than GHG emissions, though absolute decoupling has not been achieved. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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58. (D)

Explanation:

Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH):

- It is a comprehensive **digital platform** designed to synergize and transform the skills, education, employment, and entrepreneurship landscape in India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is designed to promote the adoption of **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** in the country. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It is also integrated with the National Institute for Entrepreneurship & Small Business Development's (**NIESBUD**) **UdhyaKart** to list products of NIESBUD's trained entrepreneurs and empower small businesses. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

59. (A)

Explanation:

Sathanur Dam:

- **Sathanur Dam** is formed by Sathanur Reservoir, one of the major dams in Tamil Nadu.
 - ◆ It is constructed across the **Thenpennai River** also called as **Pennai River** in Thandampattu taluk among Chennakesava Hills.
- It was constructed in 1958.

Map 1 shows various taluks in the Pennaiyar river basin and the location of the Sathanur dam.



Hence, option A is correct.

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60. (A)**Explanation:****Minilateralism:**

- India's strategic positioning in South Asia and proximity to a rising China drive its **multi-aligned minilateral approach**, as Delhi seeks to balance global partnerships rather than rely on a single alliance. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- Minilateralism is **changing the global order** by creating new partnerships between countries that cooperate on specific issues in certain regions. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
- Hence, option A is correct because both Statement-I and Statement II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement I.

61. (B)**Explanation:****South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC):**

- **Establishment:** SAARC was established with the signing of the **SAARC Charter** in Dhaka (Bangladesh) on 8th December 1985.
- **Member States:** Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- **Secretariat:** Kathmandu (Nepal)
- **Objective:** To promote the welfare of the people of South Asia, improve their quality of life, and accelerate economic growth, among other things.

Hence, option B is correct.

62. (D)**Explanation:****Soils:**

- **Alluvial Soils:** Northern plains, river valleys, deltas of the east coast, and plains of Gujarat. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- **Black Soil:** Deccan Plateau (Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu). **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- **Laterite Soil:** High temperature and rainfall areas (Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Assam). **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**

63. (A)**Explanation:****Subclinical Tuberculosis:**

- Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious disease caused by ***Mycobacterium tuberculosis***, that mainly affects the lungs.

- Subclinical Tuberculosis refers to a form of TB infection where individuals do not exhibit the typical symptoms of the disease, such as a persistent cough. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- It is often identified through **imaging techniques** like chest X-rays or molecular tests, as it may not be noticeable through routine symptom-based screenings. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

64. (A)**Explanation:****Bond:**

- A bond is an instrument to borrow money.
- A bond could be floated/issued by a **country's government or by a company** to raise funds. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Since Government Bonds (referred to as G-secs in India, Treasury in the US, and Gilts in the UK) come with the **sovereign's guarantee**, they are considered one of the safest investments.
- The bond yield represents the **return an investor** can expect from a bond, expressed as a percentage. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- However, this **return is not fixed and varies** with changes in the bond's market price. It is inversely related to bond prices i.e. when bond prices rise, yields fall, and vice versa. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

65. (C)**Explanation:****North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO):**

- It is an **intergovernmental military alliance** formed in 1949 with the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty in Washington, D.C. by 12 founding member countries from Europe and North America. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It was established with the primary goal of providing collective defence against potential aggression, particularly from the Soviet Union during the Cold War era. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

66. (A)**Explanation:****The Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991:**

- The Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991, prohibits the conversion of any place of worship, either in full or in part, from one religious denomination to another. **Hence, statement-I is correct.**

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- The Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 seeks to maintain communal harmony by freezing the religious character of these places and preventing disputes over such conversions. **Hence, statement-II is correct.**
- Hence, option A is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement I.

67. (A)

Explanation:

- India does not have specific laws recognising the right to disconnect from work. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Article 38 of the Constitution mandates that “the State shall strive to promote the welfare of the people”. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- In *Ravindra Kumar Dhariwal and Ors v. Union of India (2021)*, the Court read Article 14 to include ideas of inclusive equality to reasonably accommodate persons with disabilities. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

68. (C)

Explanation:

Antibiotics:

- The pharmacology behind antibiotics **includes destroying the bacterial cell** by either preventing cell reproduction or changing a necessary cellular function or process within the cell. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- India is the world’s largest consumer of antibiotics. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- India’s excessive antibiotic usage is leading to a powerful never before seen mutation within bacteria. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

69. (C)

Explanation:

International Court of Justice (ICJ):

- It settles **legal disputes between states** and provides advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by the UN General Assembly, the UN Security Council, and other specialized agencies and international organizations. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Court is composed of 15 judges, who are elected for terms of office of nine years by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council. These organs vote simultaneously but separately. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- The **judgment is final, binding** on the parties to a case, and without appeal (at the most it may be subject to interpretation or, upon the discovery of a new fact, revision). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

70. (B)

Explanation:

RBI Governor:

- He is appointed by the RBI Act, 1934.
 - ◆ The Financial Sector Regulatory Appointment Search Committee, consisting Cabinet Secretary, the current RBI Governor, the Financial Services Secretary, and two independent members, prepares a list of people eligible to hold the post.
- He holds office for periods not exceeding five years. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- He is **eligible for reappointment** or extension. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The **RBI Act, 1934** does not mention any specific qualification for the governor. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

71. (D)

Explanation:

Cervical Cancer:

- Cervical Cancer develops in a woman’s cervix. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It is the **4th most common type of cancer** among women, globally.
- Almost all cervical cancer cases (99%) are linked to infection with **high-risk Human Papillomavirus (HPV)**, an extremely common virus transmitted through sexual contact. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **CERVAVAC** is India’s first indigenously developed quadrivalent human papillomavirus (qHPV) vaccine that is said to be effective against four strains of the virus - Type 6, Type 11, Type 16, and Type 18. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

72. (C)

Explanation:

- **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** is the value of the finished domestic goods and services produced within a nation’s borders. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Gross National Product (GNP)** is the value of all finished goods and services produced by a country’s citizens, both domestically and abroad. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- While GDP is an indicator of the local or national economy, GNP represents how its nationals are contributing to the country’s economy. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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73. (A)**Explanation:****Vice President of India:**

- **Article 63** provides that there shall be a **Vice-President of India**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The Vice President is elected by an electoral college comprising members of **both Houses of Parliament (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha)** through a **proportional representation system** by means of a single transferable vote, as per Article 66. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- **Article 324** vests the superintendence of elections in the Election Commission of India, not the Parliament. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

74. (D)**Explanation:****Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV):**

- It will have **three times the present payload capability** with 1.5 times the cost compared to Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- It will also have **reusability** resulting in low-cost access to space and modular green propulsion systems. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- This project will boost the Indian space ecosystem in terms of capability and capacity. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

75. (C)**Explanation:****Opt-Out Policy:**

- The opt-out policy allows websites to opt out of AI scanners' automated use of their text. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- It operates on fair use principles and exceptions for text and data mining (TDM) for scientific research. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
 - ◆ **Fair use is a legal principle** that permits limited use of copyrighted material without the owner's permission, depending on the purpose and character of the use, the type of copyrighted work, the portion used, and its effect on the market for the copyrighted work.

76. (B)**Explanation:****Reserve Bank of India (RBI):**

- The RBI manages government debt, foreign exchange, and the financial sector to ensure economic stability. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

- Since 2016, the RBI's key role has included controlling inflation, with a target to keep the inflation target of 4% with a tolerance band of +/- 2%. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

- **Repo rates** are decided by the **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)**, which includes RBI members and independent experts nominated by the Finance Ministry. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

77. (A)**Explanation:****TFR (Total Fertility Rate):**

- **TFR (Total Fertility Rate)** is a demographic indicator that represents the **average number of children** a woman is expected to have during her reproductive years (15–49 years), assuming that she experiences the current age-specific fertility rates throughout her lifetime.
- Hence, **option A is correct**.

78. (B)**Explanation:****Euthanasia:**

- **Active euthanasia** involves an **active intervention**, such as administering a **lethal injection**, to end a person's life. The withdrawal of life support or treatment essential to keep a terminally ill person alive refers to passive euthanasia, not active euthanasia. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- **Passive euthanasia** was first recognized in India in the *Aruna Shanbaug case* by the Supreme Court in 2011. The court allowed passive euthanasia under "certain situations," marking a significant legal milestone. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- In 2018, the Supreme Court held that the '**right to die with dignity**' is a part of the fundamental right to life under **Article 21** of the Constitution of India. This judgment legalized passive euthanasia and laid down detailed guidelines for its implementation. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

79. (A)**Explanation:****El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO):**

- **La Nina** is associated with the strengthening of trade winds, which push more warm water toward the western Pacific, causing cooler-than-average sea surface temperatures in the eastern Pacific Ocean. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.

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- In India, **El Nino** is typically linked to reduced monsoon rainfall, whereas La Nina tends to enhance monsoon activity. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **ENSO** occurs in irregular cycles ranging from two to seven years and has a significant influence on global atmospheric circulation and weather patterns. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

80. (B)

Explanation:

Belt and Road Initiative (BRI):

- The BRI was initially named '**One Belt, One Road**' but was renamed to the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to project it as a more open and inclusive global initiative, rather than a China-centric strategy. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Silk Road Economic Belt** focuses on overland transportation routes to enhance connectivity, infrastructure, and trade links across Eurasia, not maritime connections. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The Maritime Silk Road includes maritime connections and spans the South China Sea, Indo-China, and the Indian Ocean, and extends towards Africa and Europe. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

81. (C)

Explanation:

Vice-President of India:

- As per **Article 66** of the Constitution of India, a person to be eligible for the office of Vice-President must meet the following qualifications:
 - ◆ Be a citizen of India.
 - ◆ Have completed 35 years of age.
 - ◆ Be qualified for election as a member of the Rajya Sabha.
 - ◆ Not hold any office of profit under the Union, state, local, or other public authorities. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Vice-President is elected by an **Electoral College** comprising:
 - ◆ Elected members of the Rajya Sabha.
 - ◆ Nominated members of the Rajya Sabha.
 - ◆ Elected members of the Lok Sabha. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

82. (B)

Explanation:

Appointment of High Court Judges:

- The collegium system for appointing judges, including High Court judges, was established by the **Second Judges Case (1993)** and further refined by the **Third Judges Case (1998)**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- For High Court judge appointments, the collegium consists of the Chief Justice of India (CJI) and the **2 senior-most judges** of the Supreme Court. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- After the **Third Judges Case (1998)**, the appointment process for High Court judges was formalized through a **Memorandum of Procedure (MoP)** agreed upon by the central government and the Supreme Court. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

83. (A)

Explanation:

Vaikom Satyagraha:

- Vaikom Satyagraha, a **nonviolent agitation**, unfolded in Vaikom within the princely state of Travancore, Kerala.
 - ◆ This movement stood as a formidable protest against the entrenched practices of **untouchability and caste discrimination** that had long plagued Indian society.
- It was the **first among the temple entry movements** in India, setting the stage for similar movements across the country. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It was led by visionary leaders like Ezhava leader T K Madhavan, K.P. Kesava Menon, and K. Kelappan. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

84. (D)

Explanation:

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI):

- It is a **statutory body** under the IRDAI Act, 1999, and is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It regulates and sees to the development of the insurance industry while monitoring insurance-related activities. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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85. (A)**Explanation:****Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC):**

- CBDCs are **legal tender issued by central banks**, ensuring stability and trust as they are backed by the central bank. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- While CBDCs are inspired by Bitcoin, they **differ significantly** as they are issued by the state, have legal tender status, and **are centralized**, unlike private cryptocurrencies. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- CBDCs are **equivalent to fiat currency** and can be exchanged one-to-one with physical fiat currency. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

86. (B)**Explanation:****De-dollarization:**

- De-dollarization refers to **reducing dependence on the US dollar** but does not aim to eliminate its role entirely. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) clarified that its policies focus on **diversifying risks** rather than complete de-dollarization. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Vostro accounts**, held by foreign banks in Indian rupees, facilitate trade in local currencies and reduce reliance on third-party currencies like the US dollar. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Central banks**, including the RBI, are diversifying reserves by increasing gold holdings to mitigate risks associated with dollar dominance, driven by geopolitical uncertainties. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

87. (B)**Explanation:**

- **Article 33** allows Parliament to restrict or abrogate the fundamental rights of members of the armed forces, paramilitary forces, police, intelligence agencies, and analogous forces for ensuring discipline and proper discharge of duties. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Article 34** provides for restrictions on fundamental rights when martial law is in force but **does not empower the imposition** of martial law itself or link it to an emergency declared by the President. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Article 35** specifies that the power to make laws for giving effect to certain fundamental rights rests exclusively with Parliament, not state legislatures. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

88. (A)**Explanation:****Regulation of Over-the-Top(OTT) platforms:**

- **The IT Rules 2021 provides a three-tier grievance redressal mechanism** for OTT platforms. The third tier involves oversight by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and an Inter-Departmental Committee. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **OTT content is self-classified by publishers** without any involvement of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), as per the IT Rules 2021. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

89. (D)**Explanation:****Monetary Policy Committee (MPC):**

- The MPC is responsible for determining the policy repo rate required to achieve the inflation target. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- A neutral monetary policy stance allows the MPC to have **flexibility in adjusting interest rates** based on the economy's needs. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- A **"withdrawal of accommodation"** stance signals restrictive monetary policy. When the RBI adopts this stance, it focuses on **reducing the money supply** in the economy to curb inflationary pressures, even at the potential cost of slowing economic growth. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

90. (A)**Explanation:****United Nations Security Council (UNSC):**

- The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) consists of 15 members, 5 permanent members (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States) and **10 non-permanent members** elected for two-year terms. Each member, whether permanent or non-permanent, has one vote in the decision-making process. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Under the **UN Charter**, all Member States are obligated to comply with Security Council decisions.
 - ◆ The Security Council has the authority to determine the existence of threats to international peace and security and can take measures such as imposing sanctions or authorizing the use of force to address such threats. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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- The presidency of the Security Council is **not permanent** and does not belong to any specific member. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ Instead, it rotates monthly among the members of the Security Council in the English alphabetical order of their names.

91. (D)

Explanation:

Urban Local Governments (ULGs):

- The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 which aimed to institutionalize and empower Urban Local Governments (ULGs), came into force on 1st June 1993. This amendment provided a constitutional status to municipalities and urban governance. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The 74th Amendment Act, 1992 added Part IX-A to the Constitution, which contains provisions specifically for Urban Local Governments. These provisions are detailed in Articles 243-P to 243-ZG and provide a framework for the structure, composition, and governance of municipalities. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

92. (B)

Explanation:

- Under **Article 161** of the Constitution, the Governor has the power to **pardon, reprieve, respite, remit, suspend, or commute** the punishment or sentence of any individual convicted under state law. This power is explicitly tied to offences that fall within the jurisdiction of the state. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Governor **does not have the power to pardon a death sentence.** While the Governor can suspend, remit, or commute a death sentence, the power to pardon a death sentence is exclusively vested in the President of India under Article 72. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The President has the authority to grant pardons in cases involving **Court Martial** under Article 72. However, Article 161 does not extend this power to the Governor. The Governor's pardoning powers are limited to offences under state laws and do not include cases related to military law or Court Martial. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

93. (D)

Explanation:

Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991:

- The Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991, prohibits the conversion of the religious character of any place of worship as it existed on August 15, 1947. This was

done to freeze the status quo of religious places to avoid future disputes. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The Act explicitly provides an exemption for ancient monuments and archaeological sites of historical importance. This allows for their maintenance, conservation, and preservation under existing laws, such as the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Act bars the initiation or continuation of any legal disputes over the religious character of places of worship in any court of law after its enactment, thereby providing legal finality to the status quo. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

94. (B)

Explanation:

Wetlands:

- Wetlands are **ecotones**, which are transition zones between **terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.** **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ Examples include mangroves, floodplains, and marshy areas. They act as buffers, improving water quality and supporting unique biodiversity.
- Wetlands are **typically nutrient-rich**, as they derive nutrients from their surroundings and sediments. This nutrient abundance supports diverse and dense fauna, including birds, fish, and macroinvertebrates, making wetlands ecologically significant and often more important than lakes for biodiversity conservation. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Excessive growth of macrophytes (both submerged and free-floating) in wetlands can degrade water quality and interfere with the use of water bodies for various purposes, such as irrigation, fisheries, and recreation. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

95. (A)

Explanation:

- The term "Deep State" refers to a hidden or covert network of influential individuals, institutions, or entities (e.g., military, bureaucrats, intelligence agencies, or business elites) within a country that operates independently of the elected government.
 - ◆ It influences or controls state policies, often in ways that are not transparent to the public. This concept is frequently discussed in the context of conspiracies or allegations of unaccountable power structures in governance.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

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96. (B)**Explanation:****National Education Policy (NEP) 2020:**

- The NEP 2020 introduces a **5+3+3+4 system**, replacing the earlier 10+2 system. This new structure includes **Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)** for children aged 3-6, ensuring a strong foundation in the formative years of learning. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The policy does not mandate English as the medium of instruction for all government schools. Instead, it **promotes multilingualism**, recommending that mother tongues or regional languages be used as the medium of instruction up to Grade 5 (and preferably beyond). This approach aligns with **preserving India's linguistic diversity** while supporting cognitive development. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- NEP 2020 aims to increase the **Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)** in higher education to 50% by 2035. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ It also envisions adding 3.5 crore new seats in higher education institutions to achieve this ambitious target.

97. (B)**Explanation:****Akal Takht:**

- It was established in **1606 by Guru Hargobind**, the 6th Sikh Guru, in response to the execution of his father, Guru Arjan Dev (5th Guru of the Sikhs), by the Mughals. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Akal Takht is located in the **Golden Temple complex**, facing the Harmandir Sahib in Punjab, India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Akal Takht is one of the **five Takhts (seats of power)** in Sikhism but holds the highest position due to its **dual authority** (spiritual guidance with temporal governance). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

98. (C)**Explanation:****Preamble:**

- The Preamble to the Constitution is a reflection of the core constitutional values that embody the Constitution.
- It was adopted on 26th November, 1949.

- In the *Kesavananda Bharati Case, 1973*, and *Union Government Vs LIC of India, 1995*, the SC held that the Preamble is an **integral part** of the Constitution. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Preamble **does not grant substantive rights** and is not enforceable in the courts. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

99. (B)**Explanation:****Landscape Fires:**

- Landscape fires contribute significantly to **air pollution** by releasing particulate matter (PM2.5) and toxic gases, which pose severe health risks. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- Landscape fires occur naturally due to lightning and extreme heat, but human activities like burning crop waste and careless disposal of cigarettes also trigger them. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
- **Hence, option B is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement I.**

100. (A)**Explanation:**

- Located in southwestern Asia, Iran shares its northern border with the **Republics of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Turkmenistan** (all part of the former Soviet Union).
- Out of the 2,670 kilometers of its northern borders, 650 kilometers form a coastline along the Caspian Sea. Iran's western borders are shared with Turkey in the north and Iraq in the south.
- To the east, Iran borders Afghanistan and Pakistan, while its southern boundary consists of the long coastline along the Persian Gulf and the Oman Sea.
- Hence, option A is correct.

101. (C)**Explanation:**

- **Current account deficit (CAD)** is when the value of a country's imports of goods and services is greater than its exports. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **CAD and fiscal deficit** together make up twin deficits that can impact the stock market and investors. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- A lower CAD can boost investor sentiment and make the country's currency more attractive to investors. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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102. (A)**Explanation:****World Solar Report, 2024:**

- The World Solar Report, 2024 recently published by the **International Solar Alliance**, shows average auction prices for utility-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) projects have consistently decreased across all regions.
- **India topped the global charts** in Solar Photovoltaic (PV) capacity granted through auctions, securing a notable auction price of USD 34/MWh, reflecting a 23% decrease.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

103. (D)**Explanation:****PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT, REVIEW, AND ANALYSIS OF KNOWLEDGE FOR HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT (PARAKH):**

- It has been launched as part of implementing the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It acts as a constituent unit of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It is also tasked with holding periodic learning outcome tests like the National Achievement Survey (NAS) and State Achievement Surveys. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

104. (A)**Explanation:****Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC):**

- A Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) is a **digital form of a country's fiat currency** issued and regulated by its central bank.
- Unlike cryptocurrencies, whose value fluctuates due to market demand and operates in a decentralized manner, the CBDC's value is fixed and equivalent to the fiat currency.
- It aims to promote financial inclusion, enhance economic stability, and simplify the implementation of monetary and fiscal policies.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

105. (A)**Explanation:**

- The Indian Constitution empowers Parliament to regulate the manner of conducting the elections. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- 'Contesting from multiple constituencies' has been dealt with in the Representation of the People Act, 1951. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- ◆ **Article 151** of the Constitution of India is about the audit reports of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India (CAG).

- Parliament amended the Representation of the People Act, 1951 in 1996 to limit the number of constituencies that a candidate can contest from, to two.

- ◆ The amendment intended to **discourage one candidate** from contesting from multiple constituencies.

106. (C)**Explanation:****Rare Earth Elements (REEs):**

- REEs comprise the 15 lanthanides along with scandium and yttrium. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Although they are called "rare," REEs are **relatively abundant** but not commonly found in economically exploitable concentrations. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

107. (B)**Explanation:****Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI):**

- DPI serves as a shared means to achieve multiple objectives, including improving public service delivery. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Effective design and implementation of DPI can accelerate the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- DPI is **highly relevant for public sector transformation** and is not limited to private sector operations. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

108. (C)**Explanation:****Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements (DTAAs):**

- DTAAs are bilateral treaties aimed at avoiding double taxation, encouraging cross-border investments, and benefiting non-resident Indians (NRIs). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Most-Favored-Nation (MFN)** clause ensures that favourable tax rates granted to one treaty partner are automatically extended to others under similar conditions. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The recent Supreme Court ruling requires formal notification for MFN benefits to take effect, overturning the earlier automatic extension practice. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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109. (A)**Explanation:****T+0 Settlement Cycle:**

- In the T+0 settlement cycle, the “T” stands for the transaction date, and the settlement occurs on the **same day the trade is executed**.
- Other cycles like T+1 or T+2 involve settlement one or two days after the transaction date, respectively.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

110. (D)**Explanation:**

- **Question Hour** is the first hour of every parliamentary sitting, and is governed by the Rules of Procedure of the House. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Zero Hour** is an Indian parliamentary innovation that is not mentioned in the official rulebook. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

111. (A)**Explanation:****One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) Scheme:**

- The ONOS scheme is coordinated by the Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET), an autonomous body under the University Grants Commission (UGC). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ONOS aims to provide access to over 13,000 high-impact journals from 30 leading international publishers. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The scheme targets over 6,300 institutions, including public universities, benefiting students, faculty, and researchers across India. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

112. (D)**Explanation:****Federalism:**

- Powers are divided between the central government (Union) and state governments. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- A written constitution delineates the powers of different levels of government. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- An independent judiciary interprets and enforces the Constitution to resolve disputes between different levels of government. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

113. (B)**Explanation:**

- Section 7(g) of the **Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDPA)**, passed in 2023 waives the need for consent when processing data for medical treatment during an epidemic. **Hence, statement I is correct.**

- ◆ These exemptions **raise red flags about the potential for misuse**, especially when applied to AI-powered surveillance technologies that operate on vast quantities of personal data.

- The Supreme Court of India, in **K.S. Puttaswamy vs Union of India** (2017), recognised privacy as a fundamental right, extending its scope to “informational privacy”. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
- Hence, option B is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement I.

114. (B)**Explanation:****National Education Policy 2020:**

- It is not the first education policy of India. It replaced the National Policy on Education, 1986. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- It promotes using **mother tongues** or regional languages as the medium of instruction up to Grade 5, with options for Sanskrit and other languages. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It emphasizes support for Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs), children with disabilities, and establishing “Bal Bhavans.” **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

115. (D)**Explanation:**

- India is a signatory of the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)** which grants the right to a standard of living adequate for human health and well-being. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Article 21** of the Indian Constitution guarantees the right to life and personal liberty, encompassing the right to health as essential for a life of dignity. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

116. (C)**Explanation:****Public Distribution System(PDS):**

- The **Public Distribution System** was established to address the scarcity of food by distributing food grains at affordable prices. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ◆ Currently, PDS distributes wheat, rice, sugar, and kerosene, with some states also providing additional items like pulses, edible oils, and salt.

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- It is now governed by the **National Food Security Act (NFSA) of 2013** which ensures food security for about two-thirds of India's population, based on Census 2011 data. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- PDS is jointly managed by the Central and State/UT governments. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ The Central Government, through the Food Corporation of India (FCI), is responsible for procurement, storage, transportation, and bulk allocation of foodgrains to states, while State Governments **oversee local distribution**, identification of eligible households, issuance of ration cards, and supervision of Fair Price Shops (FPSs).

117. (A)

Explanation:

External Debt Stock:

- External debt stock is the debt owed by a **country to non-residents repayable** in currency, goods, or services. It is the sum of all public, publicly guaranteed, and private non-guaranteed long-term debt and short-term debt.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

118. (A)

Explanation:

- In the **Minerva Mills Case**, 1980, the Supreme Court emphasised the need to harmonise Fundamental Rights with the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP), stating that the DPSP should guide state policies to secure social and economic justice in line with socialist principles. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- In the **Maneka Gandhi Case**, 1978 the Supreme Court emphasized that the right to life includes the right to live with dignity, which is essential to the socialist principle of ensuring a fair quality of life for all citizens. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- In the **Kesavananda Bharati Case**, 1973 the Supreme Court ruled that socialism is a fundamental aspect of the Constitution's basic structure. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

119. (C)

Explanation:

Article 356(President's Rule):

- Article 356 of the Constitution of India is based on Section 93 of the Government of India Act, 1935. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- According to Article 356, the President's Rule can be **imposed on any state of India** on the grounds of the failure of the constitutional machinery. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- During the President's Rule, the state government is suspended, and the central government directly administers the state through the Governor. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

120. (D)

Explanation:

Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs):

- Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) are legal entities formed by a group of farmers who share common interests and goals. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- They are registered under various legal forms, such as cooperatives, companies, trusts, or societies. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- FPOs aim to provide better access to finance and markets to small and marginal farmers by aggregating their produce and bargaining power. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

121. (C)

Explanation:

- Antitrust laws are regulations that encourage competition by limiting the market power of any particular firm. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** is the regulator of competition under the Competition Act, 2002 in the Indian market. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ It is responsible for enforcing the provisions of the Competition Act 2002.
 - ◆ It consists of a Chairperson and Members appointed by the Central Government.

122. (B)

Explanation:

Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs):

- It is a company registered under the **Companies Act, 2013**, involved in various financial activities like lending, investing in securities, leasing, and insurance. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- They offer various banking services but do not have a banking licence. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- They can accept public deposits for a minimum of 12 months and a maximum of 60 months. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ However, NBFCs cannot accept demand deposits.
- They do not form part of the payment and settlement system and cannot issue cheques drawn on itself.

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123. (A)**Explanation:****Wealth Tax:**

- It is a **direct tax** that is applied to standing wealth if it exceeds the specified wealth threshold. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- On the recommendations of the Chelliah Committee (1993) and the Kelkar Committee (2002), the wealth tax was abolished in the Union Budget 2016–2017. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It was replaced with an additional surcharge of 2% on those with a taxable annual income of over Rs 1 crore. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

124. (D)**Explanation:**

- A weaker domestic currency **increases** the export competitiveness of Indian goods. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Higher tariffs on Chinese goods **create opportunities** for Indian exporters to capture the market share. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

125. (C)**Explanation:****Most-Favored-Nation (MFN) Status:**

- MFN refers to a trade status granted by one country to another, ensuring non-discriminatory trade between them. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- MFN is a **key principle** of World Trade Organization (WTO) rules. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ Under WTO rules, if a country grants special status to one trade partner, this status must be extended to all WTO members.
- MFN ensures that countries treat each other equally by offering the same trade conditions.

126. (A)**Explanation:****Election Commission of India:**

- It is **not concerned with the elections of panchayats** and municipalities in the states. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Originally the commission had only one election commissioner but after the Election Commissioner Amendment Act 1989, it was made a multi-member body. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

127. (A)**Explanation:****Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019:**

- The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 seeks to amend the Citizenship Act, 1955.
 - ◆ The CAA provides citizenship **based on religion to six undocumented non-Muslim communities** (Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians) from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh who entered India on or before 31st December 2014. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It **exempts the members** of the six communities from any criminal case under the Foreigners Act, 1946 and the Passport Act, 1920. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ The two Acts specify punishment for entering the country illegally and staying here on expired visas and permits.
- Final decisions on applications will be made by empowered committees led by the **Director (Census Operations)** in each State. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

128. (C)**Explanation:****Carbon Pricing:**

- Carbon pricing is a key method to combat climate change, using compliance and voluntary carbon markets. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Compliance markets**, governed by authorities like the UN, set emission limits for companies, requiring those exceeding limits to buy carbon credits from eco-friendly projects or pay carbon taxes. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **voluntary carbon market** is unregulated, enabling organizations to trade carbon credits through systems like the Clean Development Mechanism, Verra, and Gold Standard. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

129. (B)**Explanation:****Rome Statute:**

- The **International Criminal Court (ICC)** was established under the Rome Statute. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Rome Statute and the ICC only address individual criminal responsibility. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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- India is not a party to the **Rome Statute** and has consistently objected to the ICC's jurisdiction over issues such as the powers of the ICC prosecutor, the role of the **United Nations Security Council** under the Rome Statute, and the non-inclusion of 'use of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction' as a war crime. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

130. (B)

Explanation:

Rajya Sabha Member:

- Every member of the Rajya Sabha enjoys a safe tenure of six years. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- One-third of its members retire after every two years. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- They are entitled to contest again for the membership. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

131. (A)

Explanation:

Tariffs:

- A tariff is a tax imposed by a government of a country on imports or exports of goods. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- High tariffs will raise the cost for foreign producers to sell their goods in a domestic system, providing strategic advantages for local producers. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- India has one of the highest tariff rates in the world. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

132. (A)

Explanation:

Remittances:

- Remittance costs are the fees charged when someone sends money internationally. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Remittance volumes are influenced by migration levels, employment conditions in origin countries, and the cost of remitting funds. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- According to the World Bank, India was the top receiver of remittances in the year 2024, **followed by Mexico, China, Philippines, and Pakistan**, due to job market recovery in high-income countries. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

133. (C)

Explanation:

Palm Oil:

- **Indonesia and Malaysia** are the main global palm oil producers, followed by Thailand, Colombia, and Nigeria. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- **India** is the second-largest consumer of edible oil globally and one of its largest importers. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- National Mission on Edible Oil-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP), is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme aimed at raising the area under oil palm cultivation. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

134. (C)

Explanation:

Sin Tax:

- A sin tax is imposed on goods and services, which are perceived as harmful to society. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ Examples of products on which sin tax is imposed are: tobacco, gambling ventures, alcohol, cigarettes, etc.
- Sin taxes seek to prevent people from participating in socially harmful activities.
 - ◆ The aim is to reduce or eliminate the consumption of harmful products by making them more expensive to obtain. They also provide a source of revenue for governments. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - A committee headed by Arvind Subramanian recommended that in a unified GST regime, certain goods should attract a 'Sin' tax of 40 percent.
- Sin taxes are often termed regressive as they discriminate against the lower classes. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ The poor end up paying a greater share of their income as tax.

135. (A)

Explanation:

Judicial Activism:

- Judicial activism signifies the proactive role of the Judiciary in protecting the rights of citizens. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The foundation of Judicial Activism in India was laid down by Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer, Justice P.N. Bhagwati, Justice O.Chinnappa Reddy, and Justice D.A Desai. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The practice of Judicial Activism first originated and developed in the **United States**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

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136. (C)**Explanation:****Martial Law:**

- Article 34 of the Constitution of India contains a provision in reference to Martial Laws. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The concept of martial law has been borrowed in India from the English common law. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The expression 'Martial Law' has not been defined anywhere in the Constitution. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

137. (D)**Explanation:**

Recently, the Union Cabinet approved a proposal for simultaneous elections across the country, aligning polls for the Lok Sabha, state Assemblies, and local bodies across India.

- The decision came after a high-level committee, chaired by former **President Ram Nath Kovind**, submitted its report on the 'one nation, one election' plan. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

Key Recommendations of the Committee on Simultaneous Elections :

- **Amending the Constitution:** The Constitution should be amended to enable simultaneous elections in two bills.
 - ◆ **Bill 1:** Simultaneous elections will be held to Lok Sabha and State Assemblies. For this, **no ratification by the states** will be required for the constitutional amendment. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ **Bill 2:** Elections to municipalities and the panchayats will be synchronised with elections to Lok Sabha and state Assemblies in such a way that local body elections are held within 100 days of the elections to Lok Sabha and state Assemblies.
 - This will require ratification by **not less than one-half of the states**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Required Amendments:** For holding simultaneous elections, the committee had recommended 15 amendments to the Constitution of India. Important amendments include:
 - ◆ **Article 82A:** The first Bill recommended by the Kovind committee would begin by inserting a new Article 82A into the Constitution.
 - Article 82A will establish the process by which the country will move to a system of simultaneous elections for Lok Sabha and state Assemblies.
 - It has recommended that the power of Parliament under Article 327 should be expanded to include "conduct of simultaneous elections".

- ◆ **Article 83 and Article 172:** It recommended that under Articles 83(4) and 172(4), the Lok Sabha or state Assembly that replaces the previous one will serve only for the remaining "unexpired term" before being dissolved again once simultaneous elections are conducted as scheduled.

- ◆ **Article 324A:** The committee has suggested the inclusion of a new Article 324A in the Constitution.

- This new article would empower Parliament to make laws to ensure that municipality and panchayat elections are held simultaneously with the Lok Sabha and state Assemblies.

138. (A)**Explanation:**

Recently, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties 29 (COP29) concluded in **Baku, Azerbaijan**. This conference saw around 200 countries negotiate agreements aimed at addressing global climate challenges. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

Key Highlights of the COP29

- **New Climate Finance Goal:** A major breakthrough at COP29 was the New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG). It aims to triple climate finance for developing countries to USD 300 billion per year by 2035 from the previous goal of USD 100, with developed countries taking the lead. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ It also makes a general call on all actors to scale up climate financing to USD1.3 trillion per year by 2035 from all public and private sources to help developing countries mitigate and adapt to climate impacts.
 - ◆ **India rejected the NCQG**, criticising it for its inadequacy. The USD 300 billion pledge was deemed insufficient for addressing the climate challenges faced by developing nations
- **Declaration on Reducing Methane:** Over 30 countries, including the US, Germany, UK, and UAE, endorsed the COP29 Declaration on Reducing Methane from Organic Waste (**India is not a signatory**). **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

139. (B)**Explanation:****Operation-Sankalp :**

- The Indian Navy has launched '**Operation Sankalp**' in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman as a measure to assure the safety and security of the Indian vessels.

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- After the attacks on merchant ships in the Gulf of Oman in June 2019, Indian Navy had commenced Maritime Security Operations, code named Op-Sankalp, in the Gulf Region to ensure safe passage of Indian Flag Vessels transiting through the Strait of Hormuz.
- Hence, option B is correct.



140. (C)

Explanation:

Recommendations to improve the transparency of national entrance examinations :

- The recommendations of a seven-member panel, headed by former **ISRO chairman K Radhakrishnan**, to improve the transparency and efficiency of national entrance examinations come as a much-needed acknowledgement of the problems that plague the country's higher education system. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The panel's recommendations, which include a call for better infrastructure, improved exam security, devolution of the role of **National Testing Agency (NTA)** and more stringent protocols, therefore is a welcome move.
- In its suggestions, the committee has said that the "high dependence" on the NTA be reduced so that it conducts only entrance examinations and not recruitment ones.
- The committee has also recommended an **election-like tiered collaboration** between the Centre and states in managing the security of these examinations and a "**digi-exam**" system that replicates the **DigiYatra** model for biometric verification of candidates. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- A migration to "**computer adaptive testing**" where questions based on individual ability are queued has also been recommended.
- The panel has advocated for a comprehensive review of the examination process, including the creation of a more robust security system and accessible digital infrastructure.

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141. (B)**Explanation:****National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) :**

- The Government of India has launched the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) to promote natural farming in mission mode across the country as a **standalone Centrally Sponsored Scheme** under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The scheme has a total outlay of Rs. 2481 crore (Government of India share – Rs.1584 crore; State share – Rs. 897 crore) till the 15th Finance Commission (2025-26).
- **NF follows local agro-ecological principles rooted in local knowledge**, location specific technologies and is evolved as per the local agro-ecology.
- NMNF aims at promoting NF practices for providing safe & nutritious food for all. **The Mission is designed to support farmers to reduce input cost of cultivation and dependency to externally purchased inputs. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Natural farming will build & maintain healthy soil ecosystems, promote biodiversity and encourage diverse cropping systems to enhance resilience as suitable to the local agroecology are the benefits of natural farming.
- NMNF is launched as a shift to scientifically revive and strengthen agriculture practices towards sustainability, climate resilience and healthy food for farmer families and consumers.

142. (A)**Explanation:****India's Economic Position:**

- India's GDP is roughly \$4 trillion while global GDP is a little more than \$100 trillion. That means that India's share of the global economy is around 4 per cent. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- But its share in global goods exports is much smaller, less than 2 per cent. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Last fiscal year, inward FDI was only \$66 billion — exactly the same as it was back in 2019-20. Only about one-fifth of this total was in manufacturing.

143. (B)**Explanation:****About India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023:**

The ISFR is brought out by the Forest Survey of India (FSI) on a biennial basis since 1987. The India State of Forest Report 2023 is 18th such report in the series. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

Major Findings:

- The Forest and Tree cover of the country is 8,27,357 sq km which is **25.17%** of the geographical area of the country, consisting of 7,15,343 sq km (21.76%) as forest cover and 1,12,014 sq km (3.41%) as tree cover. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- As compared to assessment of 2021, there is an increase of 1445 sq km in the forest and tree cover of the country which includes 156 sq km increase in the forest cover and 1289 sq km increase in tree cover.
- **Top four states showing maximum increase in forest and tree cover** are Chhattisgarh (684 sq km) followed by Uttar Pradesh (559 sq km), Odisha (559 sq km) and Rajasthan (394 sq km).
- **Top three states showing maximum increase in forest cover** are Mizoram (242 sq km) followed by Gujarat (180 sq km) and Odisha (152 sq km).
- **Area wise top three states having largest forest and tree cover** are Madhya Pradesh (85,724 sq km) followed by Arunachal Pradesh (67,083 sq km) and Maharashtra (65,383 sq km).
- **In terms of %age of forest cover** with respect to total geographical area, **Lakshadweep** (91.33%) has the highest forest cover followed by Mizoram (85.34%) and Andaman & Nicobar Island (81.62%). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- The total mangrove cover is 4,992 sq km in the country.

144. (A)**Explanation:****Various instruments of monetary policy:**

- **Repo Rate:** The interest rate at which the Reserve Bank provides overnight liquidity to banks against the collateral of government and other approved securities under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF).
- **Reverse Repo Rate:** The interest rate at which the Reserve Bank absorbs liquidity, on an overnight basis, from banks against the collateral of eligible government securities under the LAF.
- **Bank Rate:** It is the rate at which the RBI is ready to buy or rediscount bills of exchange or other commercial papers. The Bank Rate is published under Section 49 of the RBI Act, 1934. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ This rate has been aligned to the MSF rate and, therefore, changes automatically as and when the MSF rate changes alongside policy repo rate changes.

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- **Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR):** The average **daily balance that a bank is required to maintain with the Reserve Bank as a share of such per cent of its Net demand and time liabilities (NDTL)** that the Reserve Bank may notify from time to time in the Gazette of India.
- **Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR):** The share of NDTL that a bank is required to maintain in **safe and liquid assets**, such as, unencumbered government securities, cash and gold.
 - ◆ Changes in SLR often influence the availability of resources in the banking system for lending to the private sector. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

145. (B)

Explanation:

Shipping Industry:

- India has an almost **negligible presence** in shipbuilding, with only 0.07% of the global market share. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ **China dominates** the industry with 46.6% of shipbuilding measured by gross tonnage, followed by South Korea at 29.2%, and Japan at 17.2%.
- Currently, mechanised vessels involved in coastal shipping are partly governed by Part XIV of the **Merchant Shipping Act, 1958** while the non-mechanised vessels fall under the **Coasting Vessels Act, 1838**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ These address only their registration and do not provide a broader regulatory framework.
 - ◆ Coastal Shipping Bill, 2024 seeks to create a **comprehensive regulatory framework** for coastal trade, an area that has so far lacked cohesive legislation.
- The **Merchant Shipping Act of 1958** requires that ships flagged in India be 100% owned by Indian citizens or by companies incorporated under Indian law and also requires that their principal **place of business be located in India**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ The **Merchant Shipping Bill, 2024** will replace the **Merchant Shipping Act of 1958** with the primary objective of significantly simplifying ownership and registration requirements.
 - One of the key changes is the **expansion of eligibility for vessel ownership**. Under the new bill, Indian vessels can be owned not only by Indian citizens but also by **Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs)**, Indian-registered companies, and other entities designated by the government.

146. (A)

Explanation:

AgriStack:

- AgriStack creates a **unified platform** for farmers and provides them with end-to-end services across the agriculture food value chain. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- AgriStack is a collection of technologies and digital databases that focuses on farmers and the agricultural sector. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
- Hence, option A is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement I.

147. (C)

Explanation:

Electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM):

- It was launched in April 2016 as a **pan-India electronic trade portal** linking Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMCs) across the States. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It provides for contactless remote bidding and mobile-based anytime payment for which traders do not need to either visit mandis or banks for the same. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

148. (D)

Explanation:

- The (Communauté Financière Africaine/African Financial Community) **CFA franc zone** is an economic and monetary area bringing together France and 15 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ This area is built on an institutional framework and a fixed exchange rate.
 - ◆ The CFA franc zone thus fosters economic growth and monetary and financial stability.
- The **Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU)** is a regional currency union of eight small island countries in the Caribbean Sea. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ **Member countries:** Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

149. (A)

Explanation:

- **Fresh nuclear fuel** (uranium dioxide) has a very small level of radioactivity, so it could be handled with no special protection measures. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

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- **Spent nuclear fuel** is highly radioactive because of the by-products of nuclear fission, so special equipment and methods are required to handle it. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (NPP)** is the biggest nuclear power plant in India. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

150. (C)

Explanation:

Competition Commission of India:

- The Commission consists of a Chairperson and not more than 6 Members appointed by the Central Government. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is the statutory duty of the Commission to eliminate practices having adverse effects on competition, promote and sustain competition, protect the interests of consumers, and **ensure freedom of trade** carried on by other participants, in markets in India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Commission is also mandated to give its opinion on competition issues to the **government or statutory authority** and to undertake competition advocacy for creating awareness of competition law. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

151. (A)

Explanation:

- The **repo rate** is the rate at which the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) lends money to commercial banks in the event of any shortfall of funds. Here, the central bank purchases the security. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **Standing Deposit Facility (SDF)** is a liquidity window through which the RBI will give banks an option to park excess liquidity with it. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ It is different from the reverse repo facility in that it does not require banks to provide collateral while parking funds.
- The **Marginal Standing Facility Rate (MSF)** is a window for scheduled banks to borrow overnight from the RBI in an emergency situation when interbank liquidity dries up completely. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - ◆ Under interbank lending, banks lend funds to one another for a specified term.

152. (C)

Explanation:

Public Debt:

- Interest payments in India, amounting to more than 5% of the GDP and 25% of revenue receipts on average, exceed government spending on vital areas such as education and healthcare. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- High levels of public debt may **restrict the government's capacity** to enact counter-cyclical fiscal measures in times of economic downturns. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- ◆ This limitation can impede the government's effectiveness in responding to shocks and economic challenges.

- **Persistently high deficits** and debt levels can lead to **lower sovereign ratings** by rating agencies which can increase the cost of external commercial borrowing, making it more expensive for the government to raise funds from international markets. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

153. (B)

Explanation:

Goods and Services Tax (GST):

- It is a **value-added (Ad Valorem)** and indirect tax system that is levied on the supply of goods and services in India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **GST Council** includes the Union Finance Minister as Chairperson, Union Minister of State (Finance), and a finance or any other minister from each state. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- In the **Mohit Minerals case**, 2022, the Supreme Court ruled that GST Council recommendations **are not binding**, as Parliament and states have simultaneous legislative powers on GST. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

154. (A)

Explanation:

- **Article 311** ensures that no government employee can be dismissed, removed, or reduced in rank by an authority subordinate to the one that appointed them. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **All-India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968** outline ethical and professional standards of Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS), and Indian Forest Service officers.
 - ◆ The existing rules **do not specifically address** officers' communication and conduct on social media platforms. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - The growth of digital engagement has created ambiguity, making it hard to set boundaries and enforce proper behaviour.

155. (A)

Explanation:

Havana Charter:

- In Havana in 1948, the **UN Conference on Trade and Employment** concluded a draft charter for the International Trade Organisation (ITO), known as the **Havana Charter**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Havana Charter never entered into force, primarily because the US Senate failed to ratify it. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

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156. (A)

Explanation:

India State of Forest Report 2023:

- Recently, the Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate Change released the 18th India State of Forest Report 2023 (ISFR 2023).
- ISFR has been brought out by the **Forest Survey of India (FSI)** on a **biennial basis** since 1987.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

157. (C)

Explanation:

➤ **Kuwait:**

- ◆ It shares its eastern border with the Arabian Gulf, its southern and southwestern border with Saudi Arabia, and its northern and western border with Iraq. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ◆ Kuwait is geographically considered an outlet to the northeast of the Arabian Peninsula. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**



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158. (A)**Explanation:****➤ Dr. B.R. Ambedkar:**

- ◆ He led the Mahad Satyagraha in 1927, a non-violent protest against caste-based discrimination in India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ◆ He participated in all three Round Table Conferences. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- ◆ He signed the **1932 Poona pact** with Mahatma Gandhi to abandon the idea of separate electorates for the depressed classes. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

159. (B)**Explanation:****Indus Water Treaty (IWT):**

- It prescribes how water from the **six rivers of the Indus River System** would be shared between India and Pakistan.
- It allocated the three western rivers **Indus, Chenab, and Jhelum** to Pakistan for unrestricted use, barring certain non-consumptive, agricultural, and domestic uses by India and the three Eastern rivers **Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej** were allocated to India for unrestricted usage. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ This means that 80% of the share of water went to Pakistan while leaving the rest 20% of water for use by India.
- Under the Indus Waters Treaty, both countries must set up a **Permanent Indus Commission**, mandated to meet annually. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

160. (C)**Explanation:****➤ Wealth Tax:**

- ◆ Wealth taxes are assessed on the **wealth stock**, or the total amount of net wealth owned by a taxpayer. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- ◆ In India, the wealth tax was abolished in 2015. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - In India, T T Krishnamachari, minister of finance, introduced the wealth tax in 1957.

161. (B)**Explanation:****Election Commission of India (ECI):**

- The Constitution has not prescribed the qualifications (legal, educational, administrative, or judicial) of the Election Commission members. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The salary and conditions of service of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (ECs) are equivalent to those of the Cabinet Secretary. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- They can resign anytime or can also be removed before the expiry of their term. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

- ◆ The CEC can be removed from office only through a **process of removal similar to that of a SC judge by Parliament**, while ECs can only be removed on the recommendation of the CEC.

162. (A)**Explanation:****Boundary Disputes Between India and China:**

- The **Johnson Line** placed Aksai Chin within Jammu and Kashmir, but China bases its claims on the **McDonald Line**, which places Aksai Chin under Chinese control. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- While the Middle sector (Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh) is largely undisputed and maps have been exchanged, no formal boundary demarcation exists. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **China does not recognize the McMahon Line** and claims the entire Arunachal Pradesh as part of the Tibet Autonomous Region. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

163. (C)**Explanation:****Inflation:**

- **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** inflation is the rate at which the prices of goods and services that consumers buy for personal use increase over time. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Consumer Food Price Inflation (CFPI)** monitors the price fluctuations of a particular selection of food items commonly consumed by households, including cereals, vegetables, fruits, dairy products, meat, and other essential food staples. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** is utilized to monitor supply and demand dynamics in industries, manufacturing, and construction sectors. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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164. (C)**Explanation:****Remittances:**

- Remittances refer to the money that individuals **working abroad** send back to support their families in their home country. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In 2024, India received the highest-ever remittances for any country in a year, with the largest share of global remittances since 2000. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ In 2024, India received an estimated USD 129.1 billion worth of remittances, the highest ever for a country in any year.
 - ◆ Moreover, India's share in global remittances was 14.3% this year, the highest such share since the turn of the millennium for any country.
- In recent years, remittances have even surpassed **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** in low-and middle-income countries put together. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

165. (B)**Explanation:**

- 25th December is celebrated as **Good Governance Day** every year on the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Good Governance Index (GGI)** has been launched by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions to determine the status of governance in the country. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ It assesses the impact of various interventions taken up by the State Government and UTs.

166. (B)**Explanation:****Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY):**

- It aims to bring about the **Blue Revolution** through sustainable and responsible development of the fisheries sector in India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The scheme is being implemented in all States and UTs for a period of 5 years from Financial Year 2020-21 to FY 2024-25. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Fishermen are provided with insurance coverage, financial assistance, and the facility of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to facilitate access to institutional credit. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

- It is implemented as an **umbrella scheme** with two separate components namely:

- ◆ **Central Sector Scheme:** The project cost will be borne by the Central government.
- ◆ **Centrally Sponsored Scheme:** All the sub-components/ activities will be implemented by the States/UTs, and the cost will be shared between the Centre and State.

167. (A)**Explanation:****Managed Float” Exchange Rate System:**

- An exchange rate is the rate at which **one currency can be exchanged** for another currency. It represents the value of one currency in terms of another currency.
- Exchange rates are typically expressed as the amount of one currency needed to purchase one unit of another currency.

Types:

- ◆ **Fixed Exchange Rate:** Governments or **central banks set the value** of their currency in relation to other currencies and maintain that value by buying or selling their own currency in foreign exchange markets.
- ◆ **Floating Exchange Rate:** The value of a currency is determined by the **forex market based** on supply and demand. Most major currencies operate under this system.
- ◆ **Managed Float:** A hybrid system where exchange rates are **mainly market-driven** but with occasional government intervention to stabilize the currency's value.

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

168. (A)**Explanation:****Perseverance Rover:**

- It is a robotic explorer part of **NASA's Mars 2020 mission**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Launched in July 2020, it landed on Mars' Jezero Crater in February 2021.
- It is a Mars rover about the size of a car but weighs only about 1,025 kilograms with all instruments on board.
- It collects rock and soil samples, encasing them in tubes for a future return to Earth. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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- A Multi-Mission Radioisotope Thermoelectric Generator, which uses heat from plutonium decay to generate electricity, acts as the power source for the rover. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

169. (C)

Explanation:

Tsunamis:

- Tsunamis are giant waves caused by earthquakes or volcanic eruptions under the sea. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The speed of tsunami waves **depends on ocean depth** rather than the distance from the source of the wave. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Tsunami waves may travel as fast as jet planes over deep waters, only slowing down when reaching shallow waters.

170. (D)

Explanation:

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC):

- The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) comprises six member states namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates.
 - ◆ **Iraq is not a member** of the GCC. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The GCC has long considered the possibility of a unified currency, but it has **not yet launched** such a currency. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ Plans for a unified currency similar to the Euro have faced delays due to **political and economic differences** among member states.

171. (A)

Explanation:

Disaster Management Act, 2005:

- The Act designates the **Ministry of Home Affairs** as the nodal ministry for steering the overall national disaster management. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The **National Executive Committee (NEC)** is constituted under **Section 8 of the DM Act, 2005** to assist the **National Disaster Management Authority** in the performance of its functions. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Act also devotes several sections to various **civil and criminal liabilities** resulting from violation of provisions of the act. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

172. (B)

Explanation:

Union Budget:

- According to **Article 112** of the Indian Constitution, the Union Budget of a year is referred to as the Annual Financial Statement (AFS). **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ **Article 122** of the Constitution of India states that **courts are not to inquire** into the proceedings of Parliament.
- It is a statement of the estimated receipts and expenditures of the Government in a financial year. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Budget Division of the **Department of Economic Affairs** in the Finance Ministry is the nodal body responsible for preparing the Budget. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

173. (B)

Explanation:

Provisions Related to Education:

- Education was originally a state subject in India under the **Government of India Act 1935**. However, during the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976, education was moved to the **Concurrent List**. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The 86th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002 made the Right to Education a **fundamental right** under Article 21A for children aged 6-14 years. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ It added Article 21A under Fundamental Rights, making education a fundamental right for children aged six to fourteen, mandating free and compulsory education.
- Additionally, Article 51A was amended to include a duty for parents or guardians to ensure educational opportunities for their children or wards between 6 and 14 years.
- Later, Parliament passed the Right to Education Act, 2009, enforcing RTE as a fundamental right under Article 21-A.
 - ◆ The Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009, was amended in 2019 to eliminate the no-detention policy. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

174. (C)

Explanation:

Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC):

- CBDC is a legal tender issued by a central bank in digital form and is exchangeable one-to-one with fiat currency. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- While CBDCs were conceptually inspired by Bitcoin, they differ as they are issued by the state and hold 'legal tender' status. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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175. (D)**Explanation:****Panama Canal:**

- The Panama Canal is a **man-made waterway** connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans across the Isthmus of Panama and spans 40 miles. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Panama Canal uses a lock system to manage the elevation difference between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, enabling ships to traverse the canal. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

176. (B)**Explanation:****18th India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023:**

- ISFR is brought out by the Forest Survey of India (FSI) on a biennial basis since 1987. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The total forest and tree cover of the country is 8,27,356.95 sq. km which is 25.17% of the geographical area (GA) of the country. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Area-wise wise top three states having the largest forest cover are Madhya Pradesh (77,073 sq km) followed by Arunachal Pradesh (65,882 sq km) and Chhattisgarh (55,812 sq km). **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

177. (C)**Explanation:****Ken River:**

- The Ken River originates near Ahirgawan village on the north-west slopes of the Kaimur hills in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The river merges **with the Yamuna** at Chilla village near Fatehpur, Uttar Pradesh.
- Ken River is known for the rare Sajhar stone. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Its major tributaries include Bawas, Dewar, Kaith, Bank, Kopra, and Bearma. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

178. (B)**Explanation:****Rare Earth Metals:**

- **China** accounts for over one-third of the global rare earth possession and around 70% of its production, with India sourcing around 60% of its imports from Beijing. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- ◆ This heavy reliance stems from India's insufficient domestic production to meet the demands of critical sectors like electronics, defence, and clean energy.

- **Kazakhstan is among the richest sources** of rare earths and holds 15 of the 17 known rare earth elements. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

179. (C)**Explanation:**

- The **McMahon line** is a demarcation that separates Tibet and northeast India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ It was proposed by Colonel McMahon as the boundary between Tibet, China, and India at the **Shimla Convention of 1914.**
- **Radcliffe Line** divided British India into India and Pakistan. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ It is named after the architect of this line, Sir Cyril Radcliffe, who was also the chairman of the Boundary Commissions.
 - ◆ The Radcliffe Line was drawn between **West Pakistan (now Pakistan) and India on the western side** and between India and East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) on the eastern side of the subcontinent.
 - ◆ The western side of the Radcliffe Line still serves as the Indo-Pakistani border and the eastern side serves as the India-Bangladesh border.
- The **Durand Line** is the 1,640-mile (2,640-kilometer) border between Afghanistan and Pakistan. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

180. (A)**Explanation:****Switzerland:**

- Switzerland, officially the Swiss Confederation, is a **small mountainous country** in Central Europe, known for its Alps mountains, lakes, and valleys.
- It is a **landlocked country** bordered by France, Italy, Austria, Germany, and Liechtenstein.
- It has been well-known for centuries for its neutrality.
- As a result, Switzerland, particularly Geneva, is a popular headquarters location for international organizations, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations.
- It is **not a member** of the European Union and NATO.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

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181. (B)

Explanation:

Nominal Effective Exchange Rate (NEER):

- The Nominal Effective Exchange Rate (NEER) is a **weighted average** of a currency's bilateral exchange rates relative to multiple trading partner currencies. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It **reflects nominal currency strength** without accounting for inflation or price level differences between countries. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- A rise in NEER indicates nominal appreciation, while a fall signals depreciation. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

182. (A)

Explanation:

Green Economy:

- A Green Economy aims to **foster sustainable development** by promoting resource efficiency, reducing carbon emissions, and ensuring social inclusivity.
 - ◆ It integrates environmental concerns into economic and policy decisions, unlike traditional growth models that may ignore ecological impacts.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

183. (D)

Explanation:

Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE):

- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** has released the results of the Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) for 2023-24 for the reference period October 2023 – September 2024.

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- It covers **rural and urban areas** of the whole of India except the villages in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, which are difficult to access. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It includes **unincorporated non-agricultural establishments** belonging to three sectors namely Manufacturing, trade, and Other Services. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

184. (C)

Explanation:

Gini Coefficient:

- The Gini Coefficient, which is derived from the Lorenz Curve, can be used as an indicator of economic development in a country.
- The Gini Coefficient measures the **degree of income equality** in a population. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Gini Coefficient can vary from 0 (perfect equality) to 1 (perfect inequality).
- A Gini Coefficient of zero means that everyone has the same income, while a Coefficient of 1 represents a single individual receiving all the income. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

185. (B)

Explanation:

Elephants:

- The **Asian elephants** have been accorded the highest protection by listing them in **Schedule I** of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) published the **Captive Elephant (Transfer or Transport) Rules in March 2024.**
 - ◆ These rules facilitate the transport and the transfer of elephants and also specify the procedure of transfer of ownership. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Project Elephant** was intended to provide financial and technical support to the elephant range states of India for the protection of elephants, their habitats, and corridors and address the issue of human-animal conflict. It **also sought to promote the welfare** of captive elephants. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

186. (A)

Explanation:

Household Income Surveys:

- Over the years, two primary approaches have emerged to study income distribution in India: the Indian Household

Income Surveys conducted by private research organizations such as the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) and People Research on India's Consumer Economy (PRICE) from 1953-54 to 2022-23, and estimates provided by the World Inequality Lab (WIL).

- ◆ Household Income Surveys are **crucial for measuring inequality in India**, as they effectively capture income data from the informal sector, which constitutes a significant part of the workforce. **Hence, statement I is correct.**

- ◆ While World Inequality Lab (WIL) primarily relies on tax data and national accounts, **household surveys include earnings from informal sources** such as daily wage labor, small enterprises, and subsistence agriculture. **Hence, statement II is correct.**

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

187. (B)

Explanation:

The Focus: LAC Programme:

- Considering the potential of the market in the Latin American region an **integrated programme "Focus: LAC"** was launched in November 1997 by the Ministry of Commerce.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

188. (C)

Explanation:

Elephanta Caves:

- The rock-cut Elephanta Caves were constructed about the mid-5th to 6th centuries AD. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Elephanta Caves are located in Western India on **Elephanta Island** (otherwise known as the Island of Gharapuri), which features two hillocks separated by a narrow valley. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **Gateway of India** is an arch built in the **Indo-Islamic style** in the 20th century to commemorate the landing of King George V in India, to Elephanta Caves. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

189. (C)

Explanation:

- The **National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM)** is implemented by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) and aims to achieve a production capacity of 5 million tonnes per annum of Green Hydrogen in the country by the year 2030. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

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- **PM Surya Ghar-Muft Bijli Yojana** is a central scheme that aims to provide free electricity to one crore households in India, who opt to install rooftop solar electricity units. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

190. (A)

Explanation:

Auto Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme:

- The auto production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme incentivizes companies meeting stringent **domestic value addition (DVA) targets** to reduce import dependence, enhance technology transfer, and advance India's green mobility goals. **Hence, statement I is correct.**
- The auto production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme **aims to foster deep localisation** and build robust domestic and global supply chains. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
- Hence, option A is correct because both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement I.

191. (C)

Explanation:

- A **Special Economic Zone (SEZ)** is a geographical region that has economic laws that are more liberal than a country's domestic economic laws. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Asia's first Export Processing Zone (EPZ)** was set up in Kandla, Gujarat in 1965. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **All laws of India are applicable in SEZs** unless specifically exempted as per the SEZ Act/ Rules. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

192. (D)

Explanation:

86th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002:

- It added Article 21A under Fundamental Rights, making education a fundamental right for children aged six to fourteen, mandating free and compulsory education. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Article 45** was substituted to emphasize the state's responsibility to provide early childhood care and education until the age of 6. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Article 51A** was amended to include a duty for parents or guardians to ensure educational opportunities for their children or wards between 6 and 14 years. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

193. (A)

Explanation:

Azerbaijan:

- It is bordered by the **Caspian Sea** on the east.
- Its northern and western regions are covered by the **Caucasus Mountains**.
- Mud volcanoes, often erupting with water, sand, gas, and oil, are a unique feature of this region.
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

194. (A)

Explanation:

- In India, the President can be removed only for 'violation of the Constitution'. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Indian constitution does not define the meaning of the phrase 'violation of the Constitution'. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

195. (C)

Explanation:

- **Article 249** allows the Parliament to legislate on matters enumerated in the State List if the Rajya Sabha passes a resolution by a two-thirds majority. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Under Article 312, the Parliament is allowed to **create an All India Services** common to the Union and the States, if the Rajya Sabha passes a requisite resolution. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Resolution for the removal of the Vice-president can be introduced only in the Rajya Sabha and not in the Lok Sabha. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

196. (D)

Explanation:

- Ecologically, Northeast India forms a part of the South-Asian tropical rainforest belt, which is known for its infinite variety of wild plants and animals.
- The state has a sub-tropical monsoon climate. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The state has **four river basins** namely the Barak River Basin (Barak Valley) in the west, the Manipur River Basin in central Manipur, the Yu River Basin in the east, and a portion of the Lanye River Basin in the north. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **Barak River, the largest in the state**, originates in the Manipur hills and is joined by tributaries such as Irang, Maku, and Tuivai. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

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197. (A)**Explanation:****Governor:**

- In the state universities, the Governor of the state is the **ex-officio chancellor** of the universities in that state. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- While as Governor he functions with the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers, as **Chancellor he acts independently** of the Council of Ministers and makes his own decisions on all University matters. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

198. (A)**Explanation:****Global Tuberculosis Report 2024:**

- India's dedicated journey towards **tuberculosis (TB) elimination** has been recognized globally, with a noteworthy 17.7% decline in TB incidence from 2015 to 2023, a rate that is over twice the global average decline of 8.3%, as reported by the **World Health Organization (WHO) in its Global Tuberculosis Report 2024.**
- This milestone highlights the impact of India's **National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP)**, a comprehensive strategy that combines cutting-edge diagnosis, preventive care, patient support, and cross-sector partnerships to meet the ambitious goal of **TB elimination by 2025.**
- **Hence, option A is correct.**

199. (B)**Explanation:****AI Washing:**

- AI washing refers to the **misrepresentation or exaggeration of AI/machine learning** applications in goods and services.
 - ◆ This can **lead to negative consequences** such as consumers overpaying for underperforming products, reputational harm to businesses, and loss of trust in the technology.
 - Addressing this issue is critical due to the limited understanding of AI/ML technologies among the general public and the increasing demand for such products and services.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

200. (C)**Explanation:**

- The **middle-income trap** is when a country's economic growth slows after its per capita income reaches between USD 1,100 and USD 13,000 annually. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **World Development Report (WDR)** is released annually by the **World Bank.** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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